

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

In all the talk of the “New Evangelization”, reference is sometimes made to the source of the greatest surge of conversion to faith in Jesus Christ in the history of the world. That would be the appearance of our Blessed Mother to St. Juan Diego in 1531, on a hill called Tepeyac (now in Mexico City), in which she appeared to him as an Aztec woman – one of them – and spoke to him in his native language of Nahuatl. Her message was simple: build a Church there in her honour. The message was conveyed, however, through the miraculous image the woman left on St. Diego’s tilma – the image of herself – which the Aztec people recognized instantly as conveying 4 significant meanings: protection, support, nobility and union. Within 8 years, almost 9 million Aztecs had come to faith in Jesus Christ, the God borne of this Lady who appeared to them. She had brought them a message of love that was not conveyed by the Spaniards who had conquered and destroyed, and not brought by the Christian missionaries who were unable to speak authentically to their hearts.

I mention all this in the context of the Consecration of North America to our Blessed Mother that takes place on May 1st. The Consecration has been done previously, but in today’s context is being made as an appeal to our Blessed Mother to protect us during this time of pandemic. It is a simple recognition that, although we followers of Christ fall short in living authentic Christian lives, we are still united in the love of God which has made us heirs in Christ, and in which we are protected and supported in all our daily struggles. Mary is, in fact, the Empress of the Americas – from Chili to Canada. We are all under her protection. The message of Our Lady of Guadalupe for us today is that God intervenes for us, through His Mother, to lead us to Christ. She is the first disciple and the first missionary. She shows us how to evangelize: through love.

I hope you will be able to join me on Friday morning, in your own homes, in this time of Consecration. I have provided links on our Bulletin Web Page to both our Holy Father’s letter for the month of May, and a link to FAQ’s regarding the Consecration on May 1st. I have also placed a link on our Bulletin Web Page to the Ritual itself, for those who wish to use it.

This Sunday is also Vocation Sunday, and you will see in this bulletin our Diocesan prayer for vocations which we are all encouraged to pray. Vocation Sunday always falls on the Fourth Sunday of Easter when the Gospel speaks of the Good Shepherd. The motto of St. Peter’s Seminary, where I studied, is taken from Jeremiah 3:15 **“I will give you shepherds after my own heart”**. It is a reminder that those who aspire to be leaders of faith communities are called primarily to be shepherds after the heart of God. That is true of all believers. If we are Baptized into Christ, then we have a mission to lead others to Him, in the manner in which He leads: through love and service of others.

As we continue to celebrate the Risen Lord this Easter, and as we enter this month of May, we look to our Blessed Mother as a model for our lives. She humbly accepts God’s will for her, and gives birth to Christ. She follows Him as a disciple, even to the cross. And she witnesses to His Resurrection and leads others to Him through a love that echoes His love. Through her prayers, may we be strengthened to do the same.

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 -

May 3, 2020 FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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 |
|---------------|--------------|

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

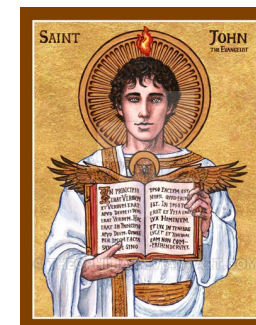
FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:

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

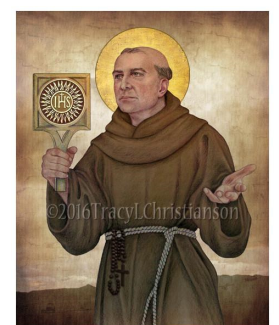


St. John Church
Garson

St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:



Mental Health and 12 Hours of Palliative Care Week will be: May 4th to May 10th. Since we cannot be together in person, a phone call, text or email is an effective alternative.

Please check the CWL National Website for the "12 Hours of Prayer for Palliative Care" Kit.

Please stay safe until we can again resume our activities.



**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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS – MAY 3

This Sunday, the Church throughout the world prays for vocations. Will you make a special effort to ask the Lord for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life for our Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie? Take this opportunity to pray for the priests and religious who have ministered to you in your life, and consider encouraging your children, grandchildren or other young people to consider a vocation as a priest or religious sister or brother. Pray that those that the Lord is calling to serve the Church will overcome their fear, and allow God to shape them into who He has made them to be.

**PRAY
FOR
VOCATIONS**



CONSECRATION OF CANADA TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER On Friday, May 1st, please join Fr. Michael who, along with all the Bishops of Canada and the United States, will Consecrate our Nations to our Blessed Mother. Our Parishes of St. John and St. Bernardine will be consecrated at his daily Mass at 10am that day.

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

OUR LADY
OF
GUADALUPE,
PATRONESS
OF THE
AMERICAS,
PRAY FOR
US!



God our Father, You made each of us to use our gifts in the Body of Christ.
We ask that You inspire young people whom You call to the priesthood and consecrated life to courageously follow Your will.
Send workers into Your great harvest so that the Gospel is preached, the poor are served with love, the suffering are comforted, and Your people are strengthened by the sacraments.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Vocations Office
Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie,
Ontario, Canada

www.beapriest.ca