



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](mailto:stjohnsgarson@gmail.com)  
**Parish Website:** [www.stjohnsgarson.org](http://www.stjohnsgarson.org)



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

December 27, 2020 to January 10, 2021  
**SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS**

**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
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**Communion to the Sick**

Rolande Kehoe	705-969-2838
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**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.

**YOUR OFFERINGS FOR DECEMBER 20, 2020**

**St. John the Evangelist**

Envelopes:	\$1,024.00
Pre-Authorized Deductions:	\$ 943.75
Loose:	\$ 70.00
Heating:	\$ 150.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$2,187.75</u></b>



**St. Bernardine of Siena**

Envelopes:	\$ 450.00
Heating:	\$ 110.00
e-Transfer:	\$ 300.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b><u>\$ 860.00</u></b>



We are grateful to the Hospitality Ministers who took on the responsibility at our Christmas Masses of ensuring the various legislative protocols were followed, for everyone's safety, in addition to their usual duties of welcoming. They accepted a certain level of risk in doing this, and we thank them for their courage. It should be noted that without them, no gatherings would have been allowed, so their ministry was essential to our Liturgies.



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](mailto:stbernardineofsiena@ssmd.ca)

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Please Note: Sunday & Wednesday Masses are Cancelled from December 26 to January 8 due to the pandemic lockdown in Ontario**

**JANUARY 4, 2021 to JANUARY 10, 2021**

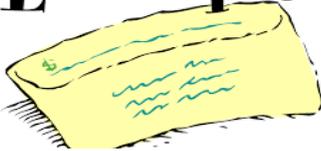
#### St. John the Evangelist

Date	Time	Mass Intention
Monday, January 4		No Parish Mass
Tuesday, January 5		No Parish Mass
Wednesday, January 6		No Parish Mass
Thursday, January 7		No Parish Mass
Friday, January 8		No Parish Mass
Saturday, January 9 <b>BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>	4:30p.m.	For Lindsay Chretien by Susan & Guy Chretien (rescheduled from December 26 <sup>th</sup> )
Sunday, January 10	10:30a.m.	For The Intentions Of All Parishioners

#### St. Bernardine of Siena

Sunday, January 10	9:00a.m.	For Mike Kritz & Matt Humenuik by Jim & Loretta (rescheduled from December 27 <sup>th</sup> )
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## Offering Envelopes



## 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.

## RECEIPTS FOR INCOME TAX PURPOSES AND 2020 DONATIONS

Normally, we require donations to be made in the calendar year in which a receipt for income tax purposes is issued. This year, however, is far from normal. Given the suddenness of the shutdown, we are able to extend the deadline for 2020 donations to the weekend of January 10<sup>th</sup> when (we hope) we will be able to gather again. If you wish your donation to be reflected in your 2020 tax receipt, please use a 2020 envelope and make sure it arrives no later than January 10<sup>th</sup>. After that, we will be printing and mailing the receipts. Thank you for your continued support.

The Provincewide Shutdown will come into effect on December 26 at 12:01 a.m.



## PROVINCIAL SHUTDOWN

As everyone is aware, there is a Province wide shutdown in place, in response to the increasing danger posed by Covid-19. At a minimum, it will last 2 weeks in our region. Although we are permitted 10 people in our Church for a celebration, we have decided to cancel all liturgies until, at the earliest, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January

9/10. That will be the final day of the Christmas Season, and so we are hopeful that celebration will be permitted with our regular 30% capacity.

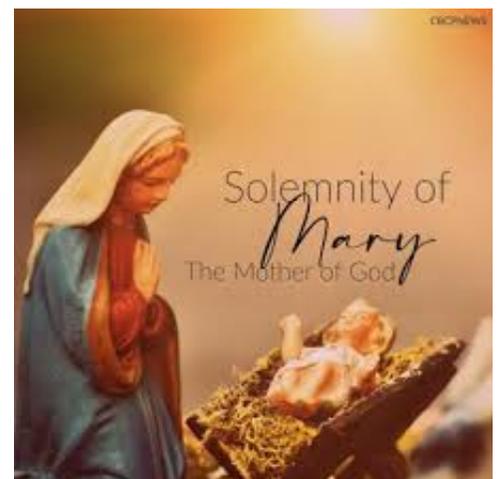
If requested, funeral Masses will be celebrated. However, only 10 people (including the priest) will be permitted to attend. So, the decision to go ahead or to wait will be the family's to make.

As always, if there is a need for someone to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, Fr. Michael should be contacted and arrangements will be made, if at all possible.

By now, everyone is aware of the many television and online options that are available to view Liturgies and partake of a Spiritual Communion. For now, that is the best we can offer. Fr. Michael will continue to celebrate Mass privately every day, and he offers up the intentions of all parishioners at those Masses.

## THE FEASTS WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

Unfortunately, in the same way we could not gather to celebrate the most significant Liturgy for Christians earlier this year – Easter – so we will not be able to gather to celebrate the big Feasts that fall within the Christmas Octave. Those Feasts begin with The Holy Family, which would have been this weekend. Please see the separate note on that Feast in this bulletin, with a suggestion for consecrating your family. Then would have been the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (which many mistakenly think is a celebration of the New Year - it's not). The Octave would also have included the Feasts of St. Stephen – First Martyr – on December 26<sup>th</sup> and The Holy Innocents on December 28<sup>th</sup>. Then, just after the Octave, would have been the Feast of the Epiphany on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you still have a piece of blessed chalk from last year, go ahead and change the “2020” to “2021” on your doorway. As noted above, we do hope to be able to gather as a family of faith to celebrate the final day of Christmas, which is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 10<sup>th</sup>. Ordinary Time begins on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully, we soon will return to something we know as ‘ordinary’.





## **CONSECRATION OF YOUR FAMILY**

In previous years, the Knights of Columbus have encouraged and assisted us in consecrating our families to The Holy Family on their Feast Day (this weekend). They did this, primarily, by making prayer cards available and providing information about this consecration. For anyone who wishes to partake of this powerful spiritual gift, here is the information you will need:

### **Consecration to the Holy Family on the Feast of the Holy Family**

The Knights of Columbus invite every family of our parishes to actively participate in the Consecration to the Holy Family.

Families today face many struggles, particularly in this unprecedented time of Covid-19. Despite these struggles — and partly as a result of conquering them — families have great capacity for love and joy, a joy that is strengthened through the peace and truth found in Christ. To assist families in living out this joy of Christ, Knights of Columbus Supreme Chaplain Archbishop William Lori has composed a prayer through which families may come together to consecrate themselves under the protection of the Holy Family. In this prayer, we ask for the aid or intercession of the perfect Son Jesus Christ, Mary the perfect mother, and Joseph who is a model for every father.

There are a number of ways we could prepare in advance of the Consecration:

- Pray together as a family
- Intentionally fast from something
- Perform an act of charity



## **Prayer to the Holy Family**

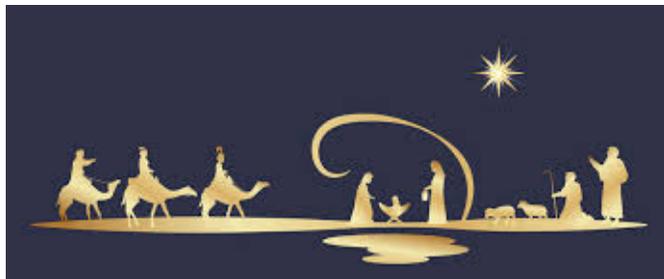
O Lord Jesus, you lived in the home of Mary and Joseph in Nazareth. There you grew in age, wisdom and grace as you prepared to fulfill your mission as our Redeemer. We entrust our family to you.

O Blessed Mary, you are the Mother of our Savior. At Nazareth you cared for Jesus and nurtured Him in the peace and joy of your home. We entrust our family to you.

O Saint Joseph, you provided a secure and loving home for Jesus and Mary, and gave us a model of fatherhood while showing us the dignity of work. We entrust our family to you.

Holy Family, we consecrate ourselves and our family to you. May we be completely united in a love that is lasting, faithful and open to the gift of new life. Help us to grow in virtue, to forgive one another from our hearts, and to live in peace all our days. Keep us strong in faith, persevering in prayer, diligent in our work, and generous toward those in need. May our home, O Holy Family, truly become a domestic church where we reflect your example in our daily life. Amen.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, pray for us!





**PRINCESS DURAN** Your continued offerings to the poor through the burning of votive candles at our Divine Mercy image allowed us to sponsor a second child through Chalice. Her name is Princess Duran, and we just received this letter from her mother:

*Dear Sponsor:*

*First of all, I would like to know about you and if you are asking about me, I am in a good condition. I wrote this letter for my daughter Princess Duran. She is my fourth child among my six children. She is now in kindergarten and she loves to play, dancing and singing. She is dreaming to become a teacher. I want a better future for her and to finish her studies. My husbands' work is a fisher and if there is bad weather he can't do his work. About me, I am a housewife. I am so glad because my daughter's dream is soon to be achieved because of you. You will not be disappointed because we will guide our child. My letter will end here. Thank you so much.*

*Thankfully, Reynalda (mother of Princess)*



## PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

For those who wish to pray for a priest of our Diocese each day, the calendar for January and February have now been posted to our website, under the "Bulletin" Tab.



The Roman Catholic Diocese of Sault Ste. Marie

Christmas Eve, 2020

Dear members of the diocesan family,  
Dear friends of all faith traditions,

It gives me great pleasure to address this letter to you just a week after the inauguration of my ministry as bishop for the diocese of Sault Ste. Marie. With Christmas arriving just around the corner, one joyous occasion follows another!

There is something special about this time of year. Even as we struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, hope bursts forth. We will have the chance to celebrate Christmas itself, for which I am grateful, and the new year carries with it the promise of a vaccine which will help us return to a more normal way of life.

To help combat this virus, residents of Ontario are being asked to enter another lockdown. Looking on the bright side, it will be a chance for us to slow down and spend time with our families and loved ones. Let us not forget that the reason for this "pause" is to protect the most vulnerable.

Many of us have experienced a loss this year, myself included. Christmas will feel different, no question about it. I invite all of us, therefore, to also remember those who may be feeling sad or alone at this time. Christmas is a chance for us to renew community, and this spirit of mutual communion is one of the great gifts Jesus gave to the world over 2000 years ago. Let's open that gift, and our hearts!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a most blessed and happy New Year!

Yours in Christ,  
+Thomas Dowd  
Bishop of Sault Ste. Marie

