



Rawdon-Mascouche-Kilkenny

Pentecost 2026



Located in the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and Huron-Wendat people

My dearly loved sisters and brothers of Christ Church Rawdon, Grace Church Mascouche, and St. John the Baptist Kilkenny. Six months ago, we began our journey through the church year. That journey began on the First Sunday of Advent when we sang 'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord', 'Sleepers Wake', and 'People Look East'. Advent is a short four-week season which prepared us for the seasons of Christmas and Epiphany. The Season of Christmas we remember with the reading from Luke 2 that is carved into our hearts: *'...While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger...'*; and the Season of Epiphany we remember the arrival of the Magi, the presentation of Jesus at the temple, and the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. We ended the Season of Epiphany with a glimpse of Jesus' majesty on the Mount of Transfiguration – and from that moment when we first see the divine Jesus, we, now aware of his Glory, see how far we are from the people we are called to be. Responding to this awareness, we knelt on Ash Wednesday, received ashes on our heads, read Psalm 51 *'Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin...'* worked to rend our hearts and committed ourselves to a holy Lent. We stood on the Stone Pavement and at Golgotha where Our Lord was judged, condemned, scourged, crucified, and died. We heard the good news of the Resurrection on Easter morning as shared by Mary Magdalene that he had risen: *'the angel said [to the women], 'do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead"'*. We spent 40 days with the risen Jesus, learning as he opened our minds to the understanding of scripture. We watched Jesus ascend to heaven on Ascension Day, and on Pentecost we read of the Apostles receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit – the Spirit which lives in all baptized, the Spirit which equips us for ministry, for the work of building the Kingdom through acts of justice, reconciliation, and mercy. We observed and celebrated all of these events from the first Sunday of December through to the end of May. Having completed this journey, we arrive at the long Season of Pentecost, a season which is also called Ordinary Time.

Ordinary Time is when we do the work of being church: the work to seek and serve Christ in those around us; the work to see Jesus in the poor, hungry, naked, and lonely in our community. If we see, but do not act; we fail to do that which Jesus asks of us, for seeing must call us to action. When we see those around us who are poor, hungry, lonely, naked, isolated... our responsibility as baptized members of the Church – which is the Body of Christ – is to address those needs. The commandment is to FEED the hungry, to CLOTHE the naked, to VISIT the lonely and isolated, to BRING RELIEF to the poor, to proclaim JUSTICE and to share MERCY. When we do these things, we are feeding and clothing and visiting and caring for Jesus in our midst. Though this season is called 'Ordinary Time', when we, individually and/or as a community, do the work Jesus commissioned us to do, the Ordinary becomes Extraordinary, and the Kingdom of God is made real among us.

Part of how we make the Ordinary Extraordinary and serve those in need is by the offerings which we make. Offerings come in many forms. Prayer is the foundation of our work as the Body of Christ – and making time for prayer and study of scripture is an important part of how we make real the Kingdom of God in our midst. Offerings of time and the sharing of our talents – construction, music, painting, cleaning, delivering meals, visiting, driving those without transport, aiding with book work and other administrative tasks for those who require assistance, assisting the food banks and shelters in our communities, and a thousand other activities are all expressions of how we build the Kingdom and share Good News – all of these tasks can be done with an awareness that *'when you did it for the least of these, you did it for me'*.

An important expression of thanksgiving and an important way that we participate in the work of the Kingdom in our midst is by our tithes and offerings. We will be working on stewardship development throughout Ordinary Time, for we have much to be grateful for, and much to accomplish to see our congregations flourish and the Gospel preached and the ill and infirmed visited and the penitent reconciled and brought back into fellowship. How much you should give on a weekly or monthly basis is a question for you to prayerfully consider. Many people faithfully give their \$10-\$20-\$50-\$100/week and have done so without change for several years. We are all aware of how inflation has increased costs, and those on pensions and fixed incomes / union wages have also seen their incomes increase year over year because of inflation adjustments. Scripture suggests giving a percentage of our income to the work of the Church. Ten percent was the target in Scripture. Because much of the work of the church – schools, shelters, hospitals – is now carried out by our government and funded by taxes, a common suggestion for a modern 'full tithe' is five percent.

We are now in June. We have each recently received our income tax returns. I ask that you take out your Federal return and look at 2 lines: LINE 70 [this is your taxable income], and LINE 120 [donations and gifts]; and that you work with the table below to determine the percentage that you are giving:

LINE 120: [redacted] x 3.6 = [redacted] [A]. LINE 70: [redacted] [B].

Now divide A by B = [redacted] % [C]. C is the percentage of your taxable income that you give to charity.

NB: we multiply Line 120 x 3.6 to reverse the math done on Schedule 9 which changes sums donated into their tax-deductible value.

Whatever your “C” might be, I ask that you prayerfully consider what you can do to increase your support of the ministry of Word and Sacrament in your community, and that you work towards a baseline donation rate of 5%. If your giving rate is already at or above 5%, prayerfully consider growing your giving rate to a full biblical tithe. If you give \$20/week [= \$1,040/year], this represents 1% of a Line 70 income of \$104,000; 2% of a Line 70 income of \$52,000; 3% of a Line 70 income of \$34,666; 4% of a Line 70 income of \$26,000, or 5% of a Line 70 income of \$20,800. It is important to remember that almost half of your charitable donations come back to you in tax savings. This means that giving 5% has a true cost to you of approximately 2.5%; and giving 10% has a true cost of approximately 5%.

Here is my personal math for 2025. My Line 120 x 3.6 = \$2,286; my Line 70 [taxable income] = \$37,587. My 2025 giving rate = 6%

The work of our congregations requires your donations to sustain ministry. At Christ Church Rawdon, approximately one third of the operating budget comes from donations; at Grace Church Mascouche donations also account for approximately one third of the operating budget; at St. John the Baptist Kilkenny, donations account for more than 85% of the operating budget. To make it easier to fulfill your giving target, you can set-up a giving account with www.canadahelps.org – links for Christ Church and Grace Church are below – and have your regular monthly donations debited from your bank or charged to a credit card. For Kilkenny, you can e-transfer your donations directly to their parish account – this email address is found below. As we grow in faith, and grow as congregations, we need to express our thanks for blessings received and share in the work to build God’s Kingdom in our own back yard – donations of prayer, time, talent, and treasure are all required to accomplish the work which Jesus gave to us just before he ascended – to ‘go to all the corners of the world; to preach Good News; to baptize in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit’.

I pray you a blessed Ordinary Time. May you, in your prayers, your study of scripture, your participation at worship, and your acts of kindness and generous gift, make this into an Extraordinary Time for the revelation of the Grace of God and the Love of God in our community.

R. A. Clark+

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Donate on-line at www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/70387

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Donate on-line at www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-margarets-anglican-church/

St-John-in-the-Wilderness, Kilkenny: 978 Chemin de la Chapelle, St. Hippolyte

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Donate via e-transfer by sending e-donations to churchstjohnthebaptistkilkenny@gmail.com

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