

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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✠ First Sunday of Advent ✠

November 30, 2025

IT'S TIME TO GET READY! Christmas is coming in just a few weeks, and so of course, we want to be ready for the celebration. How should we start?

How do you get ready for activities other than Christmas? How do you prepare the variety of activities and events in your life? You get ready for school, for parties, for work and playdates with friends. Every morning, you think about what's coming for the rest of the day and you prepare for it. Hours later, you wind down and get ready for bedtime. You get ready to go out to eat dinner—and you get ready for something simple like making a piece of toast. It won't butter itself, you know!

In fact, none of these activities just happen. We prepare for all of them because they're important. We prepare so we're ready for whatever God is going to do in that moment. We give him our best selves, open to his power and love. We want to do our part so we're ready to experience what God has in store for us.

Advent—this time of getting ready for Christmas—is just like that. It's a time to get our hearts ready for Jesus coming to us. Thinking about the ways we prepare for the big and small moments of ordinary life and applying them to this season of Advent might help us dig deeper and find more joy as we journey, prepare and get ready—together!

Advent is a time to prepare for Jesus' coming more deeply and powerfully. We don't want to stumble into that time in a blur, half asleep. Jesus is the Word Made Flesh, God here among us, Emmanuel. Is there anything more special than him? He's with us now, of course, in many ways—but we know that we're not fully awake and aware of all the peace and joy he wants to bring to us. At Christmas, we'll welcome him with even more of ourselves, our hearts yearning for his love in a deeper way. So, let's all stretch, shake off the night, put aside yesterday's busy confusion, open our eyes and get ready. Jesus is coming! ~ *Amy Welborn*

FALL ISSUE OF ECCLESIA, our diocesan newsletter is available at the entrances.

First Week of Advent

December 1 – December 6

Tuesday ***** **NO MASS**
First Friday 9:00 a.m. + Living & Deceased Family Members
by *Eddie & Diane Etmanskie*

+ Second Sunday of Advent +

December 7, 2025

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Shaun O'Malley by *John & Ursula Jeffrey*
Intentions of Sylvia Skoczylas by *Vicky Skoczylas*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

| Liturgical Appointments | December 6 | December 7 |
|-------------------------|--|--|
| Readings | <i>Sean Conway</i> | <i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i> |
| Communion | <i>Leona Chapeskie</i> | <i>Terry Recoskie</i> |
| Offertory | <i>Bruce Sullivan</i> <i>Barry Dombroskie</i> | <i>John Jeffrey</i> <i>Jamie Prince</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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WEBSITES:

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| http://www.wordonfire.org | |
| https://amywelborn.wordpress.com | https://dynamiccatholic.com |
| http://www.ewtn.com | http://www.catholicmom.com |
| http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/ | |

ADVENT WREATH CANDLES: available at the office for \$10/set of 4

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Wednesday - St. Francis Xavier, priest
Thursday - St. John Damascene, priest, doctor
Saturday - St. Nicholas, bishop

SAVE THE DATE: *Family of 3 Churches Lenten Day of Reflection* with Bishop Brehl
on Saturday, March 21, 2026, in St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall.

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.

SAINT NICHOLAS: *was a 4th-century Christian bishop of Myra (in modern-day Turkey), renowned for his generosity and care for the poor. He was imprisoned during the persecution of Christians under Emperor Diocletian and later released under the Emperor Constantine. Some traditions say he attended the First Council of Nicaea (325). His feast day is celebrated on December 6.*

“Children all over the world know him and love him. In Germany, he's Kriss Kringle. In France, he's Pere Noel. British children call him Father Christmas. Of course, you know him as Santa Claus. He's got another name, you know. It's an ancient one that goes back hundreds of years. It's one of the very first names people called him: St. Nicholas.

The earliest stories we know were told about St. Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra. Hundreds of years ago, Nicholas lived in a seaside town named Myra, which is in the country we now call Turkey. Ever since he was a small child, Nicholas loved God more than anything. He studied hard, prayed often, and followed Jesus by helping the poor. The people of Myra loved Nicholas so much that when their old bishop died, they immediately elected Nicholas to replace him. He served them well for a long time.

Nicholas was loved for one reason. He loved. He loved God and God's people so much that he would do anything for them.

One famous story tells of a poor man with three daughters who had no dowries and faced slavery. Secretly, Nicholas tossed bags of gold into their home—first through the window, then finally down the chimney—so each daughter could marry. He gave in secret because true charity seeks no praise, only love.

Other stories are told about Nicholas. It's said that God worked through Nicholas' prayers to raise children from the dead—some who had been killed in a fire and another child who had drowned. All of these stories tell us the same thing about St. Nicholas. He lived for God, which means that he lived for love. If people were in need and he was able to help, St. Nicholas gave them hope and strength. St. Nicholas never paused for a minute to wonder what he should receive in return for his help. He only thought about what he could give to those who needed him. Stories of Nicholas spread from Asia Minor to Russia, across Europe, and eventually to America. Each culture gave him a name, but all remembered his generosity. The children in every country gave St. Nicholas a name in their own language, and ours is Santa Claus.

Christmas is a fun, exciting time, isn't it? It's fun because of all the time we get to spend with our families. It's fun because we do a lot of celebrating. It's fun because we get to think, sing, and pray about Jesus, who was born into the world to save us. Christmas is also fun because we get to give. We can show our family and friends how much we love them by giving them special gifts that we make or buy.

We give because we're thankful. We're thankful for friendship and love and for all the people who take care of us. We're thankful to God for giving us life. St. Nicholas was thankful too, and that's why at Christmastime we try to be just like him. He was so grateful for the life God had given him that he just couldn't stop giving joy and hope to others—no matter how far he had to travel or how many roofs he had to climb! ~ *Amy Welborn*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$3,314.00 (Envelopes: \$2,095.00; Loose: \$74.00; Visitors: \$70.00;
E-transfer: \$540.00; Christmas Flowers: \$535.00).

SUNDAY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2026 are available on back table in alphabetic order. If we have missed anyone, please contact the office. Use church envelopes for a secure and personalized contribution.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS: for the Glory of God and in Memory of loved ones can be made with the envelopes provided at the entrance of the church or in your Offering box. The Masses of Christmas will be offered for your intentions. Donations must be submitted by Wednesday; December 17 so loved ones can be listed in the Christmas bulletin memorial page.

TURKEY DINNER & ADVENT VESPERS (Evening Prayer): is sponsored by the CWL and will be open to all parishioners. On Sunday, December 7 in the St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall. Tickets are \$30 each & \$15 for children 12 & under. Tickets are available at the church office on Tuesdays & Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. or call Ursula Jeffrey at 613-756-3281. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., Advent Vespers at 5:00 p.m. (lead by the women of St. Joseph's – Madonna House), buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m.

THANK YOU from the CWL to all who participated in the Annual Samaritan Purse Operation Shoe Box Drive. We had another successful year, as our Parish collected 21 shoe boxes. Your generosity is most appreciated.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS:

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| St. Francis de Sales | Before and after Advent Masses |
| Holy Canadian Martyrs | Wednesday, December 17; @ 9:30 a.m.; @ 6:30 p.m. |
| St. Lawrence O'Toole | Sunday, December 21; 1:00 p.m. |

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:

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| December 24 | 4:00 p.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay 6:00 p.m. St. Francis de Sales, Latchford Bridge |
| December 25 | 9:00 a.m. Holy Canadian Martyrs 10:30 a.m. St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay |

MEN'S RETREAT: at Graphite Bible Camp in Maynooth, January 9 - 11, 202 With Fr. Michael Weitzl (Madonna House), lay associate, Steve Heroux. Mass, inspirational talks & the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Info: contact Pierre-Paul Filion at 613-602-6580 or email: pffilion@yahoo.ca. by December 20th.