

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time-Second Sunday of Lent - Year C

Diocesan Theme: **Christ is Everything for Us!** "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life".
(John 6.68).

Parish Mission Statement: **Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples!** Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal parish through the liturgy, faith formation and sacramental life, provides opportunities for members to develop their faith and service to others.

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." Luke 6:43 Conversely, it should be said that a good tree does bear good fruit. This must be our goal. By saying that "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit," Jesus is teaching us the supernatural effect of living a holy life. When we live a life grounded in Christ, the effect will be that good fruit is born from our lives. The life of grace is accomplished by focusing upon your own health and spiritual well-being. You become this "good tree" by doing the basics well. First, pray, pray well and pray hard. Let your life be centered in prayer. Second, learn your faith. Listen to the Gospels, learn all that God has revealed through the Church, read the teachings of the saints, and learn from other holy people. Third, live a good sacramental life. Go to Mass, celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, understand the grace of your Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, etc. Know that the Sacraments nourish you in powerful ways and embrace that nourishment with your whole heart. Reflect, today, upon the important mission you have been given to go forth and to bear an abundance of good fruit in our world. This mission can be accomplished only as a result of a life of holiness. This holiness is only accomplished when your roots are firmly grounded in the life of grace. Embrace this life of grace through the many means that God has set before you, and know that the commitment you make to holiness will bring health not only to your own soul, but also to the souls of those whom God will touch through you.

Lord, I love You and I give my life to You. I pray that I may be planted in the fertile soil of Your abundant love and mercy. Help me to be nourished by the life of grace You have lavished upon me and, as I grow in holiness, bring forth an abundance of good fruit in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

Intentions of the Holy Father for March:

A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

LENTEN FAST and ABSTINENCE

During the season of Lent, the Church urges the faithful to reflect a spirit of penance in their daily lives through performing acts of faith and abstinences.

FASTING requires that only one full meal be taken per day. Two other smaller meals may be taken during the day to maintain physical strength, but these two meals together should not equal a full meal in quantity. Nor is there eating between meals. Fasting obliges all those who have reached the age of 18 and continues to oblige through age 59. Those who are not specifically obliged to fast are encouraged to join in the discipline of fasting to the extent that they are able.

ABSTINENCE prohibits individuals from eating meat on a particular day. Abstinence obliges all those who have reached the age of 14 and continues to oblige throughout their lives. Those who are not specifically obliged to abstain from eating meat are encouraged to join in the discipline of abstaining to the extent that they are able to.

**ASH WEDNESDAY and GOOD FRIDAY are days of
Fast and Abstinence.**

FRIDAYS in Lent are days of Abstinence

First Sunday of Lent, Year C

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a. What a painful experience for Jesus. If you really think about this, it can be difficult to understand, at least at first. Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the Creator of the Universe, the great I AM, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is in the desert, suffering for forty days while He is tempted by the devil and living among the wild beasts. Why in the world would He do this and why would God the Father allow it to happen? And what's more, it says that it was actually the Holy Spirit who drove Jesus into the desert to experience this painful 40 days! So, what's it all about? It's about love for us all. It's a love so deep that God Himself was willing to experience our weaknesses and pain so that He would be able to meet us there, console us in the midst of whatever we are going through, and gently lift us out of it to the new life He has in store for us. Temptation in life is real. It's the result of our fallen human nature. It comes from our weakness but also from the evil one. Temptation can be a heavy burden and cause heavy emotional and psychological pain. And when the temptation is given in to, it causes an even deeper spiritual pain. Jesus never gave in to the temptations in the desert, nor did He give in to temptations at any other time in His life. But He endured them and suffered them. This tells us that He can be our strength and inspiration in the midst of whatever we are tempted with each and every day.

Lord, I acknowledge Your perfect love for me. I believe that You love me enough to endure all suffering, to understand all suffering, and to bring me out of my own interior dryness and pain. May I let you be driven into the desert of my own soul; and there, as I encounter You, may I allow You to lead me to the cool and refreshing waters. Jesus, I trust in You.

DID YOU KNOW?

What are the Biblical roots of Ash Wednesday?



While there's no specific mention of Ash Wednesday in the Bible, ashes and fasting have long been associated penitence, especially in the Old Testament. We hear about several leading figures donning ashes and sackcloth out of humility, mourning, or penance, including King David, Job, Daniel, and large groups of Israelites during times when they realized they needed to make repentance for their sins before God. This idea of being one with the earth reminds us that we are created beings – God created Adam out of the dust, and we will one day return to it. It helps put humanity in its place, in a sense. In the same way, Christians put ashes on their foreheads at the beginning of Lent to bring us back to this idea of repentance for sins as we start the 40-day journey towards Easter.

February 26 – March 13
Are you new to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish?
WELCOME! If you have not yet registered, please complete a registration
form found in the foyer or in the office.
You may bring the completed form to the office

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 26th

4:30pm Birthday intentions of Nicholas Brown by Deirdre Larocque

Sunday, February 27th - Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Repose of the soul of Michael Toth by Mom & Dad

10:45am Intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

Tuesday, March 1st

7:00pm Intentions of Anne-Marie Bourgault by Deirdre Larocque

Wednesday, March 2nd - Ash Wednesday

9:30am Repose of the soul of Laurier Dupelle by Margaret & Family

7:00pm Intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

Thursday, March 3rd

9:00am Healing intentions of Maggie Yrenaya by the Rosary Apostolate Ottawa

Friday, March 4th

9:00am

Saturday, March 5th

4:30pm

Sunday, March 6th - First Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Marcel Cote by CWL Members

Tuesday, March 8th

7:00pm Birthday intentions of Sarah Brown by Deirdre Larocque

Wednesday, March 9th

9:30am Repose of the souls of George Hendley, family members & friends

Thursday, March 10th

9:00am

Friday, March 11th

9:00am Physical & spiritual infirmities of John & Christopher Plant by Gary Plant

Saturday, March 12th

4:30pm

Sunday, March 13th - Second Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Marcel Cote by KOC Council 12401

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE at www.olmm.ca
And also our Facebook page
Email: admin@olmm.ca

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE 2022 PEOPLE & PLANET FIRST CAMPAIGN WORKING FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL

Established in 1967 by the Conference of Canadian Catholic Bishops, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada is the official international social justice organisation of the Catholic Church in Canada. Our Share Lent 2022 campaign brings the need for a binding Canadian law to protect the lives and rights of those who fight for human rights & environmental rights so that when Canadian registered companies involved in global developmental work engage in criminal activities, those who survive the crimes may press their cases through the Canadian courts. At present, even when these crimes are public knowledge, communities in Latin American countries have no means to seek justice. The need for this law has long been recognised internationally as have the crimes committed in those countries by Canadian companies. We are organising to meet with our federal members of parliament to present signed petitions, demanding this new law be established. To learn more about and to join our movement, visit devp.org or speak with your D&P parish representative, Janyce Elser-Ethier at 613 618 5749 or at jaejaetorontoblue@gmail.com.

Alpha for Seniors: Explore Life, Faith & Meaning. Sessions beginning Tues., Feb. 15, 3:00 pm via Zoom. Free; all seniors welcome. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/alpha-for-seniors-tickets-247364954237>. If you have questions, or if you'd like to help as a small group host or helper, email Rob at: seniors@annuciation-ottawa.com.

The Library Committee would like to request that used donations for the Library be in good condition, interesting to the average reader and add value to the collection. Please be selective when donating and keep in mind the following guidelines: nothing published or issued before the year 2000; no old or torn items; no pamphlets and no adult fiction. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

The Knights of Columbus will be distributing bags after mass on February 26 and 27 for the local Food Bank. Please bring your non-perishable food donations to mass on March 5 and 6. Envelopes will be available for monetary donations.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

PLEASE JOIN US ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULES:

Thursday, March 3rd – Led by Fr. Anthony
Friday, March 11th – Led by Deacon Allan
Friday, March 18th – Led by KOC
Friday, March 25th – Led by Youth Group
Thursday, March 31st – Led by Fr. Anthony
Friday, April 8th – Led by the CWL



STATIONS WILL START AT 7:00. THERE WILL NOT BE A MASS AFTER THEM.