

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
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✠ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

3 Weeks until Lent; 60 Days until Easter

February 1, 2026

THE SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Healing was at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Moved with compassion for those who were suffering, Jesus sought out the sick and laid His healing hands upon them. He gave sight to the blind, freed the possessed and brought to life many who had died. Healing was complete by merely touching His garments. The apostles and disciples followed the example of Jesus and carried out His teaching. Mark 6:12 tells us the Twelve expelled many demons, anointed the sick with oil and worked many cures. Prayer and the anointing with oil for the sick is attested to in the early Church. In the book of James 5:14-15 it states, "Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven". What we today refer to as the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick used to be known as 'Extreme Unction' or 'Last Rites'. The name was changed to emphasize that it is no longer only for those who are dying. The dying are still anointed; but more so, the Church recognizes the power of this sacrament as one of strength and healing for the sick and the suffering. It is for those who need God and the support of the faith community to accompany them on their journey from sickness to healing and strength.

Who can be anointed? How often can one be anointed? One needs to be a baptized Catholic: children at the age of reason, teens, the middle aged and the elderly. The dead are not anointed since the sacrament's focus is one of healing and strength. For those who are suffering from serious chronic illness and old age, every six months to a year. For those facing surgery or serious illness, one time is sufficient unless there is a change in the person's condition.

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

February 2 – February 7

THERE ARE NO WEEKDAY MASSES: *There is weekday Mass at Holy Canadian Martyrs on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. Please also consult the local parishes for weekday Mass times.*

+ Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

2 Weeks until Lent; 50 Days until Easter

February 8, 2026

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Richard & Ursula Dombroskie *by Rosemarie Recoskie*
+ Margaret Dombroskie *by Glenn Dombroskie & Family*

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

Liturgical Appointments	February 7	February 8
Readings	<i>Lorraine Flynn</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Maxine Smaglinski</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</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:

- for parishioners and friends who are sick, especially: *Shirlee Etmanskie, Diane Green, Jean-Paul Patenaude, Ray Vananburg, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Percy Hubert Coulas, George Cadieux, Darinka Lucic, McGregor King Madigan, Joseph Rabishaw, Tom Holly, Peter Brotton.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - PRESENTATION OF THE LORD
Tuesday - St. Blaise, bishop, martyr & St. Ansgar, bishop
Thursday - St. Agatha, virgin, martyr
Friday - St. Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs
Saturday - St. Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor

COFFEE SOCIAL: On Sunday, February 8, after the 10:30 am. Mass. You are welcome to join fellow parishioners' downstairs for coffee and treats.

THE BEATITUDES: On this Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Gospel presents the first great discourse that the Lord addresses to the people on the gentle hills encircling the Sea of Galilee. “Seeing the crowds,” St Matthew writes, “he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them” (Mt 5:1-2).

Jesus, the new Moses, “takes his seat on the cathedra of the mountain” (Jesus of Nazareth, Doubleday, New York 2007, p. 65) and proclaims “blessed” the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the merciful, those who hunger for righteousness, the pure in heart, the persecuted (cf. Mt 5:3-10). It is not a new ideology, but a teaching that comes from on high and touches the human condition, the condition that the Lord, in becoming flesh, wished to assume in order to save it.

Therefore “the Sermon on the Mount is addressed to the entire world, the entire present and future, and yet it demands discipleship and can be understood and lived out only by following Jesus and accompanying him on his journey” (Jesus of Nazareth, p. 69).

The Beatitudes are a new programme of life, to free oneself from the false values of the world and to open oneself to the true goods, present and future. Indeed, when God comforts, he satisfies the hunger for righteousness, he wipes away the tears of those who mourn, which means that, as well as compensating each one in a practical way, he opens the Kingdom of Heaven. “The Beatitudes are the transposition of the Cross and Resurrection into discipleship” (ibid., p. 74). They mirror the life of the Son of God who let himself even be persecuted and despised until he was condemned to death so that salvation might be given to men and women.

An ancient hermit says: “The Beatitudes are gifts of God and we must say a great ‘thank you’ to him for them and for the rewards that derive from them, namely the Kingdom of God in the century to come and consolation here; the fullness of every good and mercy on God’s part ... once we have become images of Christ on earth” (Peter of Damascus, In Filocalia, Vol. 3, Turin 1985, p. 79).

The Gospel of the Beatitudes is commented on with the actual history of the Church, the history of Christian holiness, because, as St Paul writes, “God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are” (1 Cor 1:27-28).

For this reason, the Church has no fear of poverty, contempt or persecution in a society which is often attracted by material well-being and worldly power. St Augustine reminds us that “it serves nothing to suffer these evils, but rather to bear them in the Name of Jesus, not only with a serene soul but also with joy” (cf. *De sermone Domini in monte*, i, 5,13: ccl 35, 13).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the Virgin Mary, the Blessed par excellence, asking her for the strength to seek the Lord (cf. Zeph 2:3) and to follow him always, with joy, on the path of the Beatitudes. ~ *Pope Benedict; January 30, 2011*

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,415.00 (Envelopes: \$1,527.00; Loose: \$83.00; Visitors: \$55.00; Fuel: \$630.00; E-transfers: \$120.00).

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.

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.

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.

PRO-LIFE HOLY HOUR: Fridays at 9:45 a.m., following the 9:00 a.m. Mass at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish.

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

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.

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.

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

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER within the Mass – Wednesday, February 11 at 7:00 p.m.