

A WORD FROM FR. MICHAEL

With the end of Easter last weekend, we enter the longest liturgical season in the Church's calendar: Ordinary Time. It is, perhaps, poorly named, for it seems to convey a certain blandness we often associate with "ordinariness". Its name, however, is meant not to imply all is bland about our lives; rather, it points to the Mystery that is contained in every moment, every molecule, every part of space and time. What is seemingly "ordinary" is, in reality, a revelation of God's Presence.

To drive home this reality, our first Sunday in Ordinary Time is Trinity Sunday. God is One, but is Three Persons in a Unity of Being: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a Truth revealed to us by Jesus (the Son) and a Mystery we've been allowed to penetrate (to a certain extent) by the Holy Spirit.

As early as the 4th century, Christian thinkers began to use the term "perichoresis"* as an apt description of the Mystery of the Godhead. Perichoresis is a Greek word that means "rotation", but in a deeper sense conveys the idea of movement or dance. God is not static, but is a vibrant movement of Perfect Love. Perichoresis attempts to capture, in an imperfect way, this reality of God's perfect harmony of love between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a dance that calls forth creation, and holds the universe together. The dance of nature and the seasons reflect it. The dance of the northern lights reflects it. The dance of lightening reflects it. The dance of human love reflects it. Joy, peace, reconciliation, generosity, service of the poor – they all reflect this perichoresis of God.

So Trinity Sunday reminds us that nothing, really, is ordinary – at least in the sense of blandness. Everything partakes of this dance and, if we have eyes to see, we will recognize it. If we have ears to hear, the music will be apparent. And if we choose, we can enter into this dance, for the One Who holds us has also called us to dance with Him.

We often think of this eternal dance as being what we call "Heaven", and that is certainly what Heaven is for us. But what we often fail to recognize is that this dance begins at the moment of our creation in our mother's womb, at our conception. From that moment, the God Who has known us from all eternity calls us to dance with Him. Our entire lives, from that moment, are a call to be in step with the One Who is perfect movement.

The spiritual life is, in essence, a lifelong process of moving closer to harmony with God's dance. It is recognizing God's movement in us and around us, accepting it, being grateful for it, and partaking in it such that we dance with God. He desires it for us and empowers us for it.

May God's invitation to dance with Him resonate in our souls today and call forth in all of us a gratitude, expressed in joy filled dance, which is in harmony with all creation.

Peace to all of you, Fr. Michael.

* Circumincission is a similar Latin term, for those who prefer Latin over Greek. It is, perhaps, a little less poetic than the Greek, however. And in times of pandemic, isn't dancing a much better way to live in hope?

The Roman Catholic Parishes of
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST - Garson & Falconbridge
ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA - Skead

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OFFICE HOURS THIS WEEK
- CLOSED -

June 7, 2020
TRINITY 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:

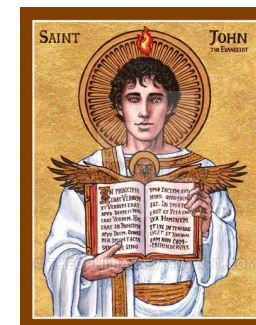
Please speak with Fr. Michael at any Sunday Mass
(6 months minimum notice is needed for Marriage)



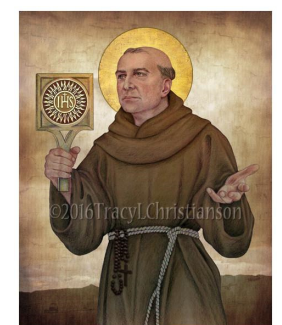
St. John Church
Garson



St. Bernardine
Church - Skead



St. John the Evangelist



St. Bernardine of Siena

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.



This letter, from the Covid-19 response team in our Diocese, was sent to all Pastors on June 2nd:

The decision to close our Parish churches on March 13, 2020, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, was a very difficult one and we recognize the tremendous spiritual sacrifice of the faithful during this time. We also want to do all that we can to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19 in our community.

We know that you have questions and are anxious to return to normal parish activities. Unfortunately, we can't give you a firm date at this time. We rely on the direction of the health officials in our province who have expertise in pandemic planning. Once they indicate it is safe to do so, we will re-open churches when we are confident that parishes can provide a safe environment for the faithful. We are planning for a phased re-opening, similar to what is being done in churches around the world.

The re-opening period will require a number of adaptations to our regular church operation. We anticipate that capacity limits will be necessary once churches re-open, beginning with smaller numbers and increasing as it is safe to do so. Physical distancing (2 metres / 6 feet) measures will also be introduced and our desire to socialize as a faith community will be limited for a period of time. Enhanced worship space cleaning measures will also be required at and before every Mass. These require significant supplies and volunteers to ensure they are implemented properly.

As you review this information, you will see the work that needs to be done in your parishes; some of it is quite physical, such as restricting pew access, whether with rope or cloth or some other substantial material. Removing all books from the pews and storing them is also a chore. See the attached checklist and please return it within a week of receiving this email. A material suppliers' list is included, if necessary.

We ask you to choose, within your community, one woman and one man to form a team capable of following training sessions that will be offered by ZOOM by our Diocesan COVID-19 team. Hopefully, following these procedures, we will be able to greet our faithful in a safe and proper environment.

For now, at St. John the Evangelist, Fr. Michael will look after the issues regarding Church spacing and the removal of hymn books, as well as the purchase of the necessary cleaning supplies. Myron McCormick and Doreen Merkas have agreed to undergo the training needed as our local Covid-19 team.

At St. Bernardine of Siena, Colette Stephen will coordinate the necessary arrangements for Church cleaning and spacing. Two parishioners have been invited to form the local Covid-19 team there, but at the time of publication of this bulletin, their acceptance has not yet been confirmed.