

**A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL**

This weekend, as we continue to celebrate the joy of Christ's Resurrection, we also honour mothers in a special way. Everything in creation echoes something of God. Its beauty points to God's Beauty. Its vastness reflects God's Immeasurability. And mothers are tangible reminders of the prolific love of God poured out in prodigal self giving. On Mother's Day, we recognize in women the mystery of the incomprehensible God Who shares, through them, those many qualities for which we give them praise today.

Last week, the Church consecrated our nation to our Blessed Mother, for we know that her motherly concern for us is reflected in the same concern shown to us by our earthly mothers. This week, Jesus speaks to us of His Father's House, in which are many dwelling places, and we are reminded of the Mystery of God's invitation to enter into union with Him. He embraces all. Nobody is excluded. His House has room for everyone.

Jesus begins this consoling message with the words: "Do not let your hearts be troubled". There are many things that might trouble us, but Jesus promises us deliverance from all difficulties, and invites us to trust in Him. That is never easy when the troubles are clear and present. It takes a deep faith to believe that God is greater than what assails us. What does help is to look back on previous troubles through which we have passed. Often, hindsight allows us to see more clearly how God worked in our lives during previous difficulties, and it helps deepen our belief that God will continue to be faithful in this time.

That, again, is where mothers can help us know more deeply the reality of God's presence in our lives. Their hearts are large enough to embrace their entire family in love, along with friends, neighbours, and even strangers. Their love is not conditional on what their children do or say; they may be disappointed by some of their child's choices, but their love does not waver. They are always keenly aware of our struggles, intensely interested in our lives, and willing to lift us up in whatever way they can. We honour them for all of this, and more, and in doing so, we honour God.

Peace to all of you,  
Fr. Michael.

**A Prayer in Gratitude for Our Mothers**

Good and Gentle God, we pray in gratitude for our mothers who have joined with You in the wonder of bringing forth new life. You who became human through a woman, grant to all mothers the courage they need to face the uncertain future that life with children always brings.

Give them the strength to love and to be loved in return, not perfectly, but humanly.

Give them the faithful support of husband, family and friends as they care for the physical and spiritual growth of their children.

Give them joy and delight in their children to sustain them through the trials of motherhood. Most of all, give them the wisdom to turn to You for help when they need it most.

May the blessing of the Divine  
Be an especially bright benediction  
Upon mothers everywhere  
On your blessed day -

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

**ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead**

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**Fax:** 705-693-9725

**Email:** [stjohnsgarson@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsgarson@gmail.com)

**Parish Website:** [www.stjohnsgarson.org](http://www.stjohnsgarson.org)

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK  
- CLOSED -**

**May 10, 2020  
FIFTH 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:**

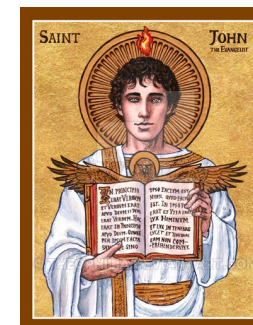
Please speak with Fr. Michael at any Sunday Mass  
(6 months minimum notice is needed for Marriage)



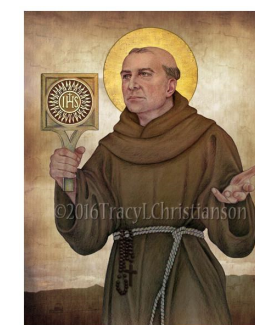
St. John Church  
Garson



St. Bernardine  
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

## MESSAGE TO THE CATHOLIC FAITHFUL OF SAULT STE. MARIE

May 6, 2020

On this feast of Saint François de Laval, patron saint of Canadian Bishops, Pope Francis announced publicly his decision to appoint me as Coadjutor Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall. This is the beginning of a new chapter in my life, one that will build upon multiple experiences that have taught me to trust the Lord. I have always been amazed at the callings I received from the Church; however, I did not always understand why I was the one chosen to assume responsibility for a new parish, a new diocese, a new ministry or a new undertaking. My first "fiat" is rooted in my love for God and for his people. It was from this fundamental principle that I responded to all the other callings in my life, offering my service with humility and thanksgiving. God's plan is not always obvious, but it is revealed to us as a Mystery. No matter how many questions I ask, the answer is often the same: "My grace is sufficient for you." So I walk gently and joyfully on a path that will be strewn with signs of divine Providence.

It is with mixed feelings that I write these words to you. Having celebrated Good Shepherd's Mass last Sunday, I feel bad for leaving you. I feel as though I were abandoning you, knowing that we are at a time in our history when the normal course of our Church life has been changed by the pandemic. This increased uncertainty about the future is added to all other issues currently touching your lives. I see so many things that still need to be finished or even started. Projects of all kinds have been discussed and/or partially started. You will need to be patient and to trust that the new Bishop will take over and provide the necessary leadership according to God's plan. Rest assured that there is an exceptional staff at the Diocesan Center, and each of them will support the new Bishop. I also have great confidence in the clergy who assume their responsibilities in their respective parishes. I am very grateful for their dedication and good collaboration over the past four years.

I plan to begin my responsibilities as Coadjutor Archbishop on June 16, 2020. Until then, I will be present in the diocese to meet the many needs and to plan with the diocesan team the steps that will follow. The restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic may complicate gatherings that would allow us to say "goodbye". We will undoubtedly find answers to our multiple questions in the days to come.

I remain with you in thought and prayer. I entrust everything to the intercession of Mary Immaculate and of Saint François de Laval.

+Marcel Damphousse, Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie, Coadjutor Archbishop elect of Ottawa-Cornwall.



## 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](http://www.pearsoncanada.ca/growinginfaith/student-home)

**Username:** GIFGIC\_student99

**Password:** Student99



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Northwest Territories.

### **A NEW OPTION FOR MAKING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH**

We are grateful to all parishioners who continue to contribute financially through your donations. Many, of course, continue to donate through our Pre-Authorized Program. Others have mailed their cheques, or dropped them off in the mail box outside the Annex. There is now another option, for those who choose: **INTERAC e-transfer**. If you wish to use this method, simply log into your bank or credit union account, choose the INTERAC e-transfer option, and use the Parish e-mail address (stjohnsgarson@gmail.com) as the donee. Your financial institution will charge a fee for each transaction, so you might consider using this monthly, rather than weekly.

### **DONATION RECEIVED**

At the time of publication, we received a donation from The Lougheed Foundation in the amount of \$1,000 to be used by the Parish at our discretion. In next week's bulletin, we will print the letter that accompanied the donation. For now, we simply acknowledge with deep gratitude their generous gift to us.