

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
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✠ The Baptism of the Lord ✠

January 12, 2025

The Christmas season formally ends with vespers (evening prayer) Sunday evening. Epiphanytide traditionally extends to Candlemas on February 2 with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

TODAY, the Infinite in human form comes to John and undergoes at his hands a rite of cleansing. Why such a paradoxical act by the One who needs no cleansing? It is surely characteristic of love – above all, of perfect love – that it does not hesitate to come the aid of the beloved. It does not wait to see whether it might be misunderstood or compromised. It makes itself vulnerable and if necessary, takes on the burden. At his Baptism, the Savior chooses to be with us where we are, to enter into solidarity with us, sinners as we are, and a preamble of the Paschal Mystery. It is the culmination of Christmastide because it is the source of the momentum that will carry us on to Easter.

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD is celebrated on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This annual celebration was announced by Pope Francis in a Motu Proprio entitled *Aperuit illis*, published on September 30, 2019, the Feast of St Jerome. The Word of God Sunday, Pope Francis wrote in that Motu Proprio, “is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God”. Pope Francis desires that “the Church experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasure of his word and enable us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.”

The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body.

~Vatican II, Dei Verbum 21

First Week in Ordinary Time

January 13 – 18

- Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
+ Bernice Peplinskie by *Mary Ellen Jonkes*
Intentions of Lorraine Leddy by *Robert & Monica Radey*
- Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Cathy Serran by *Ted & Liz Murray*
+ Nathaniel Burchat by *Ben & Helen Burchat*

+ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time +

January 19, 2025

- Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Aloysius “Al” Smaglinski by *Maxine & Family*
- Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	January 18	January 19
Readings	<i>Jane Beahen</i>	<i>Judy Filion</i>
Communion	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>Paul Rivette-Carnac</i>

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in sacristy.
Weekdays – before weekday Masses in sacristy or by appointment during office hours.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Ray Vananburg, Brad Parisien, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Fr. Steve Ballard, Nathaniel Burchat.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

- Monday** - St. Hilary, bishop, doctor
- Friday** - St. Anthony, abbot

ADDITIONAL IN MEMORIAM FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

- + For Our Dearly Departed by *Ted & Liz Murray*

TODAY’S celebration of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas season and reminds us that for the past few weeks we have been doing something more than simply celebrating Jesus’ birthday. The Baptism of Jesus continues the “epiphany” or “manifestation” of Jesus to the world that we celebrated last Sunday: the Father’s voice from heaven and the descent of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove show to those present that Jesus is God’s beloved Son – he truly is “Emmanuel,” God-with-us.

But there is an even deeper connection between the Baptism of Jesus and the mystery of Christmas. For the incarnation is not simply about God the eternal Son taking on a human nature – as stupendous as that event is – but it is also about we humans becoming, through Christ, partakers in God’s own nature. The early Christian theologian Athanasius of Alexandria wrote that Christ “was made human that we might be made God” (*De incarnatione* no. 54). This theme has echoed throughout the Christian tradition. When the priest or deacon mixes water into the wine at the preparation of the gifts at Mass he prays, “may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.” The poet Gerard Manly Hopkins put it this way:

In a flash, at a trumpet crash,
I am all at once what Christ is, | since he was what I am, and
This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, | patch, matchwood, immortal diamond,
Is immortal diamond.

This theme is sometimes called the *admirabile commercium* or “wondrous exchange”: God takes on human nature in all its frailty so that we may take on the immortality of God’s own nature. This is the event of our salvation that we celebrate at Christmas, and it is also what we celebrate in the Baptism of Christ.

~ *Deacon Frederick Bauerschmidt 2013*

FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH: Through Baptism the Christian is sacramentally assimilated to Jesus, who in his own baptism anticipates his death and resurrection. The Christian must enter into this mystery of humble self-abasement and repentance, go down into the water with Jesus in order to rise with him, be reborn of water and the Spirit so as to become the Father's beloved son in the Son and "walk in newness of life":

*Let us be buried with Christ by Baptism to rise with him;
let us go down with him to be raised with him;
and let us rise with him to be glorified with him.* ~ St. Gregory Nazianzus.

2025 ANNO DOMINI (in the year of the Lord) - A JUBILEE YEAR: Pope Francis has designated the 2025 ordinary jubilee year with the title **PILGRIMS OF HOPE**. It is 2025 years since the Incarnation and 1700 years since the First Council of Nicaea. It's a period of spiritual renewal, forgiveness and celebration that lasts from Christmas Eve 2024 until Epiphany in January 2026. The Church — the Body of Christ and People of God — does not give in to despair but truly continues to trust in God and all of his many promises of mercy, love and salvation.

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$5,972.85 (Envelopes: \$2,305.00; Loose: \$59.50; Visitors: \$90.00; New Year's Day: \$1,694.35; E-transfers: \$535.00; Christmas: \$10.00; Building Fund: \$15.00; Fuel: \$15.00; Initial: \$1,249.00)

2024 CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS: will be issued next month with which you will also receive a Financial Report. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity and financial commitment to the parish.

POT OF GOLD TICKETS will be distributed out after the Saturday and Sunday masses on January 18/19th and January 25/26th. ~ *Sponsored by the CWL*

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole parish hall.

BIBLE STUDY: We will begin a study of **The Gospel of John** (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture by Fr. Francis Martin) on Wednesdays, starting January 22nd from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall. A typical evening begins with opening prayer, a hymn, and a conversation about the current chapter we're reading with regular attention to the Old Testament and Catechism. We close each week with intercessory prayer. These evenings are led by John Morris. Books for this study have been ordered and are \$30 each. Please contact the office to reserve yours, 613-756-2037. ~ *Fr. John*

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR: following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish as we continue to pray together for the sanctity of life, marriage and family.

ST. LAWRENCE O'TOOLE MONTHLY FAMILY POTLUCK AND ROSARY: Join us as we gather as families for a potluck and to pray the rosary monthly. Open to all young families. We meet monthly on the 4th Saturday in the parish hall at 5:15-7:00 pm. Please be in touch with Caitlin Rivett-Carnac, if you are interested and to be placed on the email list Email: caitlinrivettcarnac@gmail.com

**Today, Christ comes to us!
He comes in water and in blood**