

# 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  
613-756-2037



## ✠ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

January 18, 2026

**CWL POT O'GOLD TICKETS:** TODAY, available after Mass.

**RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: REVERENCE AND PRACTICE:** The Catholic Church allows the faithful to receive Holy Communion on the tongue or in the hand, and either standing or kneeling. All of these options are fully legitimate. What matters most is the **reverence of heart** with which we approach the Sacrament.

In many places, the liturgical norm is to receive standing as part of a unified Communion procession, while those who choose to kneel may always do so and are not to be refused. Receiving on the tongue remains the universal practice of the Church, and receiving in the hand is permitted where approved. **The Church also asks each communicant to make a profound bow just before receiving the Body or Blood of Christ**—a simple gesture of adoration that nearly everyone can perform, regardless of age or physical limitations.

Throughout the Church's history, different rites and traditions have expressed Eucharistic reverence in different ways. These variations do not measure holiness; rather, they reflect the rich diversity of the Church's liturgical heritage. No single posture or method automatically makes a person "more reverent." Reverence is first an interior disposition, expressed outwardly in ways shaped by culture, tradition, and the norms of the liturgy.

The Church invites each person to receive the Eucharist with humility, devotion, and gratitude, while also respecting the unity of the assembly and the practices proper to our rite.

**Behold the Lamb of God  
who takes away the sin of the world!**

## Second Week in Ordinary Time

January 19 – January 24

**Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. + Stanley, Genevie, Jerome, Rosemarie, Matthew & Paul Trebenksi *by Family*  
Intentions of Shirlee Etmanskie *by Eddie & Diane Etmanskie*

**Friday** *NO MASS*

## + Third Sunday in Ordinary Time +

Sunday of the Word of God

*January 25, 2026*

**Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Bradley Parisien *by Colleen, Cameron, Griffin & Abby*  
+ Alicia Coulas *by Darlene Bresnahan & Linda Shulist*

**Sunday** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

### Liturgical Appointments

#### Readings

#### Communion

#### Offertory

### January 24

*Jane Beahen*

*Neil O'Reilly*

*Bruce Sullivan*

*Richard Luckasavitch*

### January 25

*Judy Filion*

*Pierre-Paul Filion*

*Paul Rivett-Carnac*

*Greg Kelly*

**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: *Shirlee Etmanskie, Rick Sauro, Diane Green, Jean-Paul Patenaude, Ray Vananburg, Carmel Rumleskie.*

- for those who have died, especially: *McGregor Madigan, Joseph Rabishaw, Tom Holly, Peter Brotton, Ernie Peplinskie, Patrick Kutchkoskie.*

### ROMAN CALENDAR:

**Tuesday** - St. Fabian, pope, martyr & St. Sebastian, martyr

**Wednesday** - St. Agnes, virgin, martyr

**Thursday** - St. Vincent, deacon, martyr

**Saturday** - St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor; *Patronal Feast for Latchford Bridge*

**TODAY'S GOSPEL** is from St. John 1:29-34. The pages of the Gospel present John the Baptist as a symbolic example of a 'bridegroom's friend', as Christ's excellent and exemplary witness. The Baptist's pre-eminent witness was affirmed in two ways: firstly, with regard to the content of his testimony and secondly with respect to its style.

With regard to the content of his testimony, the Baptist identified Jesus as 'the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world' (Jn 1:29). Anticipating Jesus' messianic and salvific role, each of the four evangelists start their Gospels with the Baptist's words. The Lamb refers to the idea of salvation. The Lamb is the gift of liberation that, following the flight from Egypt, the Israelites sacrificed to the Lord. The Lamb recalls the servant of the Lord, the messianic image described by the Prophet Isaiah, 'like a lamb led to the slaughterhouse, like a sheep dumb before its shearers' (Is 53:7). The Lamb recalls the image of the Victorious Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse who at the end of time will definitively destroy evil and sin. John the Baptist is therefore, an authoritative witness who knew Jesus' exact identity and why He came amongst men.

With regard to John the Baptist's style, St John's Gospel (cfr Jn 3:28-29) presents St John the Baptist through the image of the 'bridegroom's friend'. He gives witness yet is not positioned central to the events that are unfolding. His testimony is totally centralised on Christ. John indicates the presence of the Lord and then steps into the margins. 'I am not the Christ' and he goes on to affirm 'I am the one who has been sent to go in front of him. It is the bridegroom who has the bride; and yet the bridegroom's friend, who stands there and listens to him, is filled with joy at the bridegroom's voice. This is the joy I feel, and it is complete. He must grow greater; I must grow less.' (Jn 3:28-30)

Today's Gospel offers us an eloquent example to imitate, so that we can also become Christ's authoritative witnesses. A believer can only give an authoritative witness if it coexists in perfect harmony with two of the Baptist's evangelical qualities. Firstly, knowledge of Christ that is cultivated through prayer, the sacramental and ecclesial life, reading good books and edifying friendships. Secondly, the constant attributes of a 'bridegroom's friend' who goes in search of the Groom through the virtue of humility because always, in everyone's life, Christ must increase and we must decrease!

**SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD:** is next weekend on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This annual celebration was announced by Pope Francis in a Motu Proprio entitled *Aperuit illis*, published on September 30, 2019, the Feast of St Jerome. The Word of God Sunday, Pope Francis wrote in that Motu Proprio, "is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God". Pope Francis desires that "the Church experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasure of his word and enable us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." **The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God's word and of Christ's body.** ~*Vatican II, Dei Verbum 21*

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

Total:\$3,414.00 (Envelopes: \$1,672.00; Loose: \$112.00; Visitors: \$35.00; Initial: \$30.00; New Year's Offering:\$30.00; Building Fund:\$15.00; Fuel:\$20.00; Donation:\$1,500.00).

**2025 CHARITABLE DONATION RECEIPTS:** will be issued early in February along with a Financial Report. Thank you for your faith-filled generosity and financial commitment to the parish.

**2026 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** As some assigned numbers have changed, please write your full name and complete mailing address on your envelope. Thank you!

**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.

**2026 ANNUAL LIFT JESUS HIGHER RALLY Lift Jesus Higher Rally -- Saturday, March 14, 2026** This joyful day of renewal draws thousands each year and offers a profound opportunity to encounter the living Christ. For full details, registration, and promotional materials, visit: [www.ljhr.ca](http://www.ljhr.ca)

**WOMEN'S RETREAT 2026:** There will be two women's retreats lead by Madonna House member Shatzi Duffy this spring and sacraments being celebrated by Madonna House Priests, Fr. Brian Christi (@Elim) and Fr. Zachary Romanowsky (@Graphite). Registration will open at the end of January.

**Elim Lodge, near Peterborough** - Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15

**Graphite Bible Camp, near Combermere** - Friday, April 10 - Sunday, April 12

**BIBLE STUDY: The Gospel of John** (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. Discussing pp. 325-335 this week involving Easter themes including the empty tomb.

**DIOCESE OF PEMBROKE PASTORAL PLANNING:** Parishioners of the Barry's Bay Deanery are invited to **save the date of Sunday, March 1**, to attend a meeting at St. John Bosco School, Barry's Bay - 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - to attend a pastoral planning information meeting. Bishop Brehl and members of the diocesan steering committee will present relevant pastoral, statistical and financial data to help equip parishioners in ongoing dialogue and discernment on the future of the diocese.