

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

As many now know, the government of Ontario is allowing Churches to re-open, with some restrictions, beginning on Friday, June 12th. In our Diocese, our Bishop has decided to allow Pastors to re-open Parishes for Sunday Eucharist on the first weekend of summer: **June 20/21**. This is a full 15 weeks since we last were able to gather as a community, and so we are grateful for this step forward.

Still, this is only a step, and we need to be aware of the restrictions necessary while we continue to journey through this time of pandemic. It's important to realize that attending Church is still risky, and each person doing so assumes that risk themselves. Although we will do our best to ensure a safe environment, we cannot guarantee that there is zero risk.

The government will allow an attendance not exceeding 30% of our maximum capacity. At St. John's, that means 84 people. At St. Bernardine's, it means 40 people. We have no choice but to strictly adhere to this number. Once capacity has been reached, nobody else will be able to enter until someone else has left. If you find yourself in this situation, you may choose to remain outside until the end of Mass, at which point you may enter to receive Communion (after someone else has left). Additionally, with the necessity to provide 6 feet spacing inside, we can use only 18 pews, with 2 people/pew. So, if everyone attending is from different households, we can accommodate only 36 people. In Skead, there are 11 available pews, so space for 22 individuals. Those living in the same household can sit together, so presumably we can still achieve maximum attendance if couples and/or families are attending. Attendance will be on a first come basis. The Church will open Saturday night at 4pm and Sunday morning at 10am. It will open in Skead at 8:30am.

The Ministers of Hospitality will direct you as you enter. Only the **main entrance doors** may be used. The **washrooms are unavailable**, except for an extreme emergency. The Bishop has ordered that **everyone must wear a mask** while in the Church, removing it only briefly to receive Communion. We are asking everyone to bring their own mask, although we will provide for those who do not have their own.

There will be no procession, no collection, and no singing. The emphasis will be on gathering safely, celebrating the Word and Eucharist as simply and briefly as possible, and leaving in an orderly manner. For those who wish to make a contribution, there will be a basket in the entranceway for you to do that on your way out. There will be other changes noticeable during our celebration, and these will be explained as they arise, as necessary. Nobody should feel obligated, in any way, to attend. The Bishop's dispensation from the Sunday Mass still applies during this pandemic, and so the precept regarding the Sunday Obligation is suspended. I look forward to seeing those of you who are able to attend. For now, in addition to the regular Sunday Masses, there will also be a Wednesday Mass celebrated each week at 10:30am, beginning on June 24th. The same protocols will apply during that Mass.

While the necessary restrictions are not ideal, they are a far cry from the previous situation that did not allow us to gather at all. And so, we are grateful.

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

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS
CLOSED UNTIL SEPTEMBER**

**June 14, 2020
CORPUS CHRISTI**

Pastor

Fr. Michael Williams

Secretary

Lisa Walz

Custodian

Sonya Arcand

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

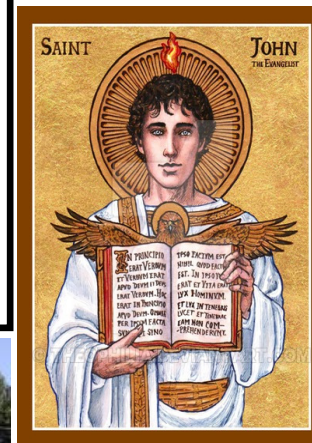
Rolande Kehoe	705-969-2838
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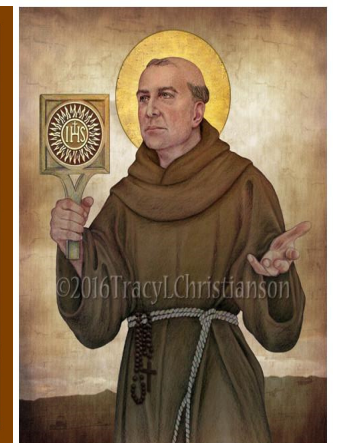
St. John Church
Garson



St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

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

Wednesday at 10:30am

RECONCILIATION

~~Saturdays: 3:30-4:00pm~~

FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:

Please contact Fr. Michael by phone or e-mail.



NEWS FROM THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

With this pandemic, we have not been able to have our meetings. June would have been the Presentation of Service Pins to our members and the Pot Luck Social. Let us pray that, come September, things will be back to somewhat normal.

Remember, you can always go on the CWL website for any information you want. The new On-Line News Letter featuring the Ottawa Diocese and OPC Christian Family Life Chair is now on line. It worth the read.

There is National Fund raiser for The 2022 National CWL Convention. It is a Pashmina for \$30.00 (it is like a shawl). The Sault Ste. Marie Diocesan will be covering the shipping charge. They will do a bulk order in the fall.

Let us keep each other in our prayers. We have some members that are having health problems.

Have good and safe summer and hope to see you in the fall.

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.

PARISH GARDENS: Once again, Craig & Judy Chaperon are tending to our gardens, and have already made them beautiful in anticipation of our return to weekly Mass on the first weekend of summer. We are grateful to them for their efforts to make our grounds attractive.



COVID-19 PARISH LEADERS:

Myron McCormick and Doreen Merkas have agreed to undergo the training needed as our local Covid-19 team for St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Carol Lynn Jacob and John Robert have agreed to undergo the training needed as our local Covid-19 team for St. Bernadine of Siena Parish.

We are grateful to them for taking on this responsibility. On Monday, June 15th, the Diocese will be training all the English speaking leaders through Zoom, in anticipation of our re-opening the following weekend.



Online Summer Retreat at Villa Loyola

Theme: Who is Jesus Christ? Exploration of the 'I am' Sayings of Jesus

Dates: August 17-21, 2020

Who is God? When Moses asked that question before the burning bush more than 3000 years ago, the mysterious response was "I AM". A millennium later, that strange name received a face, and that face began to teach. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, left a series of statements about his identity, known as the seven "I am" sayings. Enigmatic yet meaningful, they elaborate the identity, personality, and intention of the God-with-us. Drawing from the natural world and the Old Testament, the seven images offer a rich understanding of the nature of Jesus.

I invite you to join me on Zoom for this five day retreat. Together we will explore all seven of the "I am" sayings, with a daily 9 am conference, Eucharist at 2 pm and time for sharing at 7 pm. Personal direction can be offered through Skype. Following the arc of the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, the retreat will provide points for meditation, with the goal bringing about our deeper transformation in the light of Christ and into the embrace of our Creator.

Director: Fr. John O'Brien, S.J. **Cost:** Free. Tax receipts will be given for donations made to Villa Loyola. **Registration:** by email at loyola@isys.ca

DIVINE MERCY CANDLES: Thank you to everyone who has continued to support the poor through your offering of donations for the burning of Divine Mercy Candles. Unfortunately, the last candles in our supply have been spoken for, and so we are unable to light any more candles until we receive a new supply. Our previous order was cancelled just days before it was received, due to the Covid-19 lockdown. As of this date, we do not know when that order will be delivered. However, as soon as we receive it, notice will be provided in this space.



CALLED TO SERVE: In an effort to reach people discerning a vocation to the priesthood or religious life online, and to highlight the lives of those who have answered God's call, the Vocations Office is pleased to debut a new online episodic series named "Called to Serve". Each episode will profile someone who has given their life in service to the church - priests, sisters, religious, and lay men and women. Our first episode of "Called to Serve" debuts with our first guest - our outgoing Bishop Marcel Dampousse.

The videos are available on the Diocesan Vocations website (www.beapriest.ca/calledtoserve) and there is a link provided on our Parish webpage under "links". A new episode will be released every two weeks.