

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. – 12:00 noon
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✠ Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

October 26, 2025

ALL SAINTS ~ ALL HALLOW'S DAY ~ HALLOWMAS: This Saturday we celebrate all the saints of the Church—known and unknown, formally acknowledged or not—who exemplified holiness characterized by a deep love of God and neighbour, by humility and steadfast faith, by extraordinary virtue and perseverance. They are the great cloud of witnesses who inspire us to live with courage and fidelity in our own time. Some were martyrs, others mystics, teachers, parents, workers, and servants of the poor. Their lives remind us that holiness is possible in every vocation and circumstance. They intercede for us still, drawing us closer to Christ, encouraging us to persevere, and by their example stirring up within us a deeper longing for heaven, where all the saints rejoice in the glory of God.

FIRST THURSDAY HOLY HOURS TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS: November 6th from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish, Barry's Bay. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a reflection by Fr. Scott Murray, and Rosary for vocations. These Holy Hours are open to everyone, not just those considering a priestly vocation.

MEMENTO MORI IN THE MIDST OF HALLOWEEN: As we pass by yards filled with skeletons, tombstones, and ghostly figures, it's easy to dismiss them as mere seasonal silliness. Yet even these ghoulish displays can serve as an unexpected reminder of the ancient Christian dictum memento mori—"remember you must die." The Church has long taught that reflecting on our mortality is not morbid, but wise. It awakens us to the urgency of grace, the beauty of repentance, and the call to live each day in the light of eternity.

At the same time, these displays echo a revival of pre-Christian spiritual traditions—an instinctive reach for mystery, ritual, and the unseen. Halloween's fascination with death and the supernatural reveals a culture that, even in jest, senses there's more beyond the veil. Amid the cobwebs and plastic skulls, we might pause and ask: Am I living for what truly lasts? Am I ready to meet the Lord face to face? In this way, even the most absurd Halloween décor can become a doorway to deeper reflection and holy longing.

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

October 27 – November 1

Tuesday (*with Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions*)
9:00 a.m. + Barbara Kuiack *by Charlotte Bellisle*
Friday 9:00 a.m. + Stanley Zilney *by Bronek Witkos*

+ Commemoration of All The Faithful Departed + (*All Souls*)

November 2, 2025

Saturday 4:00 p.m. For Our Faithful Departed and Souls in Purgatory
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	November 1	November 2
Readings	<i>Martin Yakabuski</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Maxine Smaglinski</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Barry Dombroskie</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:

- all of our sons and daughters who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last Sunday at St. Lawrence O'Toole:

Mila Bernadette McLean	Oliver Albert Cannon	Austin Michael Prince
Bella Dymphna Mask	Gracie Francis Mask	

~ may the gift of the Spirit empower them to give witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love.

- through the intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, may God grant strength to the weak, comfort to the sorrowing, pardon to sinners, life eternal to the faithful departed, and salvation and peace to all.

- that the peoples of our country, legislators and healthcare practitioners would choose life and not death regarding euthanasia, assisted suicide and abortion.

- for parishioners who are sick and for their caregivers.

- for those who have died, especially: *Edna Coulas, Shirley Towns, Shaun O'Malley.*

TODAY, with another parable, Jesus wants to show us the right attitude for prayer and for invoking the mercy of the Father; how one must pray; the right attitude for prayer. It is the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (cf. Lk 18:9-14). Both men went up into the Temple to pray, but they do so in very different ways, obtaining opposite results.

The pharisee stood and prayed using many words. His is yes, a prayer of thanksgiving to God, but it is really just a display of his own merits, with a sense of superiority over “other men”, “like this tax collector” (v. 11). But this is the real problem: that pharisee prays to God, but in truth he is just self-laudatory In short, rather than prayer, he is satisfied with his observance of the precepts. Yet, his attitude and his words are far from the way of God’s words and actions, the God who loves all men and does not despise sinners. On the contrary, this pharisee despises sinners, even by indicating the other one there. In short, the pharisee, who holds himself to be just, neglects the most important commandment: love of God and of neighbour.

It is not enough, therefore, to ask how much we pray, we have to ask ourselves how we pray, or better, in what state our heart is: it is important to examine it so as to evaluate our thoughts, our feelings, and root out arrogance and hypocrisy. But, I ask myself: can one pray with arrogance? No. Can one pray with hypocrisy? No. We must only pray by placing ourselves before God just as we are. Not like the pharisee who prays with arrogance and hypocrisy. We are all taken up by the phrenetic pace of daily life, often at the mercy of feelings, dazed and confused. It is necessary to learn how to rediscover the path to our heart, to recover the value of intimacy and silence, because the God who encounters us and speaks to us is there. Only by beginning there can we in our turn encounter others and speak with them. The pharisee walked toward the Temple, sure of himself, but he was unaware of the fact that his heart had lost the way.

Instead the tax collector — the other man — presents himself in the Temple with a humble and repentant spirit: “standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast” (v. 13). His prayer was very brief, not long like that of the pharisee: “God, be merciful to me a sinner”. Nothing more. A beautiful prayer! Indeed, tax collectors — then called “publicans” — were considered impure, subject to foreign rulers; they were disliked by the people and socially associated with “sinners”. The parable teaches us that a man is just or sinful not because of his social class, but because of his way of relating to God and how he relates to his brothers and sisters. Gestures of repentance and the few and brief words of the tax collector bear witness to his awareness of his own miserable condition. His prayer is essential. He acts out of humility, certain only that he is a sinner in need of mercy. If the pharisee asked for nothing because he already had everything, the tax collector can only beg for the mercy of God. And this is beautiful: to beg for the mercy of God! Presenting himself with “empty hands”, with a bare heart and acknowledging himself to be a sinner, the tax collector shows us all the condition that is necessary in order to receive the Lord’s forgiveness. In the end, he is the one, so despised, who becomes an icon of the true believer. ~ *Pope Francis; June 1, 2016*

EVENING OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Thursdays at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall from 7:00 until 8:30 p.m. All are welcome.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Tuesday - St. Simon and St. Jude, apostles

Saturday - ALL SAINTS

Sunday - ALL SOULS

BIBLE STUDY: The Gospel of John (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture by Fr. Francis Martin). Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Hall. For more information contact John Morris, 613-729-6647.

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,922.00 (Envelopes: \$2,047.00; Loose: \$292.00; Visitors: \$30.00;

E-transfer: \$300.00; World Mission: \$203.00; Building Fund: \$50.00).

CWL "Pot O'Gold" Raffle – Ticket Donations. Please consider a monetary donation toward raffle prizes. Any amount helps! Drop off by **Oct. 31** in an envelope marked **CWL – Ticket Donation**: In the collection basket; At the church office ; To Maxine Smaglinski (756-0194) Donations of **\$100+** may be recognized on the ticket—include a note if interested. **Thank you!**

THE OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES are available at the back of the church. Please take & fill in your showbox according to instructions in the Pamphlet. Please return shoeboxes to the back of the church entrance by November 16th. Thank you.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN: Preparation for First Holy Communion (7 years of age and up) and Confirmation (11 years of age and up) in our parish is conducted in accordance with diocesan policy, which encourages a process of individualized family faith formation. Families who wish to have their children begin preparing for these sacraments are invited to speak to Fr. Burchat after Sunday Mass. The parish provides resources and catechetical assistance to support this journey.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE is thankful for all who prayed the rosary with us this month, contributions to the food bank, all who helped and guided our First Communion and Confirmation recipients, those who helped in the Valley Manor bingo and contributions to our Pot O'Gold jackpot. Blessings to all.

SUNDAY SOCIAL: On Sunday, November 9, there will be a coffee social in the church hall after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Come downstairs for a hot drink and to chat with fellow parishioners.