

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
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✠ Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord ✠

March 29, 2026

HOLY WEEK: is the most sacred time of the year, when the Church walks with Christ through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. St. John Paul II reminds us that these days are a pilgrimage of the heart, inviting us to stand with Mary at the foot of the Cross. Pope Benedict XVI teaches that Holy Week reveals the full truth of God's self-giving love, made visible in the Eucharist and fulfilled on Calvary. Pope Francis calls us to let this love move us outward in mercy, recognizing Christ's suffering in the wounds of the poor and forgotten. Entering Holy Week, we open our hearts to the saving love that renews the world.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING -- GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE POOR:

Moved by the sacrifice of Christ, we give sacrificially to the poor and not just from our surplus. Lent is a time of sacrificial almsgiving. This is more than simply writing a cheque or philanthropy. Almsgiving is a form of prayer because it requires a prayerful 'giving to God'. It is a form of fasting because it demands sacrificial giving - not just giving something, but giving up something, giving till it hurts. In a sense, almsgiving is more comprehensive than fasting because it involves both prayer and fasting. The Lenten Mission & Development collection taken up on Good Friday is the fruit of this sacrificial generosity. It becomes a concrete expression of our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and our solidarity with those in need.

BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD BASKETS: on Holy Saturday at Holy Canadian Martyrs in Combermere at 11:00 a.m.

OFFICE CLOSED: The parish office will be closed Good Friday.

+ Holy Week +

March 30 – April 1

*Tuesday 10:30 a.m. CHRISM MASS @ St. Columbkille Cathedral/Pembroke
All are invited. Reception to follow.*

+++ THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM +++

April 2 - 5, 2026

Parishioners of all 3 churches in our pastoral family are encouraged to attend Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil as scheduled below:

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. at Holy Canadian Martyrs (*adoration until 11 p.m.*)
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

The Mass intentions over the Triduum are for the intentions of all parishioners and those requested through the offerings for Easter flowers.

Liturgical Appointments

Readings

Narrator

Parts: woman servant, crowd

Parts: Peter, Pilate, crowd

Communion

Offertory

Adult Server

Good Friday

Paul Rivett-Carnac

Joanne Olsen (N)

Beverly Glofcheskie (S2; both)

Sean Conway (S1; both)

Neil O'Reilly

Bruce Sullivan

Pierre-Paul Filion

Easter Sunday

Judy Filion

Terry Recoskie

John Jeffrey

Readings

Communion

Offertory

PALM SUNDAY: is the great doorway leading into Holy Week, the week when the Lord Jesus makes his way towards the culmination of his earthly existence. He goes up to Jerusalem in order to fulfill the Scriptures and to be nailed to the wood of the Cross, the throne from which he will reign forever, drawing to himself humanity of every age and offering to all the gift of redemption.

These days call forth two sentiments in particular: **praise**, after the example of those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem with their “Hosanna!”, and **thanksgiving**, because in this Holy Week the Lord Jesus will renew the greatest gift we could possibly imagine: he will give us his life, his body and his blood, his love. But we must respond worthily to so great a gift, that is to say, with the gift of ourselves, our time, our prayer, our entering into a profound communion of love with Christ who suffered, died and rose for us. The early Church Fathers saw a symbol of all this in the gesture of the people who followed Jesus on his entry into Jerusalem, the gesture of spreading out their coats before the Lord. Before Christ – the Fathers said – we must spread out our lives, ourselves, in an attitude of gratitude and adoration. As we conclude, let us listen once again to the words of one of these early Fathers, Saint Andrew, Bishop of Crete: **“So it is ourselves that we must spread under Christ’s feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eye only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ’s grace, or with the whole Christ ... so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet ... let us offer not palm branches but the prizes of victory to the conqueror of death. Today let us too give voice with the children to that sacred chant, as we wave the spiritual branches of our soul: ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel’”** (PG 97, 994). Amen! ~ *Pope Benedict, April 1, 2012*

HOSANNA! is a Hebrew prayer that originally meant “Save us, we pray!” (from *hoshia na*). Over time, it became not only a cry for help but also a shout of joyful praise for the God who saves. So when the crowds welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem crying “*Hosanna!*”, they were both pleading for salvation and proclaiming Him as the One who brings it.

CHRISM MASS: is the annual liturgy during Holy Week in which the bishop gathers with all the priests of the diocese to bless the Oil of the Sick and the Oil of Catechumens, and to consecrate the Sacred Chrism. During the celebration, the priests renew the promises made at their ordination, highlighting their unity with the bishop and their service to God’s people. The newly blessed oils are then sent to every parish, where they will be used throughout the year in baptisms, confirmations, anointing of the sick, and other sacramental celebrations.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: is April 12. The Novena begins on Good Friday, April 3.

Jesus, I trust in You!

GOOD FRIDAY: is a universal day of fasting (18 to 59 years old) and abstinence from meat (14 years and older). Individuals suffering from serious illness do not need to fast or abstain; instead, they are permitted to select a different appropriate act of penance.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- as we enter Holy Week and the solemn commemoration of the saving mystery of our Saviour's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, may the Holy Spirit inflame within us a longing worthy of the Cross, and grant us to see—beneath what appears as defeat—the victory that shatters the ancient tyranny of sin and death,
- for parishioners and friends who are sick (*please call the office to be listed/re-listed*)
- for those who have died, especially: *Alphonse Brotton*.

LAST WEEK'S SUNDAY OFFERINGS:

Total: \$2,625.00 (Envelopes: \$1,883.00; Loose: \$162.00; Visitors: \$60.00;
E-Transfer: \$40.00; Easter Flowers: \$460.00; Easter Offering: \$20.00).

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.

THE BIBLE TIMELINE - THE STORY OF SALVATION: beginning Wednesday April 15 from 7:00-8:45p.m. for 10 weeks until June 24, 20. A video production by Ascension Press with Jeff Cavins. Registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Julie Culshaw at (613) 756-1136, julieculshaw5@gmail.com

CWL POT O'GOLD WINNERS: Congratulations to:

1. Grady Billings - \$1,000. (donated by St. Francis Herb Farm)
2. Bridget Smaglinski - \$750. (donated)
3. Paul Berube - \$500. (donated)
4. Noelle Recoskie - \$300. (donated)
5. Carol Peplinskie - \$200. (donated by Chris & Erin Briggs)
6. Christine Trudel \$100. Gift Certificate to Homestead Golf Club (donated by Connie & Neil O'Reilly)

The C.W.L. of St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish wishes to thank everyone who supported the Pot O'Gold Raffle.