

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 25, 2026

Intentions:

January 25 - For the parishioners of St. Gabriel & St. Michael parishes.

Mass Intentions: \$15.00

Offertory Collection:

January 11 - T.B.A.

January 18 - T.B.A. Thank You

January 25

Conversion of Saint Paul: The conversion of Paul was a turning point in the history of the early Church. Saul, as Paul was first known, was a tentmaker from Tarsus who zealously persecuted the followers of Christ. While travelling on the road to Damascus, he was struck down amidst a blinding light from heaven. According to the account in Acts of the Apostles (9.1-22; 22.3-16; 26.12-18), a voice asked, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Following the instructions he was given, Saul headed into Damascus and began proclaiming Jesus. Threatened with death for his actions, Paul escaped the city by being lowered in a basket over the city wall. Paul's zeal for the risen Jesus led him to become a passionate follower and later a teacher of the nations. The letters, or epistles, of Paul offer us a window into the early Church.

January 28

Saint Thomas Aquinas: Saint Thomas Aquinas is one of the greatest minds in the history of the Church. He was born near Aquino, Italy about 1225. From an early age he posed questions of great theological depth; his family sent him at the age of five to be educated by the Benedictines in Monte Cassino. While his family was pious, they did not approve when 19-year-old Thomas joined the newly formed Dominicans, going so far as to imprison Thomas in the family castle. Once released, he studied in Italy and Germany, where, ironically, some of his classmates named this great thinker "the dumb ox," a name which prompted his teacher, Albert the Great, to proclaim: "We call him the dumb ox, but in his teaching he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world."

With Albert, he developed the theological Scholastic method, which dominated Catholic teaching for centuries. A prodigious writer, his most famous work is the *Summa Theologica*, one of the greatest examples of theological thought ever composed. Many of his hymn texts, such as *Pange lingua*, *Tantum ergo* and *Adore te devote*, are still used today.

A man of towering intellect, Thomas was also a humble mystic. He died in 1274, was canonized in 1323, and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1567. In 1880, he was proclaimed a patron saint of universities and schools.

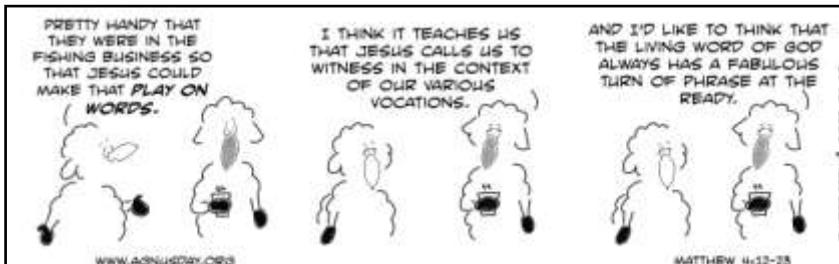
"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary".

"To love is to will the good of the others".

~ Saint Thomas Aquinas ~

Reflection: Every encounter with Jesus provokes a response; this gospel shows a response of discipleship that is quick and decisive. Our own call to discipleship comes at our baptism, but unlike the disciples in the gospel our response isn't usually so quick and decisive. We spend our whole life trying to see the great Light that is the Savior of the world. But we practice the following of Jesus in the simple, everyday things that come our way: the friend who needs a listening ear, the elderly parent who needs a comforting phone call, the sick child who interrupts our sleep. In all of these instances do we hear Jesus' refrain: repent? Turn from ourselves toward those in need. Turn from darkness to light. (Living Liturgy, p.50)

Vincentian Meditation: "Lord Jesus, teach me by your example. Make me, through the vigor of my efforts, set the world on fire. I want to give myself to you, body and soul, heart and mind and spirit so that I may always do what gladdens you. In your mercy, grant me the grace to have you continue in me and through me your saving work."
-St. Vincent de Paul- (McKenna, Praying with Vincent, p.67)



Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for the sick among our families and friends, especially for Roy Campbell, Linda Cassidy, Patricia Cassidy, Suzanne Lafontaine, Priscilla Rowley, and Lorraine Stafford. *The names will remain on the list until we are otherwise advised.*

NOTE:

- Volunteers needed for our annual Pancake Supper on February 17th. Money donations towards expenses greatly appreciated. Please see Martine or Suzanne.
- 2025-2026 Sunday Missals are available at the rear of the church. Suggested donation in \$8.00.

Holy Humour

At one point, the council of cardinals decided that they wanted to make Rome an all-Catholic city. Since the Jews were one of the smallest populations, they decided to try throwing them out as a test case. The head rabbi was summoned and told of this decision. The rabbi protested, saying that the Jews had been there longer than the Christians, and that such an arbitrary decision should not be made without some debate. Thus, it was agreed that the Pope would debate one of the rabbi's. If the rabbi won, the Jews could stay. If the Pope won, the Jews would have to leave.

The head rabbi went back to the rabbinical council and said that a champion must be chosen. No one was too eager, as the Pope was well known as an intellectual and religious heavyweight. Finally, a Basque rabbi was chosen. As Basque was one of the few languages that the Pope didn't speak (this was before Hebrew was revived), the debate was to be carried out in sign language.

The Pope starts off the debate by making a sweeping gesture. [Hands and arms in at chest; hands move up and out until arms in scarecrow position; could be mistaken as symbolism for a rising sun.]

The rabbi responds by pointing adamantly at the ground.

The Pope thinks a bit, then holds up three fingers.

The rabbi holds up one finger.

The Pope begins to take communion.

The rabbi pulls out an apple and begins eating it.

At this point, the Pope concedes the debate.

The Pope returns to the council of cardinals, who ask what happened. [Begin repeating gestures.]

"Well, I said, 'God is everywhere', and he said, 'and God is right here'. I then said 'God is a trinity', and he said, 'no, God is just one'. As an act of good faith, I began to take the body of Christ in communion. Then he pulled out an apple to show the sin in us all. He'd knocked me down point for point, so I decided to concede the debate."

The rabbi returns to his fellows, who ask what happened.

[Repeat gestures again.]

"Well, he said, 'you all gotta leave', and I said, 'no, we're staying right here'. Then he said 'you have three days', and I said, 'not one of us is leaving'. Then he broke for lunch, so I started eating mine."

Pastoral Directory

Baptisms:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
Financial Council Chair:	Janne Campbell	832-4290
Pastoral Council Chair:	Martine Messier	808-4573
Mass Intentions & Bulletin:	Marilyn Deslauriers	222-3762
Pastoral Care:	Father Anthony Nwaohiri	623-3419
Advertising Ministry:	Lorraine Brisson	832-3351

EMERGENCY: anwaohiri@gmail.com For emergencies, email this address with EMERGENCY in the subject or call the church office at 613-623-3419.

Lost and Found: Periodically, please check the lost and found basket at the church entrance for articles you may have left behind.

Sts Michael and Gabriel helpinghand ministry: Her objective is to serve needy families periodically in a timely and confidential manner. More details will be announced soon. The administrators can be reached at stmichaelshelpinghands@gmail.com or (613) 623-3419.

West Carleton Food Access Centre: (WCFAC) Please remember our local Food Bank each week by donating items to St. Gabriel's grocery cart. Cash donations of \$20.00 and over will receive a tax receipt. Please include your name and address on the envelope. See Suzanne Lee if you have any questions. Thank you for your support.



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All Welcome



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Weekly Eucharist

St. Gabriel's (Constance Bay) **St. Michael's** (Fitzroy Harbour)

Sunday 11:00 am Mass

Saturday 4:00 pm Mass

Sunday 9:00 am Mass

live streaming link on YouTube St. Michael's Mass at 9 am Sunday

StMStG-Live

Confessions and Sacrament Of the Sick are also available by request.
Please contact Fr. Anthony directly to book an appointment.

Pastoral Directory on inside flap