

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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✠ Second Sunday of Advent ✠

December 7, 2025

TODAY'S GOSPEL (Mt 3:1-12), presents to us the figure of St John the Baptist, who with his preaching, called the people to convert so as to be ready for the coming of the Messiah, now at hand. St Gregory the Great commented that John the Baptist “preaches upright faith and good works... so that the force of grace may penetrate, the light of the truth shine out, the paths to God be straightened and honest thoughts be born in the mind after hearing the word that guides us to goodness” (*Hom. in Evangelia, XX, 3, CCL 141, 155*).

In the Season of Advent, we too are called to listen to God's voice, that cries out in the desert of the world through the Sacred Scriptures. The model of listening is the Virgin Mary: “As we contemplate in the Mother of God a life totally shaped by the word, we realize that we too are called to enter into the mystery of faith, whereby Christ comes to dwell in our lives. Every Christian believer, St Ambrose reminds us, in some way interiorly conceives and gives birth to the word of God” (*Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Verbum Domini, no. 28*).

Dear friends, “Our salvation rests on a coming”, as Romano Guardini wrote (*La santa notte. Dall'Avvento all'Epifania, Brescia 1994, p. 13*). “The Saviour came from God's freedom.... Thus, the decision of faith consists... in welcoming the One who draws near” (*ibid.*, p. 14). “The Redeemer”, he added, “comes to every human being: in his joy and his anguish, in his clear knowledge, in his perplexities and temptations, in all that constitutes his nature and his life” (*ibid.*, p. 15).

Thus, Advent means commemorating the first coming of the Lord in the flesh, with his definitive return already in mind, and, at the same time, it means recognizing that Christ present in our midst makes himself our travelling companion in the life of the Church who celebrates his mystery. ~ *Pope Benedict; December 5, 2010.*

THE FORERUNNER: “John was the lamp that went before the Sun of Justice; he was the forerunner, not the follower. He prepared the way, he pointed out the Bridegroom, he fulfilled the office of friend.” ~ *St. John Chrysostom*

Second Week of Advent

December 8 – December 13

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Doreen Dombroskie *by Greg, Shelley, Riley & Carley Mask*
Friday 9:00 a.m. + Raymond Bielawski *by Richard & Suzanne Luckasavitch*

+ Third Sunday of Advent +

December 14, 2025

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Jamie Madigan *by Bob & Margaret Serran*
+ Aloysius 'Al' Smaglinski *by Stella Shushak*
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	December 13	December 14
Readings	<i>Karen Yakabuski</i>	<i>Judy Fillion</i>
Communion	<i>Neil O'Reilly</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>Paul Rivett-Carnac</i>
	<i>Barry Dombroskie</i>	<i>Greg Kelly</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: *Rick Sauro, Diane Green, Jean-Paul Patenaude, Ray Vananburg, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Margaret Abbott, Helen Schutt, Theresa Chapeskie, Gertrude (Trudi) Cortens (MH), Alicia Coulas, Shelagh MacNamara & Bonnie Coulas.*

WEEKLY ADORATION IN HOLY CANADIAN MARTYRS CHAPEL: Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday - St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
Wednesday - Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday - St. Damasus I, pope
Friday - Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday - St. Lucy, virgin, martyr

THE ANGELUS: (Latin for "angel") is a Catholic prayer commemorating the Incarnation. As with many Catholic prayers, the name Angelus is derived from its incipit—the first few words of the text: *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariæ* ("The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary").

It also “commemorates the Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38), the decisive moment when God knocked at Mary's heart and, having received her "yes," began to take flesh in her and from her. The collect prayer of 4th Sunday of Advent is also the same prayer that is recited at the end of the Angelus. Advent prepares us for the feast of Christmas by inviting us to fix our gaze upon the ineffable mystery that Mary carried for nine months in her virginal womb: the mystery of God who becomes man. This is the first hinge of Redemption. The second is Jesus' death and resurrection, and these two inseparable hinges manifest a single divine plan: to save humanity and its history, assuming it to the very end by completely taking on all the evil that oppresses it.” ~ *Pope Benedict XVI*

It is traditionally prayed at dawn, noon and twilight, or with Grace before meals. Why not cut out the prayer at the bottom of this page and keep it on your table during Advent.

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
R. *And she conceived the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary . . .*
V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:
R. *Be it done unto me according to Thy word. Hail Mary . . .*
V. And the Word was made Flesh:
R. *And dwelt among us. Hail Mary . . .*
V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God,
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL WEBSITES:

<http://amywelborn.wordpress.com>

<http://www.ewtn.com>

<http://onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Advent/>

<http://www.wordonfire.org>

<https://dynamiccatholic.com>

<http://www.catholicmom.com>

Come, Lord Jesus and do not delay!

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 Tuesday, December 16 in order to have loved ones listed in the Christmas bulletin memorial page.

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

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,652.00 (Envelopes: \$1,900.00; Loose: \$112.00; Visitors: \$100.00;
E-transfer: \$375.00; Christmas Flowers: \$165.00).

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

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.

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.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS:

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: (*same Mass time scheduling over Christmastime*)

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 the Graphite Bible Camp in Maynooth (as usual), the weekend of January 9 - 11, 2026. See bulletin board of details. For more info: contact Pierre-Paul Filion at 613-602-6580 or email: ppfilion@yahoo.ca.