

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

We are approaching the end of Lent with this weekend's celebration of Passion Sunday. It marks the 4th weekend of fasting from the Sunday Eucharist. It is a fast shared by our sisters and brothers around the world. In that strange sense, we are all united in this sacrifice.

It is the beginning of Holy Week, and points to the hope of Easter Resurrection. It is also the day when we normally raise palm branches and sing "Hosannas" to the King as He enters the Holy City Jerusalem. As I mentioned last week, since we are unable to join together in this celebration, I will bless those palm branches and make them available to whoever wishes one. I will leave them outside the side entrance of the Church from Saturday at 4pm to Sunday at Noon. You can drive up, take as many as you like, and drive away without risk. If you can't come in that time frame, and you want a branch, please contact me to put one aside for you, as all the leftovers will be discarded.

As I previously mentioned, I pray Mass daily for your intentions. That takes place in the early morning, but not at a set time. Going into Holy Week, with the Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday, however, the Holy Father has asked us to post the times during which Pastors will celebrate the Liturgies, in order that you may unite yourselves to us in prayer, if you wish.

So, heeding his request: I will celebrate the **Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:00pm**. I will celebrate the **Good Friday Passion of the Lord at 3:00pm**. I will celebrate the **Easter Vigil at 8:00pm** on Saturday night and the **Mass of the Resurrection at 9:00am** on Easter Sunday. I hope you can join your prayers with mine, from your homes, at those times.

You are reminded, of course, of the many televised and online Liturgies which can be useful helps in our daily prayers. Some of those links are given on our Parish Website under "Links". I would ask you to keep one another in your prayers, as I know you already are doing. We have two parishioners who have died during this time of crisis, and so you are invited to remember them in a particular way: Caroline Lindquist who died on March 19th, and Alfred Schinko (husband of Elizabeth) who died on March 26th. When we are able to gather once again, we will celebrate their Funeral Masses.

Not knowing when this crisis will pass puts us very much in the same situation as the Apostles when Jesus was crucified. Over the next few days, they walked in darkness. They lived in fear and uncertainty. They were isolated, cut off, alone and lost. Everything familiar to them had been taken away. Their future was unknown. It was only in the Resurrection that all that was gone and new light, new hope and new life filled them. Well, maybe their situation was not so much like ours after all. For even as we walk through the dark valley, we already know the end. Christ IS Risen. His Light IS present, even in darkness. His Hope vanquishes despair. His Life IS our eternal life – even now. We celebrate all of that Liturgically this week. We are reminded that CHRIST IS RISEN. TRULY, HE IS RISEN. We may not celebrate that until Easter, but it is a fact of the Universe always and everywhere. Not even a pandemic has power over Him and the victory He has won for us.

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

Email: stjohnsgarson@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org

OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK - CLOSED -

**April 5, 2020
Passion of the Lord**

Pastor Secretary

Fr. Michael Williams **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

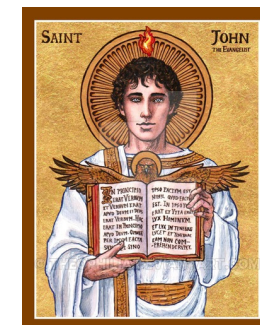
Communion to the Sick

Rolande Kehoe 705-969-2838

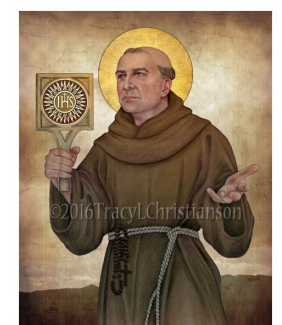


St. John Church
Garson

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)