

# 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. – 1:00 p.m.  
613-756-2037



## ✠ Second Sunday of Easter ~ Divine Mercy ✠

*April 12, 2026*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** celebrates the revelation of God's inexhaustible compassion made manifest in the risen Christ. It proclaims that His mercy flows from the Heart that "is more powerful than evil," as St. John Paul II taught. It invites the faithful to trust in that mercy, receive His peace, and extend it generously to the world. It reminds us that the glorified wounds of Christ are the everlasting signs that God has taken our suffering into His own life and returned it to us as peace. It calls the Church to enter ever more deeply into the healing depths of His compassion, where every shadow of sin and fear is dispelled. And it assures us that His redeeming love is drawing the whole creation toward its promised fullness in Him.

### **BISHOP MICHAEL BREHL'S EASTER MESSAGE 2026:**

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-Qsgv7a3Nc>.

### **THE ASTONISHING LOVE OF GOD:**

In love did He bring the world into being;

In love does He guide it during this present age;

In love will He bring it to that wondrous state that is to come;

In love will the world be swallowed up

in the great mystery of Him who has accomplished all things;

In love will the whole course of the governance of creation

be brought together and concluded.

~ *St. Isaac the Syrian (of Nineveh) 7th Century, Ascetical Homilies II.38.1-2*

# Jesus, I trust in You



## **RISEN FROM THE DEAD -- NEITHER GHOST NOR MERE MEMORY:**

The appearance narratives reveal Jesus not as a ghost, a pure spirit, a revived corpse, or a memory living on in the disciples' hearts, but as *the first human life fully transfigured by God—more solid, more real, and more substantial than the fragile flesh that went into the tomb* (Lk 24:36–43; Jn 20:19–20). His risen body belongs to a higher kind of matter, one so filled with divine life that it can assimilate lower forms of materiality—appearing, eating, speaking, and being touched without being confined to the limits of ordinary biological flesh (Jn 20:26–29; Lk 24:30–31).

The disciples did not encounter a cherished memory or an inner inspiration, but the same Jesus now alive in a glorified mode of existence (Lk 24:37–43). In him we glimpse the destiny God intends for all creation: a humanity made fully alive, incorruptible, and radiant with the life of the Spirit (1 Cor 15:42–49). As Pope Benedict XVI observed, the Resurrection represents “**a kind of evolutionary leap**,” a transformation of human existence into a new and higher mode of life (cf. Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week, ch. 9).

*This glorified humanity is not less material but more—matter brought to its fullest clarity, solidity, and radiance in God.* Divine life does not dissolve the body but makes it more real, more coherent, and more fully itself. The Resurrection therefore reveals not an escape from materiality but the unveiling of matter in its perfected, Spirit-filled form, an insight grounded in the conviction that divine glory increases being rather than diminishes it (cf. D. B. Hart, *The Beauty of the Infinite; The Doors of the Sea*).

The Resurrection is also the decisive revelation that death is not a natural boundary of human life, but an enemy Christ has overthrown (Heb 2:14–15). Jesus rises not into a private spiritual realm but into the age to come, the first instance of the new creation breaking into the old (Col 1:18). His glorified humanity is continuous with the body that suffered and died—bearing the wounds, recognizable in voice and presence—yet discontinuous in that it now belongs to the incorruptible order God intended from the beginning (Jn 20:27; Lk 24:39).

In him, the barrier between God's life and creaturely life is overcome: the mortal is taken up into the immortal without being dissolved or discarded (1 Cor 15:53–54). The risen Christ is therefore not less human but more human, the true form of humanity unveiled (Rom 8:29). His Resurrection is not merely a promise of personal survival after death but the pledge that all creation will be transfigured, freed from decay, and gathered into the fullness of divine life (Rom 8:19–23). *What the disciples saw in Jesus is the future of the world already present in one man*—He who is the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Cor 15:20–23) and the firstborn from the dead (Col 1:18; Rev 1:5).

In the risen Christ, God shows not only that Jesus lives, but that death does not—and that the destiny of every creature is nothing less than participation in the glory now revealed in him (1 Jn 3:2; Rom 8:18–23) and a future where God will be all in all (1 Cor 15:28). ~ Fr. John N. Burchat S.T.L

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

Total: \$9,932.00 (Envelopes: \$3,522.00; Loose: \$430.00; Visitors: \$235.00; E-transfer: \$200.00; Easter Flowers \$90.00; Building Fund: \$30.00; Easter Offering: \$2,050.00; Share Lent: \$3,375.00).

**THANK YOU:** I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who shared their time, talent, and personal gifts in helping our parish celebrate the Paschal Triduum with such beauty, reverence, and faith in our Risen Lord. I am especially grateful to those who offered donations to adorn the church, and to everyone who gave their energy and dedication to our Easter liturgies: our musicians and singers, altar servers, decorators, our Sacristan, and all who quietly and faithfully helped coordinate the many details of our celebrations.

All of these efforts were carried by prayer—prayer offered with patience, devotion, and love for Christ and His Church. Thank you, and may the Risen Lord bless you abundantly for your generosity of heart. ~ *Fr. John*

**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.

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

**HOLY CANADIAN MARTYRS SUNDAY SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP:** every Thursday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass for about one hour. Animator-Moderator: Lois LoSole; Pastoral Resource: Fr. John Burchat. Come and prayerfully reflect upon the Gospel for the coming Sunday.

**FUNERAL MASS SCHEDULING:** Our pastoral family of St. Lawrence O'Toole, Holy Canadian Martyrs, and St. Francis de Sales accompanies families in their time of loss with **Funeral Masses Monday through Friday, but NOT on Saturdays or Sundays.**

Because of my pastoral responsibilities across our three parishes and the ongoing decline in active clergy, I am already committed to celebrating two Masses on both Saturday and Sunday. Church law does not permit a priest to celebrate a third Mass (a practice known as trination) on these days.

Our local funeral homes are aware of this limitation and will assist families in arranging suitable days and times for Funeral Masses. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work within these necessary boundaries. ~ *Fr. John Burchat, Pastor*