

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

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Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

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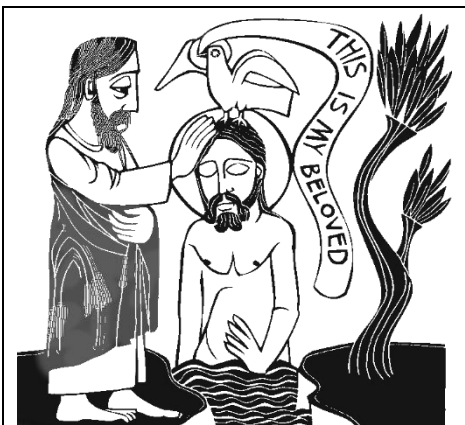
Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
613-756-2037



✠ The Baptism of the Lord ✠

January 11, 2026



Christ is Baptized!
Glorify Him!

Let us go down with Him,
that we may also ascend with Him.

~ St. Gregory Nazianzen

The mystery of Christ's baptism in the Jordan by St John, the Precursor is infinitely linked to the Solemnities of the Lord's birth and the Epiphany that we have just celebrated, as in some ways it takes up and represents their significance to us.

At Christmas we have contemplated the human birth of the Word incarnate by the Virgin Mary. In the 4th century, the Fathers of the Church deepened the understanding of the faith with regard to the Christmas mystery in the light of Jesus' Humanity. They spoke of the Incarnation of the Word already working like the 'Christification' of that humanity that he had assumed from His mother. Or put in simpler terms: Jesus is the Christ from the first instant of conception in Mary's spotless womb because He Himself, with His Divine Power, consecrated, anointed and 'Christified' that human nature with which He became incarnate.

COFFEE SOCIAL: TODAY, Coffee and treats will be available downstairs in the hall after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. Everyone is welcome to come and share a hot drink and their holiday stories.

The Christmas season formally ends with vespers (evening prayer) Sunday evening while Christmastide traditionally extends to Candlemas on February 2 with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

First Week in Ordinary Time

January 12 – January 17

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Howard & Mary Fox *by Georgina, Pat, Jean & Irene*
Friday 9:00 a.m. + Elmer Dombroskie *by Glenn Dombroskie & Family*

+ Second Sunday in Ordinary Time +

(Second Sunday after Epiphany)

January 18, 2026

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Deceased & Living Smaglinski & Shulist Family
by Theresa Shulist
Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	January 17	January 18
Readings	<i>Karen Yakabuski</i>	<i>Beverly Glofcheskie</i>
Communion	<i>Leona Chapeskie</i>	<i>Ursula Jeffrey</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Barry Dombroskie</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, Rick Sauro, Diane Green, Jean-Paul Patenaude, Ray Vananburg, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Tom Holly, Peter Brotton, Ernie Peplinskie, Patrick Kutchkoskie.*

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, virgin
Tuesday - St. Hilary, bishop, doctor
Saturday - St. Anthony, abbot

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.

TODAY we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. It is the Feast which, on the first Sunday after the Epiphany, concludes the Christmas Season with the Lord's manifestation at the River Jordan. According to the account of the Evangelist Matthew (3:13-17), Jesus came from Galilee to the River Jordan to be baptized by John, that is, to submit to that sign of penance which calls for conversion from sin.

Although it was called "Baptism" it did not have the sacramental value of the Rite of Baptism; as you well know, it was actually with his death and Resurrection that Jesus instituted the sacraments and caused the Church to be born. What John administered was a penitential act, a gesture of humility to God that invited a new beginning: by immersing themselves in the water, penitents recognized that they had sinned, begged God for purification from their sins and were asked to change wrong behavior, dying in the water, as it were, and rising from it to new life.

For this reason, when John the Baptist saw Jesus who had come to be baptized queuing with sinners, he was amazed; recognizing him as the Messiah, the Holy One of God, the One who is without sin, John expressed his consternation. But Jesus urged him not to put up any resistance, to agree to do this act, to do what is fitting "to fulfill all righteousness". With these words Jesus showed that he had come into the world to do the will of the One who had sent him, to carry out all that the Father would ask of him. It was in order to obey the Father that he accepted to be made man. This act reveals, first of all, who Jesus is: he is the Son of God, true God as the Father; he is the One who "humbled himself" to make himself one of us, the One who was made man and who accepted to humble himself unto death on a cross (see Phil 2:7).

The Baptism of Jesus, which we are commemorating today, fits into this logic of humility and solidarity: it is the action of the One who wanted to make himself one of us in everything and who truly joined the line of sinners. His humility is dictated by the desire to establish full communion with humanity, by the desire to bring about true solidarity with man and with his human condition. Jesus' action anticipates the Cross, his acceptance of death for man's sins. This act of abasement, by which Jesus wanted to comply totally with the loving plan of the Father and to conform himself with us, expresses the full harmony of will and intentions that exists between the Persons of the Most Holy Trinity. For this act of love, the Spirit of God revealed himself and descended to alight upon Jesus as a dove, and at that moment the love which unites Jesus to the Father was witnessed to all who were present at the Baptism by a voice from Heaven that everyone heard.

The Father reveals openly to human beings, to us, the profound communion that binds him to the Son: the voice that resounds from on high testifies that Jesus is obedient to the Father in all things and that this obedience is an expression of the love that unites them to each other. Therefore, the Father delights in Jesus, for he recognizes in the Son's behavior the wish to obey his will in all things: "And these words of the Father also allude, in advance, to the victory of the Resurrection and tell us how we must live in order to please the Father, by behaving like Jesus. ~ *Pope Benedict; January 9, 2011*

CWL POT O'GOLD TICKETS: will again be available after Masses on January 17/18.

PREVIOUS WEEK'S OFFERINGS:

Dec 21 - Total: \$2,687.00 (Envelopes: \$1,897.00; Loose: \$140.00; Visitors: \$265.00; E-transfer: \$605.00; Fuel: \$40.00; Building Fund: \$80.00; Christmas Offering: \$245.00; Christmas Flowers: \$20.00). **Dec 25** – Total: \$3,612.50

Dec 28 – Total: \$ 2,683.00 (Envelopes: \$2202.00; Loose: \$146.00; Visitors: \$335.00)

Jan 1 – Total: \$1,490.00 **Jan 4** – Total: \$4,837.45 (Envelopes: \$2,415.00; Loose: \$314.70; Visitors: \$65.00; Fuel: \$15.00; E-transfer: \$450.00; Initial: \$ 1,160.00; Christmas 2025: \$110.00; Dec 28 Offering: \$307.75)

A CHRISTMASTIDE THANK YOU: to the many people who contributed to the beauty and dignity of the Eucharistic Liturgy and the liturgical environment: to those who donated offerings to beautify the church; to those who donated time and energy, and helped lead us in our Christmas liturgies: musicians, leaders of song, readers, servers, money counters, decorators and to anyone else who gave leadership or worked "behind the scenes" at the different Masses over Christmastime. This would not have been possible for accomplishment without the wonderful support and assistance of staff and volunteers we have in our parishes! ~ *Fr. John*

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.

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.

EVENINGS OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND INTERCESSORY PRAYER: Returns Thursday, January 4, 2024, at St. Lawrence's; 7:00 p.m. For more info contact Greg or Mary 613-756-6643.

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