

# Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

stlawrenceotoole@hotmail.com

**Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest**

19450 Opeongo Line, P.O. Box 118  
Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0  
Fr.JohnN.Burchat@gmail.com

## Office Hours

*Tuesday & Friday*  
9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
613-756-2037



## ✠ The Epiphany of the Lord ✠

*January 5, 2025*

**THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS** speak of a light that shines on Israel, the chosen people, but that is meant for the whole world, a light that is a beacon summoning all the nations. And that light is Jesus Christ himself. As the prophets predicted, this Light is the illumination of all the world, the Light to whom all seekers are destined to come.

The journey of the wise men is a metaphor for the spiritual journeys that all of us must make. Like the magi, we must be attentive; we must be willing to act; we must expect opposition; we must give our best to Christ, and finally, we must be willing to change, "to go back by a different route." ~ *Bishop Robert Barron*

**EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME:** The tradition of blessing the home each year on Epiphany dates from the Middle Ages. As a place where the Lord is revealed in our relationships, the home is blessed in the following manner: a priest or parent uses blessed chalk to mark the inside of the front door with the initials "CMB", an abbreviation for the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, "May Christ bless this house." Throughout the year, those who come and go through the front door of your house will enjoy the blessing of Christ. These initials also represent the Magi named by tradition as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The initials are preceded by the first two digits of the year and followed by the last two digits, with a small cross between the letters and the numbers: 20+C+M+B+18.

**A PERSONAL THANK YOU:** to everyone for their welcome, prayers and support during this past year, and for the generous gifts to me personally this Christmas. May the Lord in His goodness bless you with peace and joy throughout this new year! ~ *Fr. John*

## **ADDITIONAL IN MEMORIAM FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:**

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

## Second Week of Christmastime

January 6 – 11

**Tuesday** *NO MASS*  
**Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Fr. Norbert Cybulski *by David & Julia Cannon*  
+ Theresa Yantha *by Bernard Blank*

### + **The Baptism of the Lord** +

January 12, 2025

**Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Clarence Prince *by Karen, Adam & Kaylee*  
+ Greg Sullivan *by Bruce & Karen Sullivan*  
**Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

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

<b>Liturgical Appointments</b>	<b>January 11</b>	<b>January 12</b>
<b>Readings</b>	<i>John Morris</i>	<i>Beverly Gloccheskie</i>
<b>Communion</b>	<i>Neil O'Reilly</i>	<i>Terry Recoskie</i>
<b>Offertory</b>	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Jason Dombroskie</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, Wendy Kieran, Leonard Hudder, Fr. Ken O'Brien, Ronald Murack.*

#### **ROMAN CALENDAR:**

**Tuesday** - St. Andre Bessette, religious  
**Wednesday** - St. Raymond de Penyafort, priest

# **A Light to the Nations**

*From a Homily by Pope Benedict XVI; January 6, 2006*

The light that shone in the night at Christmas illuminating the Bethlehem Grotto, where Mary, Joseph and the shepherds remained in silent adoration, shines out today and is manifested to all. The Epiphany is a mystery of light, symbolically suggested by the star that guided the Magi on their journey. The true source of light, however, the “sun that rises from on high” (see Lk 1: 78), is Christ.

In the mystery of Christmas, Christ’s light shines on the earth, spreading, as it were, in concentric circles. First of all, it shines on the Holy Family of Nazareth: the Virgin Mary and Joseph are illuminated by the divine presence of the Infant Jesus. The light of the Redeemer is then manifested to the shepherds of Bethlehem, who, informed by an Angel, hasten immediately to the grotto and find there the “sign” that had been foretold to them: the Child, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (see Lk 2: 12). The shepherds, together with Mary and Joseph, represent that “remnant of Israel”, the poor, the *anawim*, to whom the Good News was proclaimed. Finally, Christ’s brightness shines out, reaching the Magi who are the first-fruits of the pagan peoples.

The palaces of the rulers of Jerusalem, to which, paradoxically, the Magi actually take the news of the Messiah’s birth, are left in the shade. Moreover, this news does not give rise to joy but to fear and hostile reactions. The divine plan was mysterious: “The light came into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were wicked” (Jn 3: 19).

But what is this light? Is it merely an evocative metaphor or does this image correspond to reality? The Apostle John writes in his First Letter: “God is light; in him there is no darkness” (I Jn 1: 5); and further on he adds: “God is love”. These two affirmations, taken together, help us to understand better: the light that shone forth at Christmas, which is manifested to the peoples today, is God’s love revealed in the Person of the Incarnate Word. Attracted by this light, the Magi arrived from the East.

In the mystery of the Epiphany, therefore, alongside an expanding outward movement, a movement of attraction toward the centre is expressed which brings to completion the movement already written in the Old Covenant. The source of this dynamism is God, One in Three Persons, who draws all things and all people to himself. The Incarnate Person of the Word is presented in this way as the beginning of universal reconciliation and recapitulation (see Eph 1: 9-10).

He is the ultimate destination of history, the point of arrival of an “exodus”, of a providential journey of redemption that culminates in his death and Resurrection. Therefore, on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the liturgy foresees the so-called “Announcement of Easter”: indeed, the liturgical year sums up the entire parable of the history of salvation, whose centre is “the Triduum of the Crucified Lord, buried and risen”.

## **LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:**

Total: \$8,016.40 (Envelopes: \$2,157.00; Loose: \$207.50; Visitors: \$240.00; E-transfers: \$800.00; Christmas: \$4,536.90; Building Fund: \$75.00)

**A CHRISTMASTIDE THANK YOU:** to the many people who contributed to the beauty and dignity of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the liturgical environment: to those who donated offerings to beautify the church; to those who donated time and energy, and helped lead us in our Christmas liturgies: musicians, leaders of song, readers, servers, money counters, decorators and to anyone else who gave leadership or worked "behind the scenes" at the different Masses over Christmastime. This would not have been possible for accomplish without the wonderful support and assistance of staff and volunteers we have in our parishes! ~ *Fr. John*

**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.

**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*

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

**PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR:** Fridays at 9:45 a.m., 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.

**Christ Has Appeared to Us!  
O Come, Let Us Worship Him!**