

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

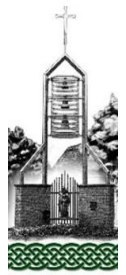
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Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest

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Office Hours

Tuesday & Friday
9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon
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✠ The Epiphany of the Lord ✠

January 4, 2026



Today, the Magi find in the manger the one they have followed as he shone in the sky.
Today, the Magi see clearly the one they have long awaited as he lay hidden among the stars.
Today, the Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die.

~ St. Peter Chrysologus, early 5th century bishop of Ravenna (Italy), Doctor of the Church

The Epiphany is not only the manifestation of a child to distant seekers, but the unveiling of reason's true horizon, where creation becomes intelligible because it is illuminated from within. The Magi represent humanity's patient search for truth, and they are neither dismissed nor flattered, but led to its purification, as the Logos (Meaning) they discerned in the stars now speaks in silence from the flesh. Here the infinite does not rival the finite but enters it, revealing that matter itself is capable of bearing God, and that worship is the proper response of reason when it encounters this Presence. This Light is offered to all peoples as it gathers history, freedom, and meaning into the concreteness of one human life. To kneel before the Child is therefore not an escape from thought, but its completion, where faith and reason meet in adoration before the Way, the Truth and the Life made visible. ~ *Anonymous*

Second Week of Christmastime

January 5 – 10

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Cathy Serran *by David & Carmel Rumleskie*

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Shaun O'Malley *by Dan & Patsy O'Malley*

+ The Baptism of the Lord +

January 11, 2026

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + Bonnie Coulas *by Georgina Etmanskie*

+ Clarence Prince *by Karen & Kaylee*

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

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.

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Communion

Offertory

January 10

Sean Conway

Maxine Smaglinski

Bruce Sullivan

Richard Luckasavitch

January 11

Joanne Olsen

Terry Recoskie

John Jeffrey

Jason Dombroskie

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: *Peter Brotton, Ernie Peplinski, Patrick Kutchkoskie, Theresa Coulas, Margaret Abbott, Shelagh MacNamara, Helen Schutt, Teresa Chapeskie.*

ROMAN CALENDAR

Wednesday - St. Andre Bessette, religious

Thursday - St. Raymond de Penyafort, priest

COFFEE SOCIAL: Coffee and treats will be available downstairs in the hall after the 10:30 a.m. Mass on January 11, 2026. Everyone is welcome to come and share a hot drink and their holiday stories.

TODAY we are celebrating the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the “Manifestation” of the Lord. The Gospel tells how Jesus came into the world with deep humility and hiddenness. St Matthew, however, mentions the episode of the Wise Men who arrive from the East, guided by a star, to worship the newborn King of the Jews. Every time we hear this account, we are struck by the stark contrast between the attitude of the Magi, on the one hand, and that of Herod and the Jews on the other. In fact, the Gospel says that on hearing the words of the Magi “Herod the king... was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him” (Mt 2: 3). There are various ways in which this reaction can be understood: Herod is alarmed because he sees in the one the Magi were seeking a rival to himself and his children. On the other hand, the elders and inhabitants of Jerusalem seem amazed, rather than anything else, as though they had been woken from a certain lethargy and needed to think. Isaiah had, in reality, foretold: “To us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Is 9: 6).

So why should Jerusalem have been worried? It seems that the Evangelist almost desired to anticipate what was later to be the attitude of the high priests and the Sanhedrin, as well as of the people, toward Jesus during his public life. Certainly, it becomes clear that knowledge of the Scriptures and of the messianic prophecies does not lead everyone to open themselves to him and to his words. It comes to mind that Jesus with his Passion approaching wept over Jerusalem because it had not recognized the time of its visitation (see Lk 19: 44). Here we touch on one of the crucial points of historical theology: the drama of the faithful love of God in the person of Jesus, who “came to his own, yet his own did not accept him” (Jn 1: 11). In the light of the whole Bible this attitude of hostility, or ambiguity, or superficiality represents that of every person and of the “world” in the spiritual sense when closed to the mystery of the true God, who comes to meet us in the disarming docility of love. Jesus, the “King of the Jews” (see Jn 18: 37), is the God of mercy and fidelity. He desires to reign in love and in truth and asks us to convert, to abandon wicked deeds and to set out with determination on the path of good.

Hence in this sense “Jerusalem” is all of us! May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed Jesus with faith, help us not to close our hearts to his Gospel of salvation. Rather, let us allow ourselves to be conquered and transformed by him, the “Emmanuel”, God who came to dwell among us to offer us the gift of his peace and his love. ~ *Angelus Address by Pope Benedict XVI; January 6, 2009*

A PERSONAL THANK YOU: to everyone for their generous gifts to me personally this Christmas. May the Lord in His goodness bless you with peace and joy throughout this new year! ~ *Fr. John*

SUNDAY OFFERINGS: will be reported in next Sunday's bulletin.

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 accomplish 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.

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF A HOME: The tradition of blessing the home each year on Epiphany dates from the Middle Ages. As a place where the Lord is revealed in our relationships, the home is blessed in the following manner: a priest or parent uses blessed chalk to mark the inside of the front door with the initials "CMB", an abbreviation for the Latin blessing: *Christus mansionem benedicat*, which means, "May Christ bless this house." Throughout the year, those who come and go through the front door of your house will enjoy the blessing of Christ. These initials also represent the Magi named by tradition as Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar. The initials are preceded by the first two digits of the year and followed by the last two digits, with a small cross between the letters and the numbers: 20+C+M+B+26.

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.