

SAINT HEDWIG'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Michal Pajak, O.M.I., Pastor

Br. Grzegorz Loska, O.M.I., Resident Pastoral Assistant

Fr. Jerry Gauvreau, C.C., Part-time Associate Pastor

35 Karol Wojtyla Square,

P.O. Box 309, Barry's Bay, Ontario K0J 1B0

OFFICE/RECTORY: 613-756-2243

Web: sainthedwigparish.ca Email: office@sainthedwigparish.ca

Office hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 9 a.m. - Noon & 1 - 2 p.m.



Confessions: 15 minutes before Mass and other times (see below) • **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:** Monday to Friday, from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. • Sundays, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Recitation of the Rosary:** 30 minutes before each Mass
Last Week's Attendance: 5 p.m.:190; 8 a.m.:110; 11 a.m.:218: Total: 518

First Sunday of Lent

Feb 22nd, 2026

Monday

February 23

St. Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr

8:00 a.m. +Nicholas Stoppa by Jacqueline Stoppa
4:30 p.m. Intentions of Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College

Tuesday

February 24

Ferial

8:00 a.m. Intentions of the Perry family by the family

Wednesday

February 25

Ferial

8:00 a.m. Stoppa & Peplinskie families by Isadore & Audrey
12:00 p.m. +Peter Brotton by Clementine & family

Thursday

February 26

Ferial

8:00 a.m. +Tessie & Frank Pecarskie & sisters & brothers by Sally

Friday

February 27

St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor

8:00 a.m. +Joe & Eileen Strack by Rick & family
6:00 p.m. **Stations of the Cross** [Led by The Domestic Church]

Saturday

February 28

Ferial

8:00-8:45 a.m. Confessions
9:00 a.m. +Mark Golka by Russ & RoseAnne

Second Sunday of Lent

March 1st, 2026

Saturday

4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Confessions
5:00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Etmanskie & Breen families by Shirley

Sunday

8:00 a.m. +Raymond & Marilyn Mask by Mask family
11:00 a.m. Intentions of the Parishioners

Sunday (March 1 st , 2026) Second Sunday of Lent	5:00 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Readers of the Word	Karen Yakabuskie	Nicholas Rumleskie	Carl Schingten
Holy Communion	Deacon Robert Probert	Deacon Jean-Nil Chabot	Br. Grzegorz Loska, OMI
Ushers	Duncan Barber (crew captain) and ushers	Stanley Rumleskie (crew captain) and ushers	Daniel Shalla (crew captain) and ushers

Offerings: Last Sunday: \$3,720.75; Building Maintenance: \$665.50; Heat & Fuel: \$2,905.00;
 Initial: \$5.00

*Let us pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jeanette Stoppa who's Funeral Mass was on Friday, February 20th, 2026.
 Let us also pray for the sick and the homebound members of the community.*

Important Invitation From the Bishop:

Parishioners of Pembroke Diocese are invited to attend one of the pastoral planning information meetings that will be held in all five deaneries of the diocese during the first weeks of Lent. Bishop Brehl and members of the diocesan steering committee will present relevant pastoral, statistical and financial data to help equip parishioners in ongoing dialogue and discernment on the future of the diocese. If you cannot make the local meeting in your home deanery, please feel welcome to attend any of the scheduled meetings.

Barry's Bay Deanery: Sunday, March 1st at John Bosco School, Barry's Bay - 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Journey through Lent Series: As we journey through Lent 2026, the First Sunday of Lent video of the series titled "Journey through Lent" is now available on the CCCB website: <https://www.cccb.ca/lent/>

Lenten Lamentation: After the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sundays during Lent (except the 2nd), there will be a Lenten Lamentation or Gorzkie Zale in Polish.

Men's Rosary: Come for Rosary prayer open to men on Monday, February 2nd, 7:00 p.m. in St. Hedwig's Church. Men are invited, fathers bring your sons as well.

Euchre: The next Euchre games will be held on Sunday March 8th and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. Cost: \$5.00.

Sacred Heart League: The SHL will meet on Tuesday February 24th at 2pm in the Church Hall.

Altar-Server Training: As a reminder, Altar-server training will continue each second Saturday of the month. Starting March 8th it will happen after the 5pm Mass and will include pizza dinner and a movie in the church hall. New servers welcome.

Maintenance Position: A Part-time Maintenance/Groundskeeping position (with possibility of more hours) is open at St. Hedwig Church. For a complete job description, please contact the office at office@sainthedwigparish.ca Please apply by Friday, March 6, 2026.

Sacred Music Concert: On Saturday, February 28th, at 7:00pm in St. Hedwig's Church, there will be an all-female-voice sacred music concert entitled 'Sub Tuum Praesidium', presented by members of the St. Wigbert's Scholars. Admission by donation.

Pro-life News and Other Social Issues: There is a very alarming bill before the Canadian parliament, Bill C-9. If you wish a copy of this letter expressing the opinion and concerns of the Canadian Bishops regarding Bill C-9, it is available on the tables at the back of the church. You can also sign a CLC petition on-line. Just google "Campaign Life Coalition on-line petition for Bill C-9".

Dr. Keith Cassidy Lecture: Our Lady Seat of Wisdom College invites you to the annual Dr. Keith Cassidy Lecture on Wednesday, March 4th at 7:30pm in St. Hedwig's Church Hall in Barry's Bay. Founder of the Gregory the Great Institute, our guest speaker Dr. Ryan N.S. Topping, will be lecturing on 'Cardinal Newman Among the Doctors'. Admission is free and open to all. Light refreshments will be served. For those who are unable to attend in person, the event will be livestreamed and available on the College's website (www.seatofwisdom.ca).

2026 Women's Retreat Combermere: All women are warmly invited to a weekend retreat at Elim Lodge, March 13-15, 2026; \$365(696 Elim Lodge Rd. Lakehurst, Ontario K0L 1J0). Led by the team from Madonna House – Shatzi Duffy and Fr. Zach Romanowsky. Register Here: <https://forms.gle/kazuMjt1RUZbHr9M8>. For more information, please call Astrid (Elim retreat) at 905 377-0688.

From Fr. Michal:

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

- 1) Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7 2) Romans 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 3) Matthew 4:1-11

Today's readings, as we begin the season of Lent, give us two special reminders that will help us on our journey: Who God is and who we are as human beings.

The reading from Genesis presents our creation story: The Lord God formed us out of the clay of the ground, and animated us by breathing life into us. Without God, we simply would not exist.

Yet from the very beginning, it has been hard for us as human beings to remember this basic fact. Like Adam and Eve, it is very easy for us to fall into the trap of wanting to be like God – wanting to be in charge of our lives and wanting to know good from evil. We certainly can go through our lives reacting to our problems and challenges as if we're in charge of everything, and forget to rely on the wisdom and guidance of God. Perhaps, however, as we begin our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, our focus should be to remember to put God first in our lives, and to wrest out of our lives anything we want to put before God.

Jesus gives us a masterful example of how to do just that in the Gospel, as he's confronted with various temptations by the devil. For every temptation that Satan puts before him, Jesus counters with a reminder that God comes first. Tempted to make stones into bread after 40 days of fasting, Jesus notes that we live not only on bread, but on the word of God. Tempted to fall down and let God save him, he reminds the devil that he is not to put God to the test. Finally, tempted with all the riches of the world if he only worships Satan, Jesus counters that God alone should be worshiped. Jesus gives us a clear model: In all temptations to hunger, power and wealth, we are to remember that God, our Creator, comes first.

As we begin our own challenging journey of Lent, let us be assured by the words of Paul in today's second reading. Although sin abounds in our world, God's grace abounds even more. As we struggle in the weeks ahead to put God first, to remove from our lives the obstacles to our union with God, God gives us graces to help us in our struggle. We are never alone on the journey when we strive to come closer to God – God is always waiting to give us any help we need, if only we remember to turn to him. Let us face the Lent ahead with the courage and strength of Jesus.

Masses Transferred to Fr. Jerry Gauvreau:

+Thomas & John & Michael Yandernoll by Raymond (x5), +Bridget Gutoskie by Teresa, +Leonard Trader by Andrew & Catherine Etmanski, +Fr. Norbert Cybulski by Teresa Chapeskie, +Bridget Gutoskie by Theresa Trader, For the Souls in Purgatory, +David & Andrew Brotton by Peter & Clementine & family, +Frances & Frank S. Zilney by Peter & Clementine & family, +Monica LeDrew & Boyd Kelso by Peter & Clementine & family, +Stanley & Martha Brotton, brothers & sisters & family by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, +Victor, Rose, Victor Jr., Bruno & Melissa Stoppa by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, For Thanksgiving & Blessing on family by Peter & Clementine Brotton & family, +Dr. Jana Weider by Elena Afelskie, +Les Mellor by Elena Afelskie, +Ronnie Frew by Elena Afelskie, Deceased members of the Culshaw & Lynch families by Elena Afelskie, Deceased members of the Afelskie & Fitzpatrick families by Elena Afelskie, +Pamela George & deceased family members by Constance Martin, +Benny Lehovitch by S.H.L., +Anne Nieman by S.H.L., +Florence Peplinskie by S.H.L., +Barbara Dombroskie by S.H.L., +Fr. Mervin Coulas by S.H.L.