

Canadian Martyrs Church

100 Main Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 1C2

613-232-5347, office@canadianmartyrs.org, www.canadianmartyrs.org

Our community respectfully acknowledges that we are situated on the unceded ancestral lands and waters of the Algonquin people, on whose territory we live, pray, work, and grow in faith and understanding.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday-Friday at 11:30am

Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday at 10:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Tuesday-Friday at 10:45am

Saturday at 4:15pm

or call the office

2nd Sunday of Easter

April 15/16, 2023



Pastor

Fr. Tim Coonen, OMI

[Administrative Assistant](#)

Heather Duggan

[Pastoral Associate](#)

Sr. Matilda Owolagba

[Director of Religious Ed.](#)

Adele Casuga Lalonde

Pastoral Council

Sue-Anne Hess

Meetings: 1st Thurs., 7:00pm

[Finance Committee](#)

Joseph Duggan

[Development and Peace](#)

Contact office

Weekly Gatherings

[Christian Meditation](#)

Dorothy Wood

Mondays, 3pm

[Lectio Divina and Meditation](#)

Maureen Cerroni

Tuesdays, 8pm

[Evening Prayer](#)

Pierre LaViolette

Thursdays, 6:30pm

[Sunday Liturgy of the Word](#)

Sundays, 11:30am

[Via Zoom](#)

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

For Pope Francis, that his voice continues to be heard in a world badly in need of compassion, healing, and peace. We pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, that they take heed of the voices calling for social justice, for protection of the environment and natural resources, and for more equitable distribution of wealth, we pray to the Lord.

For our Indigenous brothers and sisters, that their hopes for positive steps towards reconciliation and reparation will be met by both government and church bodies, we pray to the Lord.

For the young people in our parish, that they may find inspiration to lead a life of generosity and compassion in the lessons of the Gospel and the teachings of the church, we pray to the Lord.

That during this Easter season, the message of the risen Christ continues to fill us with gratitude for God's love and hope for our redemption, we pray to the Lord.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Carol Bazinet, Isabella Boles, Devin Bursey, Sandy Cano, Frank Chauvin, Kevin Dashney, Eileen De Rosayro, John Dorner, Eileen Kearns, Sharon Kelly, and Marigold Kenney

MASS INTENTIONS

Wed., April 19 For peace by Yvonne Bennett; **Sat., April 22** Jim Manion by Nancy MacDonald; **Wed., May 3** Goldie Major by Clara and Tom Hamory

Mass intentions are available for weekday Masses and Saturday Mass for a \$15.00 stipend. Please contact the parish office.

Our Parish News

THANK YOU!

The Pastoral Team would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make our Holy Week and Easter Sunday celebrations special. From the volunteers who helped with the preparations for the Liturgy, the lectors who proclaimed the readings and prayers, to the volunteers who provided food for the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday receptions and helped with the set-up and clean-up, you are all very much appreciated. We could not have done it without you!

FIRST COMMUNION

Rose, Fred, Mia, Emil, Christopher, Chloe, Nicholas, Adam and Vivienne will be joining us at the Lord's Table when they receive their First Holy Communion this May. Please remember them, their families and the catechist team in your prayers.

LUNCH AND LEARN REBOOT!

The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to announce that they will be rebooting the Lunch and Learn and Evening Faith Formation programs. In order to help them plan programs for this year, you are invited to let them know what areas of our faith you would like to learn more about by filling out their survey, [click here](#).

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Truth & Reconciliation Committee is looking for parishioners interested in Land Acknowledgements and how to make them more meaningful as an act of Reconciliation. For more information on how to acknowledge territory, please visit: <https://native-land.ca/resources/territory-acknowledgement/>. If you are interested in helping the T&R Committee, please [email](#) or call the office.

LIVE THE MONTH OF MARY

You're invited to experience the month of May in communion with Living with Christ. Each day of the month, receive texts about and prayers to the Virgin Mary by email, FREE of charge. [Sign up here](#).

MEETINGS/EVENTS

- April 16:** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10am
- April 18:** Faith Formation Committee, 7pm
- April 22:** Truth and Reconciliation Committee, 1pm
- April 30:** Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10am

ARCHDIOCESE'S NEW WEBSITE

The Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall has launched its [brand-new site](#). Click this link to visit the Events page to see what is happening in the diocese: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/allevnts/>. For national or international groups and movements, visit the Resources page: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/resources/> or Opportunities to Meet Christ: <https://ottawacornwall.ca/opportunities-to-meet-christ/>.

VOCATION REFLECTION

"So I Send You..."

by Richard Beaudette, OMI, Vocation Team

In the Gospel, Jesus once again expresses mercy when he encounters the disciples gathered together. There is no denunciation of their cowardice, their abandonment of him during his passion. Rather, he empowers them by breathing the Spirit upon them and sending them out on mission: "as the Father has sent me, so I send you". Jesus handed over his mission to the disciples in the upper room and to us. Read [the full reflection here](#).



Handicraft Holy Land Christians

On the weekend of **April 22/23**, we will welcome our special guest from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after Mass on Saturday and Sunday will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask for your support through conscience prayers and by purchasing their unique products.

Purchasing these unique products supports the Christian families in maintaining their presence in the Holy Land as these handmade carvings are their main source of income. May God Bless you for your generosity, for your help and for your prayers.

Cash, debit, credit cards and cheques will be accepted.

You can visit and support us at
www.HolylandChristians.ca

Diocesan and Community News

CONVERSATIONS FOR OUR TIMES

Please take note of the next webinar in St. Basil's parish series "Conversations for Our Times" on the topic of *Medical Assistance in Dying through a Catholic Lens*, featuring Dr. Christopher De Bono as the main presenter. We invite all who are interested in this timely and controversial topic to join us by Zoom on Sunday **April 16**, 2:30 - 4pm. The session will not be recorded, and [it is necessary to register](#).

WEBINAR ON THE REPUDIATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

The Centre on the Churches, Truth, and Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples at the Faculty of Theology of St. Paul University and the Centre Oblat - A Voice for Justice are hosting a webinar on Wed., **April 19**, from 7-9pm that will explore the history, context and legacy of the doctrine of discovery, including its recent repudiation by the Vatican. The panelists for the event are Professor Christine Jamieson (Concordia University), Canon Lawyer Noah MacDonald (Archdiocese of Toronto), and Archbishop Don Bolen (Archdiocese of Regina). To register, [click here](#). A Zoom link will be sent on the day of the event after registration. A recording will be available after the event.

I'M REDUCING FOOD WASTE WORKSHOP

From your grocery list to your storing and cooking habits, discover all the easy tricks you can use to waste as little as possible. This participatory workshop on **April 25** at 6:30pm gives you the opportunity to share your positive successes, while offering the keys to understanding how to reduce food waste, one step at a time. Celebrate Earth Day by [registering](#) for this virtual workshop.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN ISRAEL-PALESTINE AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCHES

What is the role of Canadian churches in advocacy regarding Palestine? Join Anglican, Lutheran, United, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic leaders for a conversation about how churches in Canada are involved in advocating for and with partners in Palestine, and what next steps may be needed in a context of new developments in a deteriorating situation on Thursday, **April 27**, 7-9pm at the Amphitheatre at St. Paul University, 110 Hazel St. Please click [here](#) to register to attend in person or online. For more info, click [here](#).

"BE CLOTHED WITH POWER" CONFERENCE

A spring conference, **April 29** from 8am - 9pm at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 194 Fourth Avenue, including speakers Ralph Martin and Bishop Scott McCaig. Be filled with the Lord's power in the season of Easter. Hosted by Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services of Ottawa. For more info: [click here](#) or email: sullivanbrian9@gmail.com

HIKE FOR HOSPICE

This annual tradition brings together families and friends to hike in honour and in memory of someone special, while raising funds and awareness for Hospice Care Ottawa's vital programs that provide support for individuals with life-limiting illnesses and their families. [Register today](#) for the hike on **June 3** starting at Carleton University, invite your friends and family to join you, donate or volunteer and help raise funds to provide comfort when it matters the most.

Events at Galilee Centre, Arnprior

April 22: *Women of Faith: Reclaiming Significant Ceremony*, 8:00am - 4:00pm

May 4: Spring Luncheon, Reservations Required

May 5: Monthly Walk at Galilee - A Time of Reflection, 10am, no registration required

May 25-27: *Opening to Goodness* Spring Retreat

June 22: BBQ Summer Luncheon, Reservations Required

July 1: Strawberry Social, 1pm

Reservations not required

August 20-27: 7 Day Directed Retreat

September 15-17: Ron Rolheiser Retreat

More information coming soon. Click here to [pre-register](#).

To register for events at Galilee Centre, 398 John Street, North, Arnprior ON, call 613-623-4242, ext. 21 or email info@galileecentre.com. For info and cost of programs: www.galileecentre.com.

Faith's Darkness by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Why does God stay hidden? Why doesn't God reveal himself so concretely and physically that no one could doubt his existence?

I like Karl Rahner's perspective on this. God isn't hidden, he says, we just don't have the eyes to see God because our eyes aren't attuned to that kind of reality. "We are just discovering today that one cannot picture God to oneself in an image that has been carved out of the wood of the world. This experience is not the genesis of atheism, but the discovery that the world is not God." We struggle with doubt because we can't picture God's existence, imagine God's reality, or feel God's presence in our normal ways. At a certain point, our minds, imaginations and hearts simply run out of gas, out of room, out of feeling, and leave us dry, unable to nail down the reality of God in the way we're used to nailing down most everything else. The reality of God is elusive to our conscious minds and hearts because we can't picture, imagine, or feel God in the usual way we do these things.

Why is that? Rahner's analysis provides a clue: we struggle with faith because the world is not God and we can't walk around the landscape of spirit in the same way we stroll around in this world. Why not? Precisely because God and the other world are spirit and we are being invited into a reality whose hugeness is beyond conception, whose silence is beyond language, and whose reality is beyond the physical and all that we can see, touch, taste, smell, and feel in the normal way. God is life, light, love, energy, vastness, and simplicity beyond our categories.

God has a different metaphysics. Thus, it's easy to have doubts about God's existence, and not just if we are young and still over-enthralled by the reality of this world, its stunning beauty, the promises it dangles before us, and its overpowering physical character. In a world where the physical defines everything, it can be difficult to believe in anything else. But that struggle, ironically, also afflicts those who are mature in faith, in fact, in a more painful way. It was Jesus, after all, not some wayward youth who cried out: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me!" and who cautioned us to pray daily so as "not to be put to the test." It was this test exactly that Jesus had in mind. What is "the test"?

The classical mystics speak of two "dark nights of the soul," two painful, purifying periods of life we must all

undergo. The first of these it calls "the night of the senses." This darkness, they tell us, refers to a period of painful trial which helps purify our motivation so as to make us less selfish. But these same mystics assure us that, during this first dark night, we are given consolation in our faith. God feels near. The feeling is like that of taking a bitter-tasting medicine that we know will make us better.

The second night, "the night of the spirit" is much more "the test" to which the Lord's Prayer refers. What happens here is that God seemingly disappears. All our old securities in faith dissolve and all efforts to regroup ourselves through former faith-practices come up dry. God seems unreal to our heads and hearts, even as, in the depth of our being, something else is happening which belies what's happening on the surface, namely, even as our thoughts and feelings about God seem empty, we are, in our more important decisions and values, riveting ourselves ever more firmly to God and the other world.

Such are the dynamics of faith. Sometimes what feels like doubt and atheism is the beginning of real belief. Nicholas Lash, professor of Divinity at Cambridge, once made this comment about our struggle:

"We need do no more than notice that most of our contemporaries still find it 'obvious' that atheism is not only possible, but widespread and that, both intellectually and ethically, it has much to commend it. This view might be plausible if being an atheist were a matter of not believing that there exists 'a person without a body' who is 'eternal, free, able to do anything, knows everything' and is 'the proper object of human worship and obedience, the creator and sustainer of the universe.' If, however, by 'God' we mean the mystery, announced in Christ, breathing all things out of nothing into peace, then all things have to do with God in every move and fragment of their being, whether they notice this and suppose it to be so or not. Atheism, if it means deciding not to have anything to do with God, is thus self-contradictory and, if successful, self-destructive."

Lash isn't saying that a personal God doesn't exist, but that God's person and being are of a different order, beyond the wood of this world, and that over-powering light can feel like darkness.

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Parishioners can now quickly donate to the church with their mobile devices. Just scan the QR code and donate securely through the parish's Canada Helps page.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PARISH REGISTRATION: The registration form is available at the back of the church or can be filled out online at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/register/>.

DONATIONS: PAD forms are available on the Welcome table if you wish to make donations to the church through direct deposit. If you wish to donate via credit card, you can through Canada Helps on the secure link at <https://canadianmartyrs.org/donate/>. Please call the office if you would like a box of offering envelopes. Thank you!

PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Please call or email the office to inform us of shut-ins or people in hospital so that we can arrange a visit, bring Holy Communion and administer the Sacrament of the Sick if desired.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: Contact the office a minimum of 3 months before the baptism. Baptismal instructions are required.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Contact the office to set up the initial interview. It is recommended that the first contact be a minimum of 6 months before the wedding.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MINUTES: The minutes of Pastoral Council meetings are available at <http://canadianmartyrs.org/pastoral-council-minutes/>

FOOD CUPBOARD: Non-perishable food items for the Centretown Emergency Food Centre are collected on an on-going basis. Please place food items in the crates in the church foyer.

MILK BAGS: Milk bags are collected for making into sleeping mats. Please bring in your milk bags (outer coloured bag) and put them in the baskets under the table in the hall near the breezeway.