



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
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Parish Website: www.stjohnsgarson.org



PASTOR: Fr. Michael Williams
Secretary: Lisa Walz
Custodian: Sonya Arcand

December 20, 2020
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

RCIA and Pastoral Care: Marie Bardswich
Music Director: Jeannine Longe
Parish Musician:

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
<u>Communion to the Sick</u>	
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

Wednesday at 10:30 am

RECONCILIATION

Please contact Fr. Michael by phone or email.

**FOR BAPTISM, HOLY COMMUNION,
 CONFIRMATION & MARRIAGE:**

Please contact Fr. Michael by phone or email.



Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people, even when we fail to see you. In each and every moment that we are blessed to recognize you here and now, give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming. Amen.



**YOUR OFFERINGS FOR
 DECEMBER 13, 2020**

St. John the Evangelist

Envelopes:	\$1,635.00
Pre-Authorized Deductions:	\$ 943.75
Loose:	\$ 40.00
Heating:	\$ 640.00
Bishop's Appeal:	\$ 25.00
TOTAL:	<u>\$3,283.75</u>

If you wish to use this method for donating to St. John's Parish, 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.

If you wish to donate to St. Bernardine's Parish, we now have the system in place for that. For donations to St. Bernardine's, please use the following e-mail address:

stbernardineofsiena@ssmd.ca



Please Note: WEDNESDAY MASS is cancelled this week.
Thank you.



**MASS SCHEDULE
DECEMBER 21 TO DECEMBER 27, 2020**

St. John the Evangelist

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday, December 21		No Parish Mass
Tuesday, December 22		No Parish Mass
Wednesday, December 23		NO PARISH MASS
FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Thursday, December 24	5:00p.m.	For The Intentions Of All Parishioners
	9:00p.m.	For Fr. Charles Mathieu by Sisters of St. Joseph Residents
CHRISTMAS - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Friday, December 25	10:30a.m.	For Marjorie MacDonald by Marie Bardswich
Saturday, December 26 FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY Sunday, December 27	4:30p.m.	For Lindsay Chretien by Susan & Guy Chretien
	10:30a.m.	For The Intentions Of All Parishioners

St. Bernardine of Siena

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Thursday, December 24	7:00p.m.	For Cleo D'Amour by May D'Amour & Family
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY Sunday, December 27	9:00a.m.	For Mike Kritz & Matt Humenuik by Jim & Loretta



ST. JOHN'S CWL NEWS

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas. Celebrate with love ones but be safe.

A Prayer for Christmas Morning

The day of joy returns, Father in heaven, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

Help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds and the worship of the wise men.

Close the doors of hate and open the doors of love all over the world...

Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from the evil, by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts.

May Christmas morning make us happy and Christmas evening bring us to our bed with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven for Jesus sake.



THANK YOU

We are grateful to Knights of Columbus Council 674 for a generous donation they made to the parish in the amount of \$625.00. This same Council sponsors the "Keep Christ in Christmas" sign on our lawn as well.



HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

The winter Solstice begins at 8:30am on Monday, December 21st. That means the days will start getting longer. *Hope does spring eternal!*

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Parish environment committee will be decorating the Church for the Christmas Season on Tuesday this week. As always, we are grateful to them for their continued ministry in beautifying our Church throughout the liturgical seasons.



2021 Donation Envelopes

Our protocol for picking up donation envelopes is a bit different this year, in order to minimize any chance of spreading germs. Experience has shown that putting all the boxes out together leads to multiple boxes being touched by multiple people.

Your box of donation envelopes will be placed on the entranceway table in the Church IF you have either e-mailed or called the office, leaving a message asking for your envelopes to be left there.

In your message, please leave your name and specify the Mass you will be attending. Your envelopes will be left there for that Mass only. Please pick them up on your way into the Church.

If you are picking envelopes up for someone else, please follow the same protocol.

A WORD ABOUT CHRISTMAS MASSES



Through Advent, as we continue to prepare for our encounter with the incarnate God by heeding His call to repentance and deeper conversion, our thoughts naturally move to the celebrations marking His birth at Christmas.

Leading up to Advent, the Parish Pastoral Council deliberated about how to manage the potential increase in numbers of people wanting to attend, especially at the 5pm Mass. That Mass, in particular, has a large attendance which could, potentially this year, put us past our legal capacity during the pandemic (which is 84).

We considered the option of pre-registration. That is an option used by some of our neighbouring Churches on Sunday, and will be used by even more Parishes for Christmas. After this consideration, however, we opted to stick with the same system we have been using successfully since June: First Come – First Entry.

The doors will be open, as usual, 30 minutes before Mass begins. Once we reach either our capacity of 84 **OR** have filled all the available seats, nobody else will be permitted to enter. We have no choice or discretion in that matter.

Some things to consider:

- The 9pm Mass and the Christmas Day Mass are likely to have more than enough room.
- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Christmas Mass is suspended during the pandemic.
- Please do not plan to attend Mass at 7pm at St. Bernardine's. They will be using a pre-registration system for their own parishioners only, and will have no room for others.
- If you are sick in ANY way – don't attend. That shouldn't have to be said at any time – in pandemic or out. Nobody wants to catch what you have.
- If you, or a member of your household, has travelled from a Red Zone any time after December 14th, please do not attend. If there has been travel involved from other areas of the province or country, we ask you to seriously consider staying home.
- If you are health vulnerable in some way, you might also want to consider passing on the busier Masses. As the numbers increase, so too does the risk of infection.
- Christmas Day is an Octave. Given that, you might consider making one of the Christmas Masses on the weekend your main "Christmas Mass" this year. Given the suspension of the Sunday Obligation, that is a viable option.

Journey Through Advent

The season of Advent is here, this memo is to inform you of a wonderful new initiative we have begun at the Conference. Since social media are an increasingly important platform for formation and evangelization at all levels, we have produced a series of videos entitled *Journey through Advent*, which includes an introduction to the liturgical Season and reflections on the Gospel readings of each Sunday in Advent. It is the result of a joint project between the CCCB's *Office national de liturgie*, the National Liturgy Office, and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis.

This short video series will be posted on the CCCB website and can be accessed through the rolling banner image at the top of the homepage entitled *Journey through Advent: Video Series for Advent 2020*.

The links to the videos, in French and English, will be available on the CCCB website. Each Monday, the link for the upcoming Sunday celebration will be released.

<https://www.cccb.ca/liturgie-sacraments/resources-in-english/liturgical-calendar/video-reflections/>

<https://www.cccb.ca/fr/liturgie-et-sacremets/ressources-en-francais/reflexions-sur-les-temps-liturgiques/>

The weekly videos will also be linked on our web page (www.stjohnsgarson.org), under the "Links" tab.



WORSHIP SAFE

On June 1st, “Worship Safe” was published. It is a document containing directives concerning Catholic Church operations in the Province of Ontario. It is the document which allows us to open our doors for liturgies, albeit on a restricted basis.

The directives in that document fall into three categories: recommended, highly recommended and mandatory. As an example, the wearing of masks is mandatory. The recording of names and contact information of everyone entering the Church was considered recommended. That has changed.

On December 1st, a revised document was published. Essentially, the only change that directly impacts our parish is pertaining to that final point. It is now mandatory that everyone entering any Catholic Church for a liturgy have their name and contact information recorded. It has been a couple of weeks since we began to keep track, and will continue to do so at all our liturgies (Sundays, Wednesdays and Funerals). The reason for this directive is to make contact tracing easier for the health authorities, should an infected person be shown to have attended Church.

Many Churches in Sudbury have been doing this all along. St. Bernardine of Siena Parish, for example, had chosen to do this from the beginning. It is a slight adjustment for us to make, and we are especially grateful to the Ministers of Hospitality who have taken on this additional task.

Going forward, we will have lists of pre-typed contact information available for Hospitality Ministers, so they need only check a box when you enter. Those lists are based on those who have attended in previous weeks, with the presumption that most attend the same Mass each week.

Based on what was observed, there is a certain bottleneck taking place in the entranceway, caused by this new protocol. It is extremely important that everyone maintain their 2 meter distancing from others. If this means having to line up outside, then please do so. Your patience and understanding could save the life of another parishioner.

