



If you are interested in taking the bus to attend the annual March for Life in Ottawa, please reserve your seat by calling, as soon as possible, Thérèse St-Denis 705-566-0707.

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls all people of faith to join nationwide in 12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care on **May 4, 2018**, during National Hospice Palliative Care Week, as a profound witness to the sanctity of human life.



All parishioners, family and friends are invited to join St. John's Council in prayer and solidarity from **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** For more information, please contact Doreen Merkas at 705-693-0424. Those unable to attend are encouraged to join in prayerful support.

Rummage Sale
St. Paul the Apostle Church - CONISTON

Friday May 4th 6 pm to 9 pm
Saturday May 5th 9 am to 3:30 pm
Sunday May 6th 9 am to 1 pm

Raffles and Delicious Meal Deals

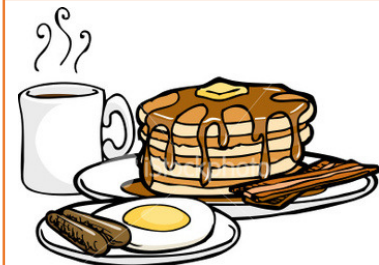
Sandwiches, Hot Dogs,
Scones, Muffins, Beverages

New Evangelization Summit 2018
Register online today
<https://www.newevangelization.ca>


RECONCILIATION—HOLY EUCHARIST—CONFIRMATION

Registration forms for Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist and Confirmation will soon be available from Fr. Michael for those who wish to begin their formation for these Sacraments. Please watch the bulletin for more information in the weeks ahead.

PARISH BREAKFAST



Join us in our Annual Spring Parish Breakfast on Sunday, May 6th, following our morning Mass. Tickets are available in the Parish Office, and following all Masses this month. Cost is \$6.00/person. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy this delicious feast hosted by our social committee.

 Following today's Mass on Sunday, there will be a reception for those who have entered into Communion in the Church. All Parishioners are invited to come down to our hall to congratulate our young new Communicants, and to enjoy some cake with them.

Lobster & Beef supper at St. Jacques Parish in Hanmer on Friday, May 11th at 5:30. \$60/person or \$440/table of eight. For tickets, call 969-3173 or 969-2324.

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Garson
ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

255 Church St., P.O. Box 510, Garson, ON P3L 1S6

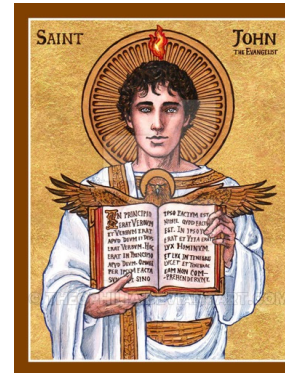
Phone: 705-693-2032 Fax: 705-693-9725 Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.com

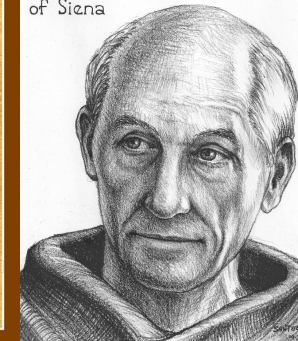
Office hours:

This week, Thursday only, 10:00 am. to Noon.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
APRIL 22, 2018



St. Bernardine of Siena



Pastor

Fr. Michael Williams

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

RCIA and Pastoral Care

Marie Bardswich

Parish Pastoral Council

Marie Bardswich Rachel Charette
Ivon Chaumont Mary MacGregor
Myron McCormick Sue Quackenbush

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

Parish Contact

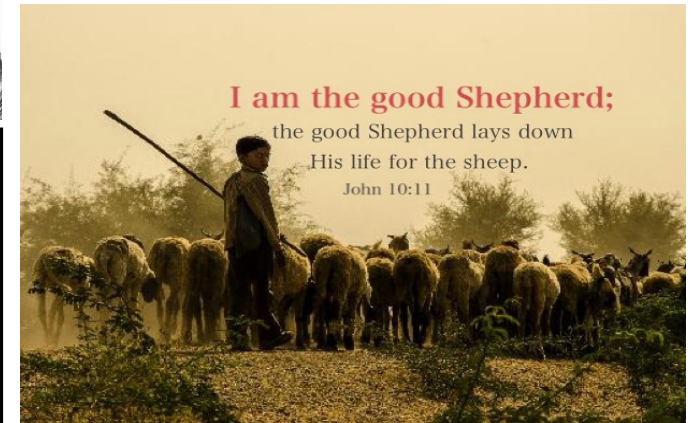
Carole Larrett 705-969-4607

Communion to the Sick

Rolande Kehoe 705-969-2838

PRAYER LINE

Elaine Lamarche 705-693-3339
Rachel Corbett 705-693-3241



WEEKDAY MASSES: See inside for this week's schedule

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 4:30 pm. St. John the Evangelist
Sunday 9:00 am. St. Bernardine of Siena
Sunday 10:30 am. St. John the Evangelist

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE REGARDING:

- Home Visit & Communion or Anointing of the Sick
- Individual Celebration of Reconciliation

FOR BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE:

Please speak with Fr. Michael at any weekend Mass
(6 months minimum notice is needed for Marriage)

Mass Schedule
April 23 —April 29, 2018

St. John the Evangelist

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday, April 23		No Parish Mass
Tuesday, April 24		No Parish Mass—Priest Study Days in Sault Ste. Marie
Wednesday, April 25		No Parish Mass—Priest Study Days in Sault Ste. Marie
Thursday, April 26	9:30 a.m.	For the intentions of all Parishioners
Friday, April 27	9:30 a.m.	For Noël Goulet by Theresa & AnnMarie Della Vedova
Saturday, April 28	4:30 p.m.	For Hector Jones by Gertrude & Roland Labelle
5th Sunday of Easter Sunday, April 29	10:30 a.m.	For the intentions of all Parishioners
St. Bernardine of Siena		
Sunday, April 29	9:00 a.m.	For Roger St. Germain by William & Frances Hayes

The Catholic Women's League

Join the ladies every Wednesday following the morning Mass, when they gather in the hall to craft their handiworks for the Fall Tea.



CWL Council is celebrating their 80th Anniversary with a Cruise on Lake Ramsey on June 13, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. Members can purchase tickets from the Executive. Cost is \$20.00. Only 50 tickets available.

Please keep the CWL in your prayers as they host their annual Diocesan Convention in Sudbury next weekend.

PRIEST STUDY DAYS: The priests of our Diocese will be in Sault Ste. Marie on the first few days of this week for their annual study days. The main topic of discussion will be preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism, with some time also set apart for evangelization, adult faith formation, and the Diaconate. Please keep them in your prayers.



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS: The minutes of our PPC meetings are now being published on our Parish Website. At our last meeting on April 11th, a decision was made to pursue the possibility of creating a ground level Chapel in our Board Room, with closed circuit television showing the Sunday Mass in our Church, for those unable to navigate our stairs. This will be our back up plan if our primary plan—building a ramp to our front entrance—proves to be unfeasible. PPC also gave Fr. Michael positive feedback regarding his proposal to introduce Communion from the Cup on Sunday. Please see today's insert for more information. Finally, it was decided to increase the size of our PPC to 10 members, with 2 representatives from St. Bernardine's Parish. More information about this reorganization will be published in the bulletin in the near future.



NEW POLICY IN EFFECT IN OUR DIOCESE: On March 19th this year, our Bishop published a new policy entitled "Diocesan Norms for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion". It is now in effect throughout the Diocese. If you're interested, you may read the policy here: www.dioceseofsaultstemarie.org/guidelines. Paragraph #27 of the new policy reads this:

"In order to preclude the possibility of sacrilege, Extraordinary ministers or persons named to fulfill this role, such as a trained Usher, must observe the communicant consuming the Eucharistic species. If the communicant does not consume immediately or if there is a serious doubt that the person has consumed, the trained Usher is to approach the person as soon as possible, and without creating a scandal or a scene, invite him or her to consume the Holy Host. The usher is to advise the pastor of the situation after Mass."



I am grateful to the volunteers serving in our Hospitality Ministry for taking on this additional responsibility at our Eucharistic celebrations. They have been trained, and this weekend have begun to fulfill this mandate of our Bishop. If anyone has a question or a concern regarding this norm, please speak to Fr. Michael about it, and he will try to explain the reasoning behind the policy.

YOUR OFFERINGS for April 15, 2018

Thank you!

St. John the Evangelist

Envelopes: \$1,140.00 Loose: \$95.00
Ministry Formation: \$5.00 Pre-Authorized Deductions: \$798.00

Total: \$2,038.00

St. Bernardine of Siena

Envelopes: \$512.00

Total: \$512.00

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

With the publication of the new Diocesan Norms for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, the recent welcoming of 4 new Communicants into our Eucharistic family, and the decision I have made, in consultation with the Parish Pastoral Council, to begin offering Communion from the Cup every Sunday, it seemed to me an opportune time to expand a little on the gift that we might, perhaps at times, take for granted. Doing it here, as a bulletin insert, allows me a little more space to expand on a few items found in today's bulletin.

Regarding Communion from the Cup, after consulting with the Parish Pastoral Council, I have decided to make this available to all Parishioners who wish to receive this way, every Sunday. We will begin offering from the Cup in St. Bernardine's sooner, as we will simply use the main Chalice there for this purpose. At St. John's, we will need to purchase 2 Chalices to serve the needs we have in this parish. I am already in the process of pricing out various options for quality chalices that will last for many years. If anyone is interested in donating one or both of those Chalices, by all means, speak with me about it.

Receiving from the Cup does not, in any way, give the recipient "more Eucharist" or "more grace". Both the Host alone and the Chalice alone contain the fullness of Christ—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. What drinking from the Chalice does, however, is emphasize more fully the sign of Communion: "Eat and drink".

Please use common sense: if you are sick or have a cold sore, don't take Communion from the Cup. As to your children—that is entirely up to the parents to decide. In some families, alcohol is served to children at a young age. Please do not dip your Host into the Chalice. It is forbidden. Not only does it change the character of the Gift - by taking, rather than receiving - but it also defeats one key purpose of us receiving from the Chalice—drinking. Only the Ordinary Minister of Communion (Priest or Deacon) is permitted to give the Eucharist by intinction in any event.

Our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will receive training before we begin to offer Communion from the Cup. I am grateful to them for taking on this Ministry. They are few in number, and so I am also asking others who may be called to this ministry to prayerfully consider it. Among other considerations, the Bishop sets the following standards for those so called: They must demonstrate a proper understanding of Catholic Eucharistic doctrine; have faith in the Real Presence; be duly prepared; and live an example of Christian life, morals and fidelity to the Church's Magisterium.

Moving on to other considerations pertaining to this Gift of God's love poured out for us, I wish to gently remind everyone of the Eucharistic fast to which we are all called. No food or drink should be consumed for at least one hour before receiving Holy Eucharist. It is the means by which we enter into a more conscious and specific preparation for what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, or drinking any beverage other than water, breaks the fast. Please be aware of what you are doing to prepare to receive such a great gift.

Nobody who is aware of serious sin should receive the Eucharist until they have been absolved of their sin in Reconciliation. In this context, it is sometimes forgotten that irregular marriage situations preclude Catholics from receiving the Eucharist. Marriages that do not take place in a Catholic Church, with a priest or deacon presiding, are not recognized as a Sacramental Marriage, and those living in such relationships may not receive the Eucharist until the Marriage situation is resolved. A reminder also that in Canada there are 54 Holy Days of Obligation: Every Sunday, Christmas, and Mary, the Mother of God (January 1st). Deliberately choosing to not attend Mass on those days without a serious reason (illness, for example), in a very real sense is a personal choice to "excommunicate" yourself. Seeking Reconciliation is recommended in this case.

Recently, it has come to my attention that non-Catholics have presented themselves for Communion. So, a gentle reminder that only those who are full members of the Catholic Church are permitted to receive. When we reply “Amen” to “The Body of Christ”, we are not just stating our faith in the Real Presence, but are also declaring ourselves to be in full communion with the Church—the Body of Christ—in all of its teachings.

On that point, the only proper response to “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ” is “Amen”. Then you receive the Sacrament, immediately consume it, and then move on. Never take the Host from the hand of the Minister. It is a gift to be received. Place your hand, flat, in front of you and receive the gift first, then place the Host in your mouth.

In all of this, in no way do I want to leave the impression that those who receive the Eucharist are better than anyone else, or holier, or more worthy. In many respects, we receive this Gift because we are not. That being said, the Gift itself needs to be respected, and those who come to receive it must be prepared. To receive in an unworthy state is a serious sin. However, this is not an exclusive Gift, for those who are in sin can seek and receive Reconciliation. Those in irregular marriage situations can have their marriages blessed (convalidated) by the Church, and those who are not Catholic are free to enter into the Catholic Church. While the Church respects the freedom of everyone to make those choices, or not, it also asks those who elect not to make those choices to respect what we hold most dear.

God comes to us in a most simple and ordinary manner—under the appearance of bread and wine. We receive this Gift each week. Due to this familiarity, it is easy to forget the magnitude of God’s Gift of Self to us. May this gentle reminder help us to appreciate, with a deeper gratitude, what God continues to do for us, and may our hearts be filled with joy.

Fr. Michael.

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF HOLY EUCHARIST

