

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

✠ Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

August 16, 2026

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.

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. 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. 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 or on the diocesan website.

Twentieth Week in Ordinary Time

August 17 – August 22

Tuesday	SLO	9:00 a.m.	+ Alicia Coulas <i>by Peter & Carol McNamee</i> Intentions of Georgina, Pat, Irene & Jean <i>by Family</i>
Wednesday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	+ Reginald, Christopher & Lucy Perrier & Maureen Shulist <i>by Perrier Estate</i>
Thursday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	Intentions of Br. Grzegorz Loska, O.M.I. <i>by Miriam Westen</i>
Friday	SLO		NO MASS

+ Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time +

August 23, 2026

Saturday	SLO	4:00 p.m.	+ Sr. Rosenda Brady <i>by Family</i>
Saturday	SFdS	6:00 p.m.	+ Adam & Stella Murack <i>by Carson & Judy Watson</i>
Sunday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	+ Noreen Andrews <i>by Patenaude Family</i>
Sunday	SLO	10:30 a.m.	Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments

Readings
Communion
Offertory

SLO August 22

Sean Conway
Maxine Smaglinski
Bruce Sullivan
Richard Luckasavitch

SLO August 23

Beverly Glofcheskie
Ursula Jeffrey
John Jeffrey
Jason Dombroskie

Liturgical Appointments

Readings
Communion
Offertory

SFdS August 22

Linda Madigan

HCM August 23

Marie Henry
Tony Harrison
Dennis Stamplecoskie

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Wednesday	- St. John Eudes, priest
Thursday	- St. Bernard, abbot, doctor
Friday	- St. Pius X, pope
Saturday	- THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Mary is Queen because she is perfectly united to her Son, who reigns through love, truth, and self-gift. Her queenship is the exaltation of humility: the lowly handmaid is raised high because she gave herself entirely to God. The Church celebrates this feast on August 22, one week after the Assumption, to show that Mary's heavenly glorification naturally flowers *into her maternal queenship*. As our Queen, *she guides us to Christ*, revealing that true authority is service and true glory is holiness.

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL begins by indicating the district to which Jesus was going: Tyre and Sidon, to the north-west of Galilee, a pagan land. And it was here that he met a Canaanite woman who spoke to him, asking him to heal her daughter who was possessed by a demon (see Mt 15:22). In her supplication we can already discern the beginning of a journey of faith, which in her conversation with the divine Teacher grows and becomes stronger. The woman was not afraid to cry to Jesus "Have mercy on me", an expression that recurs in the Psalms (see 50:1), she calls him "Lord" and "Son of David" (see Mt 15:22), thus showing a firm hope of being heard. What was the Lord's attitude to this cry of anguish from a pagan woman?

Jesus' silence may seem disconcerting, to the point that it prompted the disciples to intervene, but it was not a question of insensitivity to this woman's sorrow. St Augustine rightly commented: "Christ showed himself indifferent to her, not in order to refuse her his mercy but rather to inflame her desire for it" (*Sermo 77*, 1: PL 38, 483).

The apparent aloofness of Jesus who said: "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24), did not discourage the Canaanite woman who persisted: "Lord, help me" (v. 25). And she did not even desist when she received an answer that would seem to have extinguished any hope: "it is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs" (v. 26). She had no wish to take anything from anyone; in her simplicity and humility a little was enough for her, crumbs sufficed, no more than a look, a kind word from the Son of God. And Jesus was struck with admiration for an answer of such great faith and said to her: "Be it done for you as you desire" (v. 28).

Dear friends, we too are called to grow in faith, to open ourselves in order to welcome God's gift freely, to have trust and also to cry to Jesus "give us faith, help us to find the way!". This is the way that Jesus made his disciples take, as well as the Canaanite woman and men and women of every epoch and nation and each one of us.

Faith opens us to knowing and welcoming the real identity of Jesus, his newness and oneness, his word, as a source of life, in order to live a personal relationship with him. Knowledge of the faith grows, it grows with the desire to find the way and in the end, it is a gift of God who does not reveal himself to us as an abstract thing without a face or a name, because faith responds to a Person who wants to enter into a relationship of deep love with us and to involve our whole life.

For this reason, our heart must undergo the experience of conversion every day, every day it must see us changing from people withdrawn into themselves to people who are open to God's action, spiritual people (see 1 Cor 2:13-14), who let themselves be called into question by the Lord's word and open their life to his Love.

Dear brothers and sisters, let us therefore nourish our faith every day with deep attention to the word of God, with the celebration of the Sacraments, with personal prayer as a "cry" to him, and with charity to our neighbour. ~ *Pope Benedict, August 14, 2011*

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, Patricia Duggan, Judy Sauro, Carmel Rumleskie.*
- for those who have died, especially: *Brian Joseph Trebinskie, Ray Vananburg, Deacon Bob McDonald, Dan Miller, Josephine Etmanskie; 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: \$2,958.70 (Envelopes: \$1,847.00; Loose: \$398.70; Visitors: \$110.00; Building Fund: \$413.00)

HCM: Total: \$1,297.00 (Envelopes: \$840.00; Loose: \$242.00; E-Transfers: \$175.00; Building Renovation Fund: \$20.00)

SFdS: Total: \$575.00 (Envelopes: \$320.00; Loose: \$100.00; Summer Collection: \$50.00; E-transfer: \$105.00)

THANK YOU to all who lovingly tend to our flower gardens and sanctuary. Beautiful!

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.

SAINT BONAVENTURE SECULAR FRANCISCAN FRATERNITY: meetings take place at St. Lawrence O'Toole Parish Hall the last Sunday of the month *starting Sunday September 27*. All those interested in learning more about the charisms and the way of life of Saint Francis of Assisi or to learn more about becoming a Secular Franciscan, are welcome to attend Saint Bonaventure Fraternity meetings at 1:00 - 3:00 pm the last Sunday of each month starting September through to and including June. For more information or questions please contact: Marek Milan (613) 756-2835.