

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

This weekend, the Sixth Sunday of Easter, marks the 10th week we Christians have been unable to gather as a community of faith. As I look around the world, despite the suffering this pandemic has caused and continues to cause, I note various signs of hope that seem to be emerging. Given the unpredictable nature of this virus, it's difficult to know if these hopeful signs are simply wishful thinking arising from the darkness of isolation and the various negative offshoots of loneliness, economic hardship, family turmoil and lifestyle disruption, or if there actually is light being seen at the end of the tunnel. From a Christian perspective, however, we know the light has never left us, and our faith allows us to walk in the firm conviction that Christ is fully present to us and to the world no matter what stormy seas buffet us. We need not look for light at the end of a tunnel, for it is not a tunnel in which we live. We live in the glorious freedom of God's light as His beloved children.

Our readings on Sunday speak this reality to us. In the first, the Good News continues to spread, bringing great joy in those who receive it, and the gift of the Holy Spirit enlivens the Church and those who belong to it. It is a reminder to us who have faith in Christ: fully lived, it brings that same gift of the joy. Psalm 66 reflects this, as it speaks of the joyful noise arising from all the earth as a response to the Good News of God's saving love.

In the second reading, Peter simply reminds us always to put Christ at the center of our lives; all else follows from this. Whenever we put something else at our center – power, pleasure, honour or wealth – joy is slowly siphoned away.

The Gospel points us both to anticipate the Gift of the Holy Spirit which we will celebrate in a couple of weeks, and to the reality of that same Spirit Who already dwells in us. Through the Spirit, we live in the Presence of God. That indwelling always manifests itself through love. It is a practical love, rooted in our concern for others, in reaching out to those in need, in building and sustaining community and through forgiveness of others. None of these traits can be stymied by a pandemic and the ensuing quarantine, for it is in the trials of life that the grace of love finds way to touch those in need of mercy.

I continue to marvel at the creative ways the love of God is manifested in your lives. Every moment is an opportunity to choose good or evil; life or death; others or self. It brings me great joy to see your choices for good, for life and for others. It tells me the Holy Spirit is real and active in your lives. What a wonderful testimony to your faith; to our faith. Halleluia!

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 17, 2020
SIXTH 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
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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

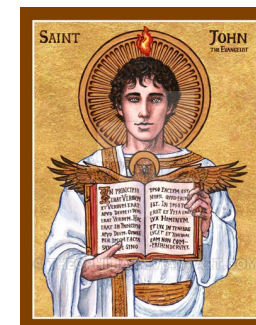
FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION,
CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:

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

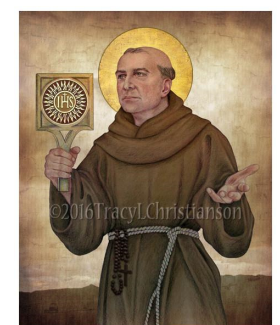


St. John Church
Garson

St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

DONATION RECEIVED FROM THE LOUGHEED FOUNDATION

As indicated in last week's bulletin, a donation to the Parish in the amount of \$1,000 was received from The Lougheed Foundation. This is the letter that accompanied that donation.

Rev. Michael Williams
St. John the Evangelist Church

The light of faith has always guided our family in the dark times of our parents' health issues, personal challenges or difficult decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic is a dark time for all of us personally, locally and globally. The light of faith continues to shine in the efforts of front-line care providers, the generosity of those that can support helping feed the hungry, and the ability for the fellowship of family and friends to not let social distancing become spiritual distancing. The lessons of the light are to Love God and Love our Neighbour.

In that spirit, the Lougheed Foundation has included a \$1,000.00 donation for your church to be used at your discretion. We hope this small gift helps make the light of your ministry shine bright. In our family the Christmas story we love the most is John 1:5 - "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out."

Your Brothers in Christ,
Geoffrey and Gerry Jr.

We are grateful to Geoffrey and Gerry Jr. for their generosity to us and to the community. They have always been very supportive. As to this donation, and after receiving feedback and advice from the Parish Pastoral Council, we have decided to donate this money to the **Infant Food Bank of Sudbury.**



This decision is based on our desire to give, where possible, where the need is greatest. Although our parish revenues have dropped due to the pandemic and the ensuing closing of Churches to public worship, so too have our expenses, which we continue to manage in the most proactive way possible. Due to the generosity of parishioners who continue to donate, and to the management of expenses, we are holding our own financially and do not anticipate any shortfalls which would prevent us from continuing to function going forward. Based on that reality, we have decided to give to those who are suffering immeasurably more than us: young families, with infants, who struggle to make ends meet. As always, thank you for your ongoing support.

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 may charge a fee for each transaction; if so, you might consider using this monthly, rather than weekly. The Parish will receive notification of your donation so that we can issue a receipt at year end.

Veronica Ramos Serrano - Our Sponsored Child



Veronica Ramos Serrano

As is known, all the money donated for the burning of candles in front of our Divine Mercy image is given to the poor. First, it is given to Chalice in order to help our sponsored child Veronica. The balance is given to the Garson Food Bank. Last month, we made our annual donation to Chalice for support of Veronica in the following amounts:

Annual Sponsorship:	\$444.00	Support of her family:	\$100.00
Christmas:	\$ 50.00	Birthday:	\$ 50.00

Thank you for your continued support. If anyone wishes to have a candle burned, please feel free to send your donation to the Church with a note indicating your intention. Fr. Michael will light the candle and pray for your intention at his Mass that day.

The Parish Pastoral Council is considering sponsoring a second child, based on your generous offerings over the past year. They will make that decision in the Fall or Winter, depending on our situation.