A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

Having entered the Joyful Celebration of EASTER - CHRIST IS TRULY RISEN! - we paradoxically still walk the path of Lent, inasmuch as we are excluded from so much that gives us joy – Eucharist, family, friends, social gatherings, work and so forth. While all this is true, I hope each of you is discovering the hidden splendor of silence and the joy of contemplation. There are so many rich resources at our finger tips – those of us who are wired, especially – that we actually need to choose which ones we will access so as not be overwhelmed with too many.

On that note, many fine writers have presented this time of isolation as a period of God's grace working in our lives. This is based on the reality that God's grace is active always and everywhere – grace being the very presence of God. Or, to put it in a more familiar way – the reality that Christ is Risen from the dead, and so present in all places and filling all things. Christ IS God's grace active in our lives.

Their advice to us would be not to 'waste' this time by simply counting the days until it is over and we can return to 'normal'. No. The reality is that this IS normal, insofar as God is present and active now. To wait for some future reality is to miss the reality at our fingertips.

If you are like me, and I suspect you are, then what we really long for is the time when we sense we are in control. We long to return to the perception that we are masters of our own destiny. We yearn to be on top of things. This time of Covidedness causes us to realize we are not so much. And that is okay, because we are not. We are always fragile beings in need of God's tender love and mercy. And that brings us back to the Good News we proclaim this Easter.

This Sunday is Divine Mercy Sunday. Beginning on Good Friday – perhaps like many of you - I have been praying the Novena of Divine Mercy, putting all of Garson, Falconbridge and Skead in the hands of our Lord. It is a simple act of faith that, despite the challenging times, God's mercy is infinitely greater than any sin, any fear, any pestilence or any enemy. God's mercy heals and gives new life. God's mercy is revealed to us in Jesus Christ, from Whose side poured forth water and blood - Baptism and Eucharist – and which are depicted for us now as rays of His tender love and mercy. The Novena concludes on Sunday, and I will pray it at 3pm that day, if anyone wishes also to pray it in union with me in your own home.

Peace to all of you, Fr. Michael.

The Roman Catholic Parishes of

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Garson & Falconbridge ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

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

Phone: 705-693-2032 Fax: 705-693-9725 Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org

Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

April 19, 2020 DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Pastor

Secretary

Fr. Michael Williams

Lisa Walz

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK

- CLOSED -

RCIA and Pastoral Care: Marie Bardswich

Music Director: Jeannine Longe Parish Organist: Mariette Hickey

Parish Pastoral Council

Finance - ex officio Myron McCormick

Marie Bardswich St. John's St. John's Rachel Charette Sue Ouackenbush St. John's Diane Myre St. John's Lisa Walz St. John's Trudy Hinds St. Bernardine's

PRAYER LINE

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

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

Parish Contact

Carole Larrett

705-969-4607

Communion to the Sick

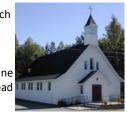
Rolande Kehoe

705-969-2838



St. John Church Garson

> St. Bernardine Church - Skead



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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Cancelled

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays: 3:30 - 4:00pm

CALL FR. MICHAEL REGARDING:

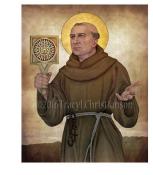
EMERGENCIES

FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION, **CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:**

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



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

The 100th Anniversary celebration which had been scheduled for this month in North Bay has been postponed to the weekend of April 16, 2021. It will still be held in North Bay.

The 80th Anniversary celebration of the CWL at Holy Redeemer Church has been cancelled.

Please refer to the Provincial and Regional newsletters on the CWL website.

On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel (Patroness of the CWL), there will be a special Mass celebrated. It can be viewed in a number of ways.

On television: Sunday, April 26th 10:30 am and 11:00 am

8:00 am

on Vision TV on Yes TV

on Salt & Light

10:30 am

On the Internet: www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

CANADA

NEWS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

We gratefully acknowledge the most generous gift from the Knights of Columbus, Centennial Council #6074, in the amount of \$1,000, to help the Parish through this period of financial instability.

The Knights have been generous supporters of our Parish over the years, and felt that supporting us financially now, rather than their usual time later in the year, would be more beneficial to us.

We thank them for their gift, as well as their continued offer of support in other ways, if needed.

A WORD ON MASS STIPENDS:

Some inquiries have been made regarding Mass requests during this period. Fr. Michael continues to celebrate Mass daily, privately, and his daily intention is for the needs of all parishioners (Missa Pro Populo). That being said, he also offers the Mass in a more specific way for those who mention a need to him, so please continue to feel free to forward special intentions to him. For now, however, he will not accept a stipend for those intentions, as they will not be published or made known publicly. Any stipends sent will be recorded and those Masses will be celebrated once the

quarantine is lifted. For those who previously had requested a specific date to have a Mass celebrated, we will get in touch with you once the quarantine is lifted in order to determine an alternate date acceptable to you for the celebration.



OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION:

In our "thank you" to the Knights above, we mentioned "this period of financial instability", and it may be worth saying a word about this, just to put everyone's mind at ease. We are holding our own. Those of you who continue to contribute through the PAD program are a Godsend to us, as your donations go a long way to sustaining us through these weeks. Those who have sent your donations through the mail, or have dropped them off, have also been very generous with your support, and for that we are grateful. We have cut back everywhere that it is possible, by cancelling all discretionary expenditures. We will also be eligible for the Government's wage subsidy program, and it will cover 75% of Fr. Michael's salary, room & board, so for now there will be no need to lay him off or reduce his

salary as has been done and/or considered in other places. The Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee made a decision early on not to actively solicit your donations during this pandemic, as we all understand the struggles that everyone is having at this time. We are confident that everyone will do what is possible to keep our parish alive and active and ready to respond to the pastoral needs of our region once we are able, once again, to actively gather together.

