

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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✠ Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ✠

September 13, 2026

AT THE HEART OF SEPTEMBER, the Church celebrates the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14, a feast that draws our gaze not to the darkness of Golgotha but to *the brightness of the Cross*—its strange radiance, its triumph, its inexhaustible joy.

The Cross is never merely an instrument of suffering; it is the axis of the new creation, the point where divine beauty breaks open the world's sorrow from within. The Cross is the place where *infinite love descends into finitude without diminution*, transfiguring even death by the sheer excess of divine life. The Cross is thus not a concession to violence but the revelation of a Love so absolute that it overturns violence from the inside, revealing the world's true form in the light of Easter. The Cross is not a grim emblem of resignation but the radiant proclamation that *love has already won*. It is exalted because it reveals the deepest truth of God's heart—an uncreated generosity that stoops down into the world's suffering and lifts it into glory. Thus, on September 14, the Church invites us to behold the Cross not as a burden but as a *brightness*: the tree of life, the throne of the Lamb, the place where joy is born from sacrifice and where the world is remade by the quiet omnipotence of divine compassion.

SHOW'N SHINE - St. Francis de Sales at Latchford Bridge is hosting a *Show'n Shine – Classic Cars, Faith and Fall Colours* on September 26. The event will be followed by Mass at 6 p.m. with Bishop Brehl and a harvest themed potluck dinner. Please see the poster at the entrance of the church or contact katrinaboguski@hotmail.ca for more information regarding the potluck. Everyone is welcome to attend!

September 14 – September 19

Tuesday	SLO	9:00 a.m.	+ Cathy Serran <i>by John Recoskie</i>
	SLO	11:00 a.m.	<i>St. John Bosco School Liturgy of the Word</i>
Wednesday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	+ Anna Marie Burchat <i>by Joseph & Kristan Hamon</i>
Thursday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	Intentions of John-Henry & Dianne Westen <i>by Miriam Westen</i>
	HCM	11:00 a.m.	<i>George Vanier School Liturgy of the Word</i>
		1:45 p.m.	<i>Monthly Mass at the Valley Manor</i>
Friday	SLO	9:00 a.m.	+ Sean Murray <i>by Family</i>

+ Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

September 20, 2026

Saturday	SLO	4:00 p.m.	+ Marie Dombroskie <i>by Eddie & Diane Etmanskie</i>
Saturday	SFdS	6:00 p.m.	+ Bronis, Clifford & Jackie Blank <i>by Margaret Blank & Family</i>
Sunday	HCM	9:00 a.m.	+ Bailey Kubesheskie <i>by Gilbert & Marilyn Brotton</i>
Sunday	SLO	10:30 a.m.	Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments	SLO September 19	SLO September 20
Readings	<i>Lorraine Flynn</i>	<i>Judy Filion</i>
Communion	<i>Maxine Smaglinski</i>	<i>Pierre-Paul Filion</i>
Offertory	<i>Bruce Sullivan</i>	<i>John Jeffrey</i>
	<i>Richard Luckasavitch</i>	<i>Jamie Prince</i>

Liturgical Appointments	SFdS September 19	HCM September 20
Readings	<i>Linda Madigan</i>	<i>Joseph Baklinski</i>
Communion		<i>Tony Harrison</i>
Offertory		<i>Michael Palubeskie</i>

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday	- THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Tuesday	- OUR LADY OF SORROWS
Wednesday	- St. Cornelius, pope & St. Cyprian, bishop, martyrs
Thursday	- St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop, doctor & St. Hildegard of Bingen, virgin, doctor
Saturday	- St. Januarius, bishop, martyr

Dear brothers and sisters, *buongiorno!* Today, the Gospel talks to us about *forgiveness* (cf. Mt 18:21-35). Peter asks Jesus: “Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” (v. 21).

Seven, in the Bible, is a number that indicates completeness, and so Peter is very generous in the assumptions of his question. But Jesus goes further and answers him: “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven” (v. 22). He tells him, that is, that when one forgives, one does not calculate; that it is good to forgive everything, and always! Just as God does with us, and as those who administer God’s justice are required to do: *forgive always*. I say this a lot to priests, to confessors: always forgive, as God forgives.

Jesus then illustrates this reality through a parable, which again has to do with numbers. A king, after being implored, forgives a servant the debt of 10,000 talents. It is an excessive, immense value, ranging from 200 to 500 tons of silver: excessive. It was an impossible debt to settle, even by working a lifetime: yet this master, who recalls our Father, forgives it out of sheer “pity” (v. 27). This is God’s heart: he always forgives, because God is compassionate. Let us not forget how God is: he is close, compassionate and tender. This is God’s way of being. Then, however, this servant, whose debt has been forgiven, shows no mercy towards a fellow servant who owes him 100 denarii. This too is a substantial sum, equivalent to about three months’ wages — as if to say that forgiving each other costs [money]! — but not at all comparable to the previous figure that the master had forgiven.

Jesus’ message is clear: God forgives incalculably, exceeding all measure. This is how he is; He acts out of love, and gratuitously. God is not bought, God is free, he is all gratuitousness. We cannot repay him, but when we forgive a brother or a sister, we imitate him. Forgiving is not, therefore, a good deed that we can [choose to] do or not do; forgiving is a fundamental condition for those who are Christians. Every one of us, in fact, is “forgiven”: let us not forget this, we are forgiven, God gave his life for us, and in no way can we recompense him for his mercy, which he never withdraws from his heart. However, by corresponding to his gratuitousness, that is, by forgiving one another, we can bear witness to him, sowing new life around us. For outside of forgiveness there is no hope; outside of forgiveness there is no peace. Forgiveness is the oxygen that purifies the air of hatred. Forgiveness is the antidote to the poisons of resentment; it is the way to defuse anger and heal so many maladies of the heart that contaminate society.

Let us ask ourselves, then: do I believe I have received from God the gift of immense forgiveness? Do I feel the joy of knowing that he is always ready to forgive me when I fall, even when others do not, even when I am not even able to forgive myself? He forgives: do I believe that he forgives? And then: can I in turn forgive those who wrong me? In this respect, I would like to propose a little exercise to you: let us try, now, each one of us, to think of a person who has hurt us, and ask the Lord for the strength to forgive them. And let us forgive them out of love for the Lord: brothers and sisters, this will do us good; it will restore peace to our hearts. ~ *Pope Francis; September 17, 2023*

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

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.*

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

SLO: Total: \$2,566.50 (Envelopes: \$2,303.00; Loose: \$173.50; Visitors: \$50.00; E-transfer: \$40.00)

HCM: Total: \$1,522.00 (Envelopes: \$1,068.00; Loose: \$234.00; Summer Collection: \$200.00; Visitor: \$20.00)

SFdS: Total: \$620.00 (Envelopes: \$390.00; Loose: \$180.00; Summer Collection: \$50.00)

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 p.m., 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.

ALPHA: *Got questions about life, faith, or God? Join us for Alpha.* Each session includes a snack board, a short video exploring the basics of the Christian faith, and an honest, open discussion where you can share your thoughts. Sessions will be on Thursdays, starting September 17th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm **at St. Andrew's Church, Killaloe.** Invite a friend or family member that isn't connected to the Church or come on your own! For more information or to register, email alphastandrews2026@gmail.com."