

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

This weekend, Pentecost, marks the conclusion of the Easter Season. It was also the time our Bishop had planned on being in our Parish to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with those who had been prepared to receive this Gift. While we will still celebrate the great Feast (at home), sadly, we are unable this weekend to welcome our Bishop and witness him Confirm our young parishioners.

Further, with Bishop Marcel moving to Ottawa in two weeks to take up his new responsibilities there, it will be a new Bishop (unknown to us at this time) who eventually will visit our parish and Confirm our parishioners. More unknowns; more surprises; more plans changed by events beyond our control. And isn't that our life?

If there is one lesson taught by the pandemic washing over the earth, it's that our control of our lives is an illusion. A comforting illusion, no doubt; one carefully nurtured and used to buffer ourselves from that most disquieting reality: that we ultimately are not in control. God is the Master of our lives and of the universe, and we can bow only to Him.

There is an old saying: we plan, God laughs. It's not meant to disparage our planning or to belittle God as uncaring or overly controlling. Rather, it speaks of the smallness of our plans in relation to the immensity of God, and His desire for us to live in His immensity. He calls us beyond our limitations to participate in the fullness of Who He Is; to live in His Love.

It is the Holy Spirit Who enables us to do precisely this. By God's grace, we already dwell in that Love of God. If you like, we can glimpse in the here and now the glory that awaits us. It happens daily, if we have eyes to see. It's about allowing ourselves to be surprised by God.

Have you ever been surprised by God? Have your eyes ever suddenly opened to recognize Him in the person before you, in the situation at hand, in the curveballs of life? If you have, then you know what it means to glimpse the Omnipresence of the One Who Is all in all. God's surprises are a grace whereby we become more certain of His reality, His concern for us, His love and His peace. One of the joys of being Christian is to live moment by moment in the firm expectation of God's surprises. The spiritual life is really that of a soul constantly keeping watch for the Beloved; one that learns to 'tune in' to recognize Him.

This Sunday, Pentecost, we continue to rejoice that Christ, having risen from the dead, is present in all places and is filling all things. Through the Holy Spirit, we are able to recognize this reality, live in it each moment, and respond to it with joy.

Peace to all of you, Fr. Michael.

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

ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

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Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org

**OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK
- CLOSED -**

**May 31, 2020
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

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:**

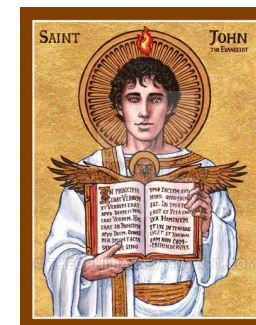
~~Please speak with Fr. Michael at any Sunday Mass
(6 months minimum notice is needed for Marriage)~~



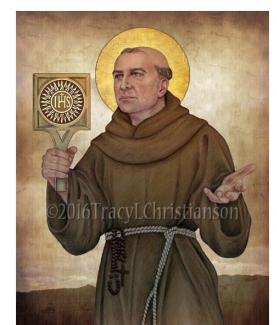
St. John Church
Garson



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 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 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.

For Parishioners who had volunteered to pray for a specific candidate for these Sacraments, we encourage you to continue praying for them, and to support them in whatever way is possible.



**CHURCH
SACRAMENTS**