

Mass Schedule for St. John the Baptist Parish, St. Bridget Parish, and Sacred Heart Parish ~ March 8<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>

Saturday March 7		
SJ	9:00am	Int. of Brian Brosso ~ Jim & Fran McGuire
SJ	5:00pm	Jayden Dowdall ~ Jason, Julie, & Justin Dowdall
Sunday March 8 ~ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent		
SJ	9:00am	Mass for the People of the Parish
SHP	9:00am	Deceased members of the LaFreniere family ~ Pat & Eadie LaFreniere
SB	10:30am	~Stations of the Cross~
SB	11:00am	Desmond Quigley ~ Denise Tobin
SJ	11:00am	Len Brady ~ Brady Family
Monday March 9		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
Tuesday March 10		
SB	9:00am	Cliff Kerr ~ Jean McShane
SJ	4:30pm	Mary Moore ~ Bob & Shirley Scott
Wednesday March 11		
SJ	9:00am	Murray Lee ~ Myrna Lee-De Cou
LL	10:00am	Lanark Lodge Mass
SJ	1:15pm	St. John Elementary School Mass Des McKenna ~ Gale & Marg McMunn
Thursday March 12		
SHP	9:00am	Yu Meng Long ~ Sylvie Bozozuk
SJ	12:00pm	Cora Thibeau ~ Howard & Anne Pledge
Friday March 13		
SJ	8:30am	Prayer for the Sick & Suffering
SJ	9:00am	Int. of Lucie & Renato Brun del Re ~ Jim & Fran McGuire
SJ	9:30am	Holy Adoration & Benediction
SJ & SHP	7:00pm	~Stations of the Cross~
Saturday March 14		
SJ	5:00pm	In thanks to St. Jude ~ Bonnie Switzer
Sunday March 15 ~ 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent		
SJ	9:00am	Theresa Somerville ~ Jon Paul LeBlanc & Emily McNaughton
SHP	9:00am	Helen Cameron ~ Cameron Family
SB	10:30am	~Stations of the Cross~
SB	11:00am	Norma Cameron ~ Jean McShane
SJ	11:00am	Mass for the People of the Parish

## PARISH FEATURE & FOCUS

The drama of the Third Sunday of Lent is not really about water. It is about the human heart. In Exodus 17, Israel is thirsty in the desert, but beneath the thirst is a deeper ache: "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" That is the real temptation. Not atheism, but suspicion. God has just divided the sea, rained down manna, and still they doubt. Before we judge them, we should smile gently at ourselves. In parish life, when attendance dips, when plans stall, when prayers seem unanswered, how quickly we ask the same question, quietly, respectfully, but sincerely: "Lord, are You really here?"

Then comes the woman at the well in John 4. She arrives at noon, the hour when no one wants to be outside. She carries not only a jar but a history. Jesus names her brokenness, not to shame her, but to free her, five husbands, a fractured story, and social isolation. And Jesus does something astonishing: He asks her for a drink. The Holy One makes Himself vulnerable. He is seeking her heart. He thirsts, not first for water, but for her redemption.

Jesus named her sins without crushing her dignity. He reveals Himself as Messiah without theatrics. And in that encounter, shame turns into a mission. She leaves her jar, her old way of drawing life, and runs to announce Christ. The outcast becomes an evangelist. St. Paul, in Romans 5, gives us the interpretive key: "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." Poured. Not measured. Not rationed. Poured. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. That is the Gospel in its pure form: God moves first. Grace precedes repentance. Mercy outruns merit.

In many of our homes, no visitor is denied water. Even before conversation begins, a glass is offered. Hospitality comes first. Today Christ stands in our parish and says, "Give me a drink." He desires our trust, our honesty, our wounds.

And here is the Eucharistic climax: the One who asked for water now gives His Body and Blood. From His pierced side flow blood and water, the sacraments of the Church. This altar is our well. The Eucharist is living water, not metaphorically but sacramentally: the very life of the risen Christ poured into us.

So let us come thirsty. Bringing our doubts, our fatigue, and our hidden sins. Let Him meet us. And then let's leave our jars behind. Let's go home, go to our families, our workplaces, our neighborhood, and say with joy, "Come and see a man who told me everything, and loved me still."

## LENTEN CONFESSIONS



**St. Mary's Church, Carleton Place** – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm  
**St. Francis de Sales Church, Smiths Falls** – TBD  
**St. Edward's Church, Westport** – Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30pm  
**St. John the Baptist Church, Perth** – Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00pm

## Lenten Mission 2026



Join us this Lent for a powerful 3-day encounter with God, as Fr. Emeka Onyeogubalu leads us in our 2026 Parish Lenten Mission. Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, during regular Mass times at St. John's Church.

### Stations of the Cross

Join us every Friday throughout Lent at St. John's Church & Sacred Heart Church at 7pm. Join us at St. Bridget's Church each Sunday throughout Lent at 10:30am!

### Holy Adoration & Benediction

On all Friday's during Lent, please join us at St. John's Church for extended Holy Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy prayers, & Benediction from 9:30am until 3pm.

Lent is the yearly celebration by the Church of its corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. During Lent, the Liturgy prepares the Catechumens to celebrate the Paschal Mystery by the various stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful for Easter as they recall their baptism and enter into penance in preparation for the greatest Feast of the year.

**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** are days of **Fast & Abstinence**. All Catholics ages 18-59 are to observe **fasting** and those 14 and older are to **abstain from meat** on those days.

**Penitential Discipline:** Penance is an important requirement of the Christian life. Fulfillment of this duty involves prayer, works of piety and charity, self-denial and fulfilling our obligations more faithfully. **Every Friday of the year, especially during Lent, is a penitential day.**

## SACRAMENTS

### Sacramental Preparation Classes!

#### First Communion & Reconciliation Candidates:

The next class is Sunday, **April 12<sup>th</sup>**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex.

#### Confirmation Candidates:

The next class is Sunday, **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, and begins with the 11am mass, followed by class in the Narthex.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

✠ **Project Rachel Spring Retreat:** Project Rachel at the Refuge will hold a retreat for post-abortive women in late April, 2026. Here you will find a beautiful, natural setting, companionship, and a welcome free of judgment or condemnation – healing is possible. Call 613-473-2679, in confidence, and see [stmarysrefuge.org/rachel](http://stmarysrefuge.org/rachel).

✠ **Archdiocese of Kingston 200th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land:** Join Fr. Justin and Fr. Price on a faith-filled pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 5-15, 2026. Walk in the footsteps of Our Blessed Lord in the places where the Word became Flesh. Space is limited to 40 pilgrims, so early registration is encouraged. Please see the itinerary in the church and this week's Flocknote.

## PRAYERS

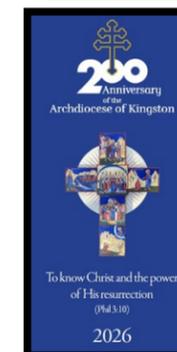
Please remember the sick in your prayers, including Maureen Czop, Jeannette Olivier, Marjorie Facette, Edith Lepine, Doris Quinn, Claudette Timmerman, Mary Rorwick, Susan Beaudoin Watson, David Small, Barbara Morrison, & Pascal Proulx. **Please remember those who have recently died** in your prayers, especially Stephen Tysick, Fr. Collins Okafor, Fr. Bill Steacy & Sabu Joseph, brother of Fr. Jacob Chelamootil, Edith Cordick, & James Russell. Jesus, I trust in You.

**In need of prayer?** Connect with our strong prayer warriors, Father Charles, Father Anthony, or one of our Parish Prayer teams through the Parish Office (for St. John's Pastoral Care, CWL, or KOC Prayer group). Jesus, I trust in You.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

[St. John Parish Meeting Place, 15 Church St, Perth]

CWL Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month @ 7pm
Monday Bible Study Group – Contact Jenny Salte for details.	Mondays @ 10am
Parish Council Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month @ 6:30pm.
Life Matters Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 10am
Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month @ 7pm
Pastoral Care Committee Meeting	TBD
Wednesday Bible Study Group – Contact Jenny Salte for details.	Wednesdays @ 7pm
St. John's Holy Face Group Monthly Meeting	Last Thursday of each month, after the noon Mass
Thursday Bible Study Group – Contact Evelyn Goodfellow for details.	Thursdays @ 1pm
Sunday Mass 11am Choir	Thursdays @ 7pm & Sundays @ 10:15am
St. John's Movie Club	TBD
Life Matters Men's Group – Contact Dave Lapointe for details.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month
Saturday Mass 5:00pm Choir	Saturdays @ 4:45pm



### 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Kingston The Jubilee Year Begins!

We began our celebrations for the 200th Anniversary Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Kingston on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>! Jubilee celebrations will take place throughout the year at the Parish, Deanery, and Archdiocesan levels. Keep an eye on the bulletin & Flocknote for parish and deanery events to come! Archdiocesan events can be found in the Fall edition of Journey, which can be found in your church today!

**200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage to St. Mary's Church**  
 Please join us on Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, St. Mary's Church (28 Hawthorne Avenue, Carleton Place) for Lenten Confessions and Adoration throughout the evening.

*"To know Christ and the Power of His resurrection"*

### St. John's 2025 Income Tax Statements

A reminder that 2025 income tax statements are available for pickup in the narthex. Please note that tax receipts are not being emailed, except by special request to the parish office, in order to ensure reliable delivery to all parishioners.