

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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✠ Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

November 16, 2025

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL, Saint Luke repropose the Biblical view of history for our reflection and refers to Jesus' words that invite the disciples not to fear, but to face difficulties, misunderstandings and even persecutions with trust, persevering through faith in him. The Lord says: "When you hear of wars and tumults, do not be terrified; for this must first take place, but the end will not be at once" (Lk 21: 9). Keeping this admonition in mind, from the beginning the Church lives in prayerful waiting for her Lord, scrutinizing the signs of the times and putting the faithful on guard against recurring messiahs, who from time to time announce the world's end as imminent. In reality, history must run its course, which brings with it also human dramas and natural calamities. In it a design of salvation is developed that Christ has already brought to fulfilment in his Incarnation, death and Resurrection. The Church continues to proclaim this mystery and to announce and accomplish it with her preaching, celebration of the sacraments and witness of charity.

Let us welcome Christ's invitation to face daily events by trusting in his providential love. Let us not fear the future, even when it can appear with bleak colours, because the God of Jesus Christ, who entered history to open it to its transcendent fulfilment, is the alpha and the omega, the first and the last (see Rv 1: 8). He guarantees that in every little but genuine act of love there is the entire sense of the universe, and that the one who does not hesitate to lose his own life for him finds it again in fullness (see Mt 16: 25). ~ *Pope Benedict, 18 November 2007*

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 and \$15 for children 12 and under. Tickets are available at the church office on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12p.m. or please 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. **The CWL will be selling tickets for the next 2 weekends in the link after Saturday and Sunday Masses.**

November 17 – November 22

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Albert Cybulski *by John & Rita Hudder*

November 23, 2025

+ Marlene Matcheskie *by Bridget & Maxine Smaglinski*

Liturgical Appointments	November 22	November 23
Readings	<i>Susan Coulas</i>	<i>Paul Rivett-Carnac</i>
Communion	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>	<i>Terry Recoskie</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Jason Dombroskie</i>

2026 SUNDAY MISSALS: Have arrived and are now available at entrance for \$5 each. Quantities are limited.

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 the holy souls in final purification, especially those most in need of the mercy of divine healing: that through the infinite love of Christ and the prayers of the Church, they may be swiftly purified and welcomed into the joy of eternal life.
- for parishioners who are sick and for their caregivers.
- for those who have died, especially: *Edward Joseph Yantha*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious
Tuesday - Dedication of the Basilicas of saints Peter and Paul, apostles
Friday - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday - St. Cecilia, virgin, martyr

MARTINMAS – FROM HARVEST TO HOPE: On November 11, the church celebrates *Martinmas*, the feast of Saint Martin of Tours, a 4th-century Roman soldier who became a monk and later bishop. He is considered a transitional saint for the early church because he lived after the age of martyrs and helped shape a new model of Christian holiness rooted in pastoral charity, monastic discipline, and public witness. He is famously remembered for cutting his cloak and sharing half with a beggar. According to tradition, Martin later dreamed of Christ clothed in the half-cloak he had given away—a vision revealing that in serving the poor he had encountered the divine presence.

In this month dedicated to the Holy Souls, Saint Martin's example calls us to extend spiritual charity to those undergoing purification in purgatory. Just as he clothed the poor, we are called to clothe suffering souls with our prayers and acts of love.

Martinmas traditionally marked the end of the harvest and the beginning of winter in medieval Europe. It is the origin of current forms of Thanksgiving Day. As fields lay bare and barns were filled, Christians celebrated abundance while turning hearts outward in generosity and inward in spiritual readiness. It was a time of feasting, almsgiving, and winter preparation, often associated with the slaughter of livestock and the tasting of the season's first wine. In many cultures, children still carry lanterns in evening processions, recalling the light of Saint Martin's charity amid the encroaching darkness of winter. Many of us begin putting up our winter/Christmas lights during these days too!

Spiritually, *Martinmas* serves as a bridge between *Allhallowtide*—the three-day Christian observance from October 31 to November 2 that commemorates the saints, martyrs, and all the faithful departed—and Advent. It invites reflection on mortality, mercy, and the hope of eternal life, while also linking harvest thanksgiving with preparation for Christmas. In earlier centuries, the feast was celebrated with an octave, extending its spiritual focus across eight days, and marked the start of a penitential season known as *St. Martin's Lent*—a forty-day period of fasting, prayer, and charity before Christmas that gradually gave rise to Advent, showing how gratitude for God's gifts leads into spiritual readiness, a disposition that is nurtured during the early days of Advent.

As communities paused to celebrate *Martinmas*, November 11 later also became the choice for Armistice Day, commemorating the cessation of World War I hostilities in 1918 at the “eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.” In Canada, this observance was renamed *Remembrance Day* in 1939, a day to honor all who sacrificed in military conflicts and those who continue to serve, linking national reflection to the spiritual rhythms already associated with the feast. *Martinmas* therefore preceded and forms the foundation for Remembrance Day, uniting thanksgiving, generosity, vigilance, and remembrance. The cycles of nature, human generosity, and historical memory are harmoniously intertwined: the joy of harvest flows into quiet reflection, and the anticipation of Christ—for the same God who fills our barns with bread prepares to fill the world with His Word made flesh. ~ *Fr. John Burchat*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,480.60 (Envelopes: \$1,927.00; Loose: \$118.60; Visitors: \$95.00;
E-transfer: \$340.00).

SUNDAY OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2026: Please find your envelope box on the back table at the entrance of the church in alphabetic order. If you use e-transfer, you are still issued a box which contains special collection envelopes authorized by the diocese.

Make your financial gift in support of our parish count. Use church envelopes for a secure and personalized contribution. **YOUR SUPPORT, OUR COMMUNITY.**

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.

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.

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.

GIVE THE GIFT OF HEALING this Christmas. Support the St. Francis Valley Healthcare Foundations *Tree of Lights Campaign* to help purchase essential equipment for St. Francis Memorial Hospital's medical unit. For more information call 613-756-3045 ext 217 or online at www.sfvhfoundation.com.

THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE is at the front of the church. You are invited to enter the names of deceased loved ones to be prayed for at our Masses this month. The Offering of Masses for the faithful departed and Holy Souls are good and holy acts. It is especially meritorious to visit a cemetery and pray the following prayer:

**Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord,
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**