

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

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Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK
- CLOSED -**

**April 19, 2020
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

Pastor

Fr. Michael Williams

Secretary

Lisa Walz

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

RCIA and Pastoral Care: Marie Bardswich

Music Director: Jeannine Longe

Parish Organist: Mariette Hickey

Parish Pastoral Council

Myron McCormick	Finance - ex officio
Marie Bardswich	St. John's
Rachel Charette	St. John's
Sue Quackenbush	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
Rachel Corbett	705-693-3241

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA

Parish Contact

Carole Larrett	705-969-4607
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Communion to the Sick

Rolande Kehoe	705-969-2838
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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

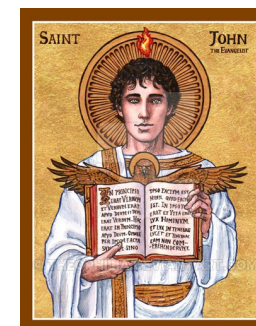
**FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION,
CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:**

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

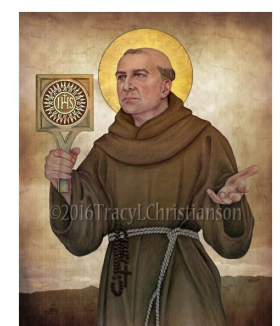


St. John Church
Garson

St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

