

Saint Lawrence O'Toole Parish

Barry's Bay; 19450 Opeongo Line

Holy Canadian Martyrs Parish

Combermere; 2797 Dafoe Rd.

Saint Francis de Sales Mission

Latchford Bridge; 4864 Palmer Rd.



Fr. John N. Burchat, Pastor

jnburchat@gmail.com

Fr. Wilfried Lenius, retired - residing locally

OFFICE/RECTORY

Barry's Bay:

Tue. & Fri. 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

www.stlawrenceotoole.ca (*online bulletin*)

stlawrenceotoole@hotmail.com

613-756-2037

Combermere:

Wed. & Thu. 9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

hcmsfds@yahoo.ca

613-756-3606

✠ Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

August 9, 2026

A LETTER FROM BISHOP BREHL addresses an urgent staffing crisis in the Pontiac Deanery, where two priests are no longer available, leaving only two active priests to serve 14 parishes. Thanks to the generosity of retired priests and lay staff, Masses have continued through August, but this support cannot be sustained. Starting September, Sunday Mass will only be celebrated in four churches: St. Alphonsus (Chapeau), St-Pierre (Fort Coulonge), St. John the Evangelist (Campbell's Bay), and Holy Name of Mary (Quyon), with six Masses weekly in French and English. **Masses in the other churches are temporarily suspended, but the parishes are not closing.** Parishioners are encouraged to attend Mass in their cluster, continue supporting their parish, and participate in ongoing consultations for long-term planning. The Bishop acknowledges the difficulty of these changes and calls for unity and support as the community adapts. The process of consultation and strategic planning will continue, aiming for a sustainable future for all parishes in the Diocese. Copies of the letter are available on the entrance table.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION: Families in our family of three parish communities who wish to have their children prepare for First Holy Communion and Confirmation are invited to an informal information session on Saturday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. in the parish hall at St. Lawrence O'Toole, Barry's Bay.

Parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith. Throughout the preparation period, the parish will provide resources, guidance, and catechetical support to help families walk this path with confidence and joy. Jesus the Good Shepherd opens the gate before us and calls us into the generous, ever awakening life of God. May this time of preparation be a moment of blessing for our children and for our whole parish family.

Nineteenth Week in Ordinary Time

August 10 – August 15

Tuesday SLO 9:00 a.m. + Dowdall & Rita Murray *by Family*
Wednesday HCM 9:00 a.m. + Leon Gadal *by Jolayne Gandeur*
Thursday HCM 9:00 a.m. + James Hanlon & Consolation of the Family
by Joseph & Kristan Hamon
Friday SLO 9:00 a.m. + Fr. Mervin Coulas *by Eddie & Diane Etmanskis*

+ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

August 16, 2026

Saturday SLO 4:00 p.m. + Jennifer Huestis *by Family*
Saturday SFdS 6:00 p.m. + Dorienn & Norine Helferty *by Helferty Estate*
Sunday HCM 9:00 a.m. + Jackie Blank *by Margaret Blank & Family*
Sunday SLO 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments SLO August 15
Readings *Lorraine Flynn*
Communion *Neil O'Reilly*
Offertory *Bruce Sullivan*
Barry Dombroskie

SLO August 16
Paul Rivett-Carnac
Terry Recoskie
John Jeffrey
Jamie Prince

Liturgical Appointments SFdS August 15
Readings *Jackie Kuehl*
Communion
Offertory

HCM August 16
Gudrun Wegner
Jerome Anderchek
Keneth Golka

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Lawrence, deacon, martyr
Tuesday - St. Clare, virgin
Wednesday - St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious
Thursday - St. Pontian, pope, and St. Hippolytus, priest, martyrs
Friday - St. Maximilian Kolbe, priest, martyr

Saturday - THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

**In giving birth, you kept your virginity; in your Dormition,
you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life.
You conceived the living God and, by your prayers,
will deliver our souls from death.**

From the Byzantine Liturgy as quoted by the Catechism of the Catholic Church 966

IN THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL (see *Mt* 14:22-33) speaks of Jesus walking on the water of the stormy lake. After feeding the crowds with five loaves and two fish – as we saw last Sunday – Jesus commands the disciples to get into the boat and return to the other shore. He dismisses the people and then climbs the hill, alone, to pray. He immerses Himself in communion with the Father.

During the crossing of the lake by night, the disciples' boat is hindered by a sudden windstorm. This is normal on a lake. At a certain point, they see someone walking on the water, coming toward them. Upset, they think it is a ghost and cry out in fear. Jesus reassures them: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear”. Then Peter – Peter who was so decisive – answers: “Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water”. A challenge. And Jesus tells him: “Come”. Peter gets out of the boat and takes a few steps; then the wind and waves frighten him and he begins to sink. “Lord, save me”, he cries, and Jesus grasps him by the hand and says to him: “O man of little faith, why did you doubt?”.

This Gospel narrative is an invitation to abandon ourselves trustingly to God in every moment of our life, especially in the moment of trial and turmoil. When we have strong feelings of doubt and fear and we seem to be sinking, in life's difficult moments where everything becomes dark, we must not be ashamed to cry out like Peter: “Lord, save me” (v. 30). To knock on God's heart, on Jesus's heart. “Lord, save me.” It is a beautiful prayer! We can repeat it many times. “Lord, save me.” And Jesus's gesture, who immediately reaches out His hand and grasps that of His friend, should be contemplated at length: this is Jesus. Jesus does this. Jesus is the Father's hand who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father, who always and only wants what is good for us. God is not in the loud sound, God is not the hurricane, He is not in the fire, He is not in the earthquake – as the narrative about the Prophet Elijah also recalls today that says God is the light breeze – literally it says this: He is in the “ thread of melodious silence” – that never imposes itself, but asks to be heard (see *1 Kgs* 19:11-13).

Having faith means keeping your heart turned to God, to His love, to His Fatherly tenderness, amid the storm. Jesus wanted to teach this to Peter and the disciples, and also to us today. In dark moments, in sad moments He is well aware that our faith is weak –all of us are people of little faith, all of us, myself included, everyone – and that our faith is weak our journey can be troubled, hindered by adverse forces. But He is the Risen One! Let's not forget this: He is the Lord who passed through death in order to lead us to safety. Even before we begin to seek Him, He is present beside us lifting us back up after our falls, He helps us grow in faith. Maybe in the dark, we cry out: “Lord, Lord!” thinking He is far away. And He says, “I am here.” Ah, He was with me! That is the Lord.

The boat at the mercy of the storm is the image of the Church, which in every age encounters headwinds, very harsh trials at times: we recall certain long and ferocious persecutions of the last century and even today in certain places. In situations like that, she may be tempted to think that God has abandoned her. But in reality it is precisely in those moments that the witness of faith, the witness of love, the witness of hope shines the most.

It is the presence of the Risen Christ in His Church that gives the grace of witness unto martyrdom, from which buds new Christians and fruit of reconciliation and peace for the entire world.

May the intercession of Mary help us to persevere in faith and fraternal love when the darkness and storms of life place our trust in God in crisis. ~ *Pope Francis; August 9, 2020*

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- for all who seek renewal in these summer days, and for families and travelers enjoying the season — that God keep them safe, refresh their spirits, and draw them closer to Him.
- for parishioners and friends who are sick: *Diane Green, Ray Vananburg, Patricia Duggan, Judy Sauro, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Josephine Etmanskis; Jennifer (Yakabuski) Huestis; Echo Lewis (Madonna House).*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *The grace we receive in Confession not only heals our sins and restores us in our friendship with God — it strengthens us to forgive others with the Divine Mercy we ourselves have received.*

SLO: Saturday 3:15 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. in sacristy. Weekdays – before/after weekday Masses in the sacristy.

HCM: Before all weekday and weekend Masses.

SFdS: Before/after Mass

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generosity.

SLO: Total: \$3,474.00 (Envelopes: \$1,372.00; Loose: \$252.00; Visitors: \$60.00; Building Fund: \$50.00)

HCM: Total: \$2,288.50 (Envelopes: \$921.00; Loose: \$227.50; E-Transfers: \$805.00; Summer Collection: \$110.00; Visitor: \$200.00; Building Improvement: \$25.00)

SFdS: Total: \$577.00 (Envelopes: \$350.00; Loose: \$75.00; Summer Collection: \$20.00; E-transfer: \$132.00)

THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD PRAYER GROUP: Looking for a prayer group to attend? We meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence O'Toole Church. Our purpose in being, is first and foremost, to give praise to God, and to intercede for the needs of others. All are welcome. For more information call Greg or Mary at 756-6643.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST: Hosted by the Barry's Bay & Area Knights of Columbus THIS Sunday August 9th at St. Hedwig Parish Hall from 9:00 a.m. Free will offering. All welcome. Proceeds will go to Pro-Life and local charities.