

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

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

September 20, 2026

THIS SUNDAY'S GOSPEL: is Jesus' parable of the owner of the vineyard who at different hours of the day hires labourers to work in it. And in the evening he gives them all the same wages, one denarius, provoking protests from those who began work early.

That denarius clearly represents eternal life, a gift that God reserves for all. Indeed those who are considered the "last", if they accept, become the "first", whereas the "first" can risk becoming the "last". The first message of this parable is inherent in the very fact that the landowner does not tolerate, as it were, unemployment: he wants everyone to be employed in his vineyard.

Actually, being called is already the first reward: to be able to work in the Lord's vineyard, to put oneself at his service, to collaborate in his work, is in itself a priceless recompense that repays every effort. Yet only those who love the Lord and his Kingdom understand this: those who instead work only for the pay will never realize the value of this inestimable treasure. ~ *Pope Benedict, September 21, 2008*

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!

ECCLESIA: The autumn edition is now available at the entrance.

Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

September 21 – September 26

Tuesday **SLO** **NO MASS**

Wednesday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. + Ernest Peplinski *by Margaret Blank & Family*

Thursday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. Intentions of Jerry Gauvreau, C.C. *by Miriam Westen*

Friday **SLO** **NO MASS**

+ Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time +

September 27, 2026

Saturday **SLO** 4:00 p.m. + Shaun O'Malley *by Daniel & Patsy O'Malley*
+ Albert Cybulski *by Richard & Suzanne Luckasavitch*

Saturday **SFdS** 6:00 p.m. + Arthur Murack *by Carson & Judy Watson*

Sunday **HCM** 9:00 a.m. + Michael Sauro *by Rick & Judy Sauro*
Anniversary of Marriage Raphael & Paula Pastway

Sunday **SLO** 10:30 a.m. Mass for the People

Liturgical Appointments **SLO September 26**

Readings *Sean Conway*

Communion *Neil O'Reilly*

Offertory *Bruce Sullivan*

Barry Dombroskie

SLO September 27

Joanne Olsen

Ursula Jeffrey

John Jeffrey

Jason Dombroskie

Liturgical Appointments **SFdS September 26**

Readings *Katrina Boguski*

Communion

Offertory

HCM September 27

St. Joseph's House

Joseph Hamon

Emile Bouchard

WEEKLY ADORATION IN HOLY CANADIAN MARTYRS CHAPEL:

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Wednesday & Thursday 9:30 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.

ROMAN CALENDAR:

Monday - St. Matthew, apostle, evangelist

Wednesday - St. Pius of Pietrelcina, priest

Thursday - Blessed Emilie Tavernier-Gamelin, religious

Friday - St. Cosmas and St. Damian, martyrs

Saturday - St. Jean De Brebeuf and St. Isaac Jogues, priests & companions, martyrs

FEAST OF SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE, EVANGELIST (September 21): Matthew's Gospel shows us that Jesus is not simply giving instructions—He is revealing God's presence breaking into our world. Matthew, the apostle and former tax collector, writes with *the conviction of someone whose life was changed by meeting Christ*. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks with a divine authority that *opens our eyes to what life looks like when God Himself is near* (Emmanuel). The Beatitudes, the call to forgive, to love our enemies, and to live with a sincere heart that seeks God honestly and treats others kindly all flow from the reality that Jesus brings God's Kingdom into our midst.

Matthew teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven is first and foremost God acting through Jesus—healing, restoring, and drawing us into His life. And this is the joy of the Gospel: God has come close, God is at work, and God invites us to share in His life. *Because Jesus brings this Kingdom near, we can live with a hope and a joy that do not depend on circumstances*. When we follow Christ in the way Matthew describes, we begin to see the world as God sees it and to live in the light of His goodness. This is the joy Matthew wants us to discover—*the joy of belonging to the Kingdom that Jesus Himself brings*.

JOY IN THE VINEYARD: The saints remind us that God welcomes those who come at the last hour — His heart is always open, His mercy always greater than our delays. But they also teach us that *those who come early enjoy something irreplaceable: the long, quiet happiness of walking with Christ day by day*. There is a joy that grows only through time — the joy of letting the Gospel shape our choices, our relationships, our way of seeing the world. It is the joy of serving Him in the ordinary, loving Him in the small things, and discovering that His grace patiently forms us from within.

The reward is the same, because God gives Himself entirely to each person. But the journey is not the same. Those who enter the vineyard early taste the Gospel's beauty for many years: they learn the freedom of forgiveness, the strength of hope, the tenderness of charity. They discover that faith is not a burden but a melody that accompanies life, a light that never goes out, a companionship that transforms the heart.

The earlier we enter the vineyard, the more of this joy we taste — not because God loves us more, but because we have allowed Him more time to love us. The saints urge us not to postpone our conversion, but to begin now, with freshness and enthusiasm. For the joy of the Gospel is not only the reward at the end of the day; it is the gift that fills the whole day, from the first hour to the last. And this joy is not merely an emotion but a quiet transformation — the slow brightening of the soul as grace becomes the atmosphere we breathe. Divine beauty settles into the heart with gentle insistence, reshaping our desires and widening our vision. Christ's presence becomes a radiance that makes the world more transparent to God, drawing our lives into a larger, more luminous story. The sooner we step into this light, the more deeply we discover that God does not merely forgive us — He renews us, and He renews the world through us.

OFFICE HOURS: Our parish secretary is currently away on a leave of absence while she fulfills her civic duty with jury service. During this time, Fr. Burchat will be maintaining office hours for general parish matters as best he can. He is grateful for your patience and understanding. ***Priority will be given to emergencies.** Other matters, especially regarding cemeteries, will need to wait until her return.*

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

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: *Fr. Doug Bridge, Mary Siron, Brian J. Trebinskie.*

LAST WEEK'S OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generosity. Totals will be given for all Sundays at a later date.

SFdS CHURCH STEPS: were recently resurfaced. Thank you again to the “St. Joseph & St. Martha Guild”! (*A common informal name for parishioners who just show up and do what needs doing!*)

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 on the last Sunday of each month, beginning Sunday, September 27, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.; all who wish to learn more about the charisms and way of life of Saint Francis of Assisi or about becoming a Secular Franciscan are welcome to attend, and for further information please contact Marek Milan at 613-756-2835.

LIFE CHAIN 2026: Sunday, October 4 from 2 to 3pm. Join us on the sidewalk along downtown Barry's Bay. Let's peacefully stand together as witnesses for the protection of Human life - from conception to natural death. Sponsored by St. Hedwig Pro Life Group.