

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

The glorious beauty of Spring seems finally to have taken hold of our land. The leaves are bursting forth (along with the black flies and mosquitoes, I might add), and life seems everywhere to be joyfully abundant with a newness that sings praise to its Creator.

In Aristotelian philosophy, there are “transcendentals” which are common to all things: unity, truth, goodness and beauty. As Christian thinkers delved into these, they began to see how each of them found their source in God. God is One. He is True. He is Good. And He is Beautiful. It only makes sense, then, that we are able to see these qualities in all things, for it is God Who is holding all things in being.

Unfortunately, in the form of our modern culture, it is difficult for many to see God through these lenses, for there is a disturbing lack of unity in our world (and in our Church). Truth is seen as relative, rather than something objectively real. And goodness is seen as a private affair, best interpreted according to one’s own intentions. Beauty, however, is a whole other matter. Most people stop in the presence of beauty and marvel at it. Its power is such that beauty can lead the soul to the One Who is Beautiful – God.

This weekend, we come nearer the end of our Easter Season with the celebration of the Ascension of the Lord. In Matthew’s account of this event, Jesus promises He is with us always – to the end of the age. It is why I never tire of reminding myself, and others, that Jesus is present in all places and filling all things. In the words of St. Paul in today’s reading: “God has put all things under His (Christ’s) feet and has made Him the head over all things for the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all”. Christ is One with the Father. He is the Truth. He is the Way. He is Life in all its Beauty. All of creation points to Him.

So, back to the beauty that is awakening in a new way these days: creation sings praise to its Creator. It is worth recognizing this beauty around us and the path it opens to the presence of God in our lives; in our world. And, since all things echo the presence of God, it is worth remembering that every person we meet has in them a reflection of that which is good, true, unifying and beautiful. If we see only that which is bad, deceptive, divisive and ugly, we cannot see God. But if we look, we will find a path to God in even the most seemingly awful person. And seeing what is good, true and beautiful in them, we will find a way to love them as God commands.

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 24, 2020
ASCENSION 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

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:**

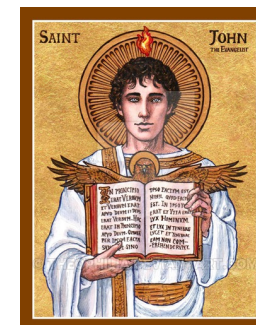
Please speak with Fr. Michael at any Sunday Mass
(6 months minimum notice is needed for Marriage)



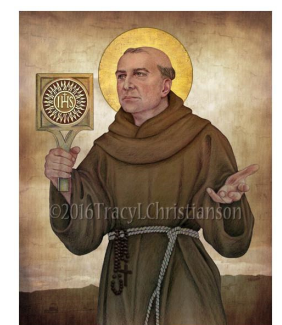
St. John Church
Garson



St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

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.



A WORD ON SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

For those preparing to receive weekly Holy Eucharist, we are still 'on hold' until further notice. Once there is clarity regarding when we are able to gather to celebrate Eucharist as a community, then we will decide the best timing to initiate our candidates into the reception of this Sacrament.

For those preparing to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, we also will need to wait; first, for our new Bishop to be named and, second, for him to schedule the new dates for this Sacrament.



**CHURCH
SACRAMENTS**

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.



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.



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

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

A PRAYER FOR COMMUNICATION SUNDAY (This Weekend)

O God, whose word is truth
and in whose light we see light,
guide those who tell the story of our times through word
and image.

Make them seekers after truth and advocates of human
dignity.

Grant discernment to all who rely on their labours,
and , as we confront the pain and promise of this world,
awaken in us a sense of wonder at your presence
and of longing for your peace.

