

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*)

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613-756-2037

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613-756-3606

✠ **Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time** ✠

August 23, 2026

LATE SUMMERTIME & TRANSITIONS: I hope this summer has brought peace and renewal to each of you. As August draws to a close, September gently reminds us of the return to work, school, and the rhythms of daily life. After the slower pace of summer, stepping back into routine can feel challenging. For some, this season stirs memories of years gone by, especially as younger family members embark on new educational paths. It may also bring moments of solitude or the need to readjust family dynamics and daily habits.

Yet in this time of transition, we're invited to reflect on a deeper truth: that spiritual maturity means living our lives in faithful discipleship following Jesus Christ (*sequela Christi*), to whom all time belongs. He is Lord of our past, present, and future, and remains with us always, just as He promised. ~ *Fr. John*

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.

Twenty-First Week in Ordinary Time

August 24 – 29

Tuesday **SLO** **NO MASS**
Wednesday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving - Rose Baxter *by Baxter Family*
Thursday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. Intentions of Gabrielle Kerwin *by Miriam Westen*
Friday **SLO** **NO MASS**

+ Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time +

August 30, 2026

Saturday **SLO** 4:00 p.m. + Fr. Norbert Cybulski *by Colleen Lorbetskie & +Brad*
Saturday **SFdS** 6:00 p.m. + Jackie Blank *by Margaret Blank & Family*
Sunday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. + Michael Sauro *by Rick & Judy Sauro*
Sunday **SLO** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments **SLO August 29**
Readings *Karen Yakabuski*
Communion *Beverly Glofcheskie*
Offertory *Bruce Sullivan*
 Barry Dombroskie

SLO August 30
Joanne Olsen
Pierre-Paul Fillion
Paul Rivett-Carnac
Greg Kelly

Liturgical Appointments **SFdS August 29**
Readings *Katrina Boguski*
Communion
Offertory

HCM August 30
Joseph Baklinski
Patricia Maika
Jerome Yarascavitch

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Bartholomew, apostle
Tuesday - St. Louis and St. Joseph Calasanz, priest
Thursday - St. Monica
Friday - St. Augustine, bishop, doctor
Saturday - **THE PASSION OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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

TODAY'S GOSPEL (see *Mt* 16:13-20) suggests two different ways of knowing Christ. The first is an impersonal knowledge, one based on current opinion. When Jesus asks: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?", the disciples answer: "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets". In other words, Christ is seen as yet another religious figure, like those who came before him. Then Jesus turns to the disciples and asks them: "But who do you say that I am?" Peter responds with what is the first confession of faith: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God". Faith is more than just empirical or historical facts; it is an ability to grasp the mystery of Christ's person in all its depth.

Yet faith is not the result of human effort, of human reasoning, but rather a gift of God: "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven". Faith starts with God, who opens his heart to us and invites us to share in his own divine life. Faith does not simply provide information about who Christ is; rather, it entails a personal relationship with Christ, a surrender of our whole person, with all our understanding, will and feelings, to God's self-revelation. So Jesus' question: "But who do you say that I am?", is ultimately a challenge to the disciples to make a personal decision in his regard. Faith in Christ and discipleship are strictly interconnected. And, since faith involves following the Master, it must become constantly stronger, deeper and more mature, to the extent that it leads to a closer and more intense relationship with Jesus. Peter and the other disciples also had to grow in this way, until their encounter with the Risen Lord opened their eyes to the fullness of faith.

Jesus' responds to Peter's confession by speaking of the Church: "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church". What do these words mean? Jesus builds the Church on the rock of the faith of Peter, who confesses that Christ is God. The Church, then, is not simply a human institution, like any other. Rather, she is closely joined to God. Christ himself speaks of her as "his" Church. Christ cannot be separated from the Church any more than the head can be separated from the body (see *1 Cor* 12:12). The Church does not draw her life from herself, but from the Lord.

Make Christ, the Son of God, the centre of your life. But let me also remind you that following Jesus in faith means walking at his side in the communion of the Church. We cannot follow Jesus on our own. Anyone who would be tempted to do so "on his own", or to approach the life of faith with that kind of individualism so prevalent today, will risk never truly encountering Jesus, or will end up following a counterfeit Jesus. Having faith means drawing support from the faith of your brothers and sisters, even as your own faith serves as a support for the faith of others. Growing in friendship with Christ necessarily means recognizing the importance of joyful participation in the life of your parishes, communities and movements, as well as the celebration of Sunday Mass, frequent reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and the cultivation of personal prayer and meditation on God's word. ~ *Pope Benedict, August 21, 2011*

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.

IN YOUR PRAYERS, PLEASE REMEMBER:

- 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).*

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

SLO: Total: \$3,066.70 (Envelopes: \$1,977.00; Loose: \$379.70; Visitors: \$450.00; Building Fund: \$20.00; E-transfer: \$40.00; Northern Missions: \$200.00)

HCM: Total: \$1,555.00 (Envelopes: \$708.00; Loose: \$140.00; E-Transfers: \$175.00; Northern Missions: \$192.00; Visitors: \$10.00; Donation: \$330.00)

SFds: Total: \$880.00 (Envelopes: \$535.00; Loose: \$75.00; Northern Missions: \$70.00; Donation: \$200.00)

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.

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.