

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

Of all the post Resurrection events recorded by the Evangelists, the one that resonates most powerfully with me is that which is recounted in Luke's Gospel, which is proclaimed around the world this Sunday. Cleopas and one other follower of Jesus are dejected following his death. Not knowing that He had Risen earlier that morning, or at least disbelieving the women who claimed to have seen a vision of Angels who spoke of His Rising, they talk about their loss of hope as they walk to Emmaus, eleven kilometres away; a two hour walk.

It is a scene so reminiscent of our own faith journey, is it not? Our hopes, our dreams, our expectations, our plans, our vision of the way the world (or at least our part of it) should unfold are so often dashed. We are faced with suffering, burdens, disappointments, roadblocks, dead ends and any number of other obstacles that leave us downhearted, walking away and unable to recognize any signs of hope in the midst of darkness. And the One Who walks with us, no matter what? He is simply, so often, a stranger who cannot possibly understand our pain.

The Stranger, however, knows our heart. He allows us to pour out our grief to Him. He listens, takes in all our pain, and then utterly transforms it into a new understanding. What a Scripture lesson that would have been! To hear God interpret the Bible - from Genesis on - through the lens of Jesus, Who it all points to and in Whom it is all fulfilled. Which one of us would not have experienced our hearts burning within us as this lesson unfolded?

My dear parishioners, I share these brief words with you because I think many of us struggle to comprehend how God is in control of these times, to believe that nothing is beyond His power, and that He is raising up good from what we perceive as bad. We see the crucified Jesus, but sometimes fail to go deeper into that mystery of how God reveals to men and women of faith His love poured out for our salvation. It is the irony of God's plan that what seems to be defeat is actually the moment of victory.

That being said, I am pained by the realization that in the climax of Luke's accounting of this event, it is in the Eucharist that the Stranger is no more. Now, in the breaking of bread, they recognize Jesus present with them. And it is precisely there where my reflection stumbles and falls, because I'm unable to share that Eucharist with you. That makes my heart sad, and I'm as downcast as many of you also must be. No matter how often we practice "spiritual communion", it falls short of that intimacy to which we know God has invited us in receiving His Body and Blood.

And so, even on this third Sunday of Easter, we find ourselves still waiting for this consummation. It will come. Soon, I pray. But for now, we go forward in the confident hope that we do not walk alone, and that the One Who once was a stranger is known to us and is calling us to trust in His Presence in our daily lives. And in that trust, we also bear witness to Him, through love and mercy shown to others.

Peace to all of you,
Fr. Michael.

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Garson & Falconbridge

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

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Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK
- CLOSED -**

**April 26, 2020
THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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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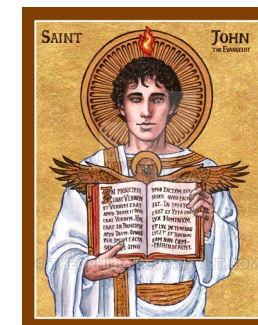
Communion to the Sick

Rolande Kehoe	705-969-2838
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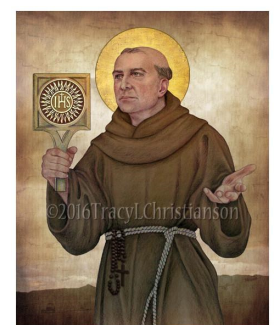


St. John Church
Garson

St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

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)

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.

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

On the **Feast Day of Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26th)** - Patroness of the CWL - there will be a special Mass celebrated. It can be viewed in a number of ways:

On television: 10:30 am and 11:00 am on Salt & Light; 8:00 am on Vision TV; 10:30 am on Yes TV

On the Internet: www.youtube.com/dailymass

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.



The New Evangelization

THE NEW EVANGELIZATION: This coming weekend's event, of course, has been cancelled. However, it has been replaced with a virtual event "Can Catholics Really Evangelize at a Time Like this?". It is a free event, but requires registration to view in the comfort of your own home. Please refer to the registration link in the ad below.

 evangelize

April 25th • 12pm-3pm EST

CAN CATHOLICS REALLY EVANGELIZE AT A TIME LIKE THIS?

FREE ONLINE EVENT FOR CATHOLICS WHO WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

FEATURED GUESTS: Sherry Weddell, Nicky Gumbel, Pete Burak, Fr. Justin Huang **HOSTED BY:** Josh & Lisa Canning and Michael Dopp



>>> Register now at: UEvangelize.org/Summit

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

A PROVINCE WIDE MASS

At this time of distance learning, we are pleased to announce that His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will be celebrating the Catholic Education Week Mass scheduled for Wednesday, May 6, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. EST. All students, families, board staff, trustees, and the broader Catholic community are invited to participate "virtually" in this celebration of the Eucharist by clicking on the following link at the scheduled time:

www.stmichaelscathedral.com/live



GROWING IN FAITH GROWING IN CHRIST

Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ
Digital access available during school closures!

The *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ* Student-Home Website features videos, songs, bible stories, prayers, interactive activities and more—all designed for students and families to explore their faith together.

Log in at:

www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home

Username: GIFGIC_student99
Password: Student99



Sponsored by the Catholic Bishops of Ontario, Alberta Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

