

# Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca

stlawrenceotoole@hotmail.com

**Fr. John N. Burchat, Parish Priest**

19450 Opeongo Line, P.O. Box 118  
Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0  
jnburchat@gmail.com

## Office Hours

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



## ✠ Fourth Sunday of Lent ✠

*Laetare Sunday*

*March 15, 2026*

**TODAY** the Church bids us pause in the midst of Lent and remember why we walk this path at all. **Laetare Sunday** reminds us that Christian joy is not an escape from the world's burdens but a way of seeing them in the light of God's faithful love. Even in the desert, grace is at work. Even in our unfinished stories, Christ is already drawing near. As we gather, we ask for hearts open to the quiet, steady joy that comes from knowing that God is present, God is acting, and God is leading us toward the fullness of life.

**THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL** shows Jesus opening the eyes of a man who has lived his whole life in darkness — and in that moment we glimpse the radiant, unbidden generosity of God's light, breaking into the world not as reward but as sheer gift. Christ does not merely restore sight; He reveals a deeper truth — that every human life is already held within the luminous mercy of God, even when we cannot perceive it. As we celebrate this Laetare Sunday, we pray for the grace to see with that same transfigured vision: to recognize the beauty God is bringing forth in our struggles, to trust the light that precedes our understanding, and to welcome the joy that rises whenever Christ makes Himself known.

**CWL POT OF GOLD DRAW & SOCIAL** is **TODAY Sunday**, March 15 after the 10.30 a.m. mass. Coffee, tea and muffins will be served. **Come join us for a few Irish songs** and see who the winners are. Please come out to hear firsthand who the Lucky winners are. If you still have tickets, please hand in asap. Everyone is welcome.

---

**O Christ, whose light restores the sight of every seeking heart,  
illumine our darkness and awaken us to your quiet, healing grace.**

## Fourth Week of Lent

March 16 – March 21

**Tuesday** 9:00 a.m. (*beginning with the Way of the Cross*)  
+ Edna Coulas by *Peplinskie Family*

**Friday** 9:00 a.m. + Percy Coulas by *Jennifer Huestis*

## + Fifth Sunday of Lent +

March 22, 2026

**Saturday** 4:00 p.m. + Cathy Serran & Intentions of Margaret Serran  
by *Charlie & Debbie Rodway*

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

Liturgical Appointments	March 21	March 22
Readings	<i>Sean Conway</i>	<i>Joanne Olsen</i>
Communion	<i>Neil O'Reilly</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:

- that the radiance of light of Christ may open our eyes to the world as God sees it, revealing every person as a bearer of infinite worth, and every moment as charged with the generosity of divine grace
- for parishioners and friends who are sick (*please call the office to be listed/re-listed*)
- for those who have died, especially: *Edward Harold Hammer, Jeannette Bonnette Stoppa.*

**THE EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE:** In the Catholic Church, penitents who wish to receive the Sacrament of Penance are encouraged to examine their conscience. This examination is a general review of one's actions from a moral point of view, reflecting upon one's responsibility and looking at one's sins and weaknesses in preparation for repentance. Several examinations of conscience are now available on the tables at the entrance of the church for adults, youth and children.

For in turning the gaze inward with honesty and humility, the soul discovers not only the shadows of its own frailty but also the radiant mercy of the God who ever calls us from disorder of our wounded freedom into the freedom of divine love.

## **ROMAN CALENDAR:**

Tuesday - St. Patrick, bishop

Wednesday - St. Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, doctor

Thursday - St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, principal patron of Canada

**SAINT JOSEPH** stands before us as a man whose greatness is revealed not through dramatic words or public deeds, but through quiet fidelity to God's unfolding plan. He listens deeply, responds promptly, and embraces the responsibilities entrusted to him with courage and humility. His life shows the strength of one who protects without controlling, who acts without seeking attention, and who trusts God more than his own understanding. In his silence we find not absence, but a profound witness to the truth that holiness often grows in the hidden, ordinary, and obedient moments of daily life.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** Before all weekday and weekend Masses.  
With visiting priest-confessors on:

**Sunday, March 22; 1:30 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole**

**Monday, March 23; 6:00 p.m. at St. Hedwig's**

**Wednesday, March 25; 7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs**

**Sunday, March 29; 3:00 pm. at St. Mary's, Wilno**

*Lord Jesus, may shame never make me forget your mercy,  
and may pride never prevent me from asking for mercy.*

**CHRISM MASS:** All are invited to participate in the celebration of the Chrism Mass presided by Bishop Brehl at St. Columbkille Cathedral, Pembroke, on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 31, at 10:30 a.m. During the ceremony, the Bishop will bless the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of the Sick and he will consecrate the Holy Chrism used for Baptism, Confirmation and Priestly ordinations.

**Today Lord, I choose life,**

**I choose your love and the challenge to live it and share it,**

**I choose hope, even in moments of darkness,**

**I choose faith, accepting you as Lord and God,**

**I choose to let go of some part of my burdens,**

**day by day handing them over to you,**

**I choose to take hold of your strength and power ever more deeply in my life.**

**May this truly be for me a time of new life, of change, challenge and growth.**

**May I come to Easter with a heart open to dying with you**

**and rising to your new life, day by day. Amen.**

*(Irish Catholic Bishop's Conference)*

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

Total: \$2,724.00 (Envelopes: \$1,715.00; Loose: \$449.00; Visitors: \$120.00; E-Transfer: \$150.00; Easter Offering: \$230.00; Building Fund: \$10.00; Fuel: \$30.00; Seminary: \$10.00; Pope's Works: \$10.00).

**EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS** made for the glory of God and in memory of loved ones or for special intentions, may be submitted using the Flowers for Easter envelopes found in your box of Sunday Offering Envelopes, or the Flower Offering envelopes available at the entrance of the church. The Masses of Easter will be offered for all intentions received. To have names included on the Easter bulletin memorial page, please return your donation by Monday, March 23.

**LENTEN ALMSGIVING:** Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, we give sacrificially to the poor and not just from our surplus. We can simplify our lifestyle, reduce our consumerism, and give that discretionary income to those in need. Almsgiving can be combined with fasting, giving to the poor the money saved by eating, drinking, or buying less as we rely more upon God's abundant grace. May the experience of physical hunger also remind us of our deep need and desire for Christ the Bread of Life. The Lenten Mission & Development collection taken up on Good Friday is the fruit of our sacrificial giving

## **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.

**CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHILDREN:** Preparation for First Holy Communion (7 years of age and up) and Confirmation (11 years of age and up) in our parish is conducted in accordance with diocesan policy, which encourages a process of individualized family faith formation in the parish. Families who wish to have their children begin preparing for these sacraments are invited to speak to Fr. Burchat after Sunday Mass. The parish provides resources, catechetical assistance and preparatory meetings to support this journey.

## **COMMEMORATION OF THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM: April 2-5**

Holy Thursday:	7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
Good Friday:	12:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
	3:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole
Easter Vigil:	8:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs
Easter Sunday:	8:30 a.m. at St. Francis de Sales
	10:30 a.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole