

Fourth – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

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 members to develop their faith and service to others.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 28th – St. Thomas Aquinas

4:30pm Intentions of Chloe Cormier and family by Michael Smith and family

Sunday, January 29th – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of Jordan Louise and family by Michael Smith and family

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

Tuesday, January 31st – St. John Bosco

7:00pm MASS CANCELLED

Wednesday, February 1st

8:20am(STA)

9:30am Repose of the soul of Lise Tessier by Line and Michel Geerts

Thursday, February 2nd – The Presentation of the Lord

9:00am Repose of the soul of Dawn Empey by Tammy Cherry

Friday, February 3rd

9:00am Repose of the souls of George Hendley, family members and friends

Saturday, February 4th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Larry Linger by the Gambell family

Sunday, February 5th – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Ronald Maidment by the Adult Choir

Tuesday, February 7th

7:00pm Repose of the soul of Connie O'Brien by Mary Ellen James and family

Wednesday, February 8th

8:20am(STA)

9:30am Repose of the soul of Veronica Mbaneme by Cathy Gambell

Thursday, February 9th

9:00am Intentions of Annie and family by Julie Kevin

Friday, February 10th – St. Scholastica

9:00am Repose of the souls of the deceased members of the Lacelle family

Saturday, February 11th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Murray Fleet by the James family

Sunday, February 12th – Sixth Sunday in ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Intentions of Edith Rechnitzer by John and Lisa Serjak

Intentions of the Holy Father for February 2023

For parishes

We pray that parishes, placing communion at the center, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after He had sat down, His disciples came to Him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:1–3

The Sermon on the Mount begins with today’s reading in Chapter Five of Matthew’s Gospel and continues through Chapter Seven. This beautiful sermon presents us with many familiar teachings of Jesus, such as the Beatitudes, the Lord’s Prayer and the Golden Rule. Jesus begins His sermon by going up a mountain and sitting down. The mountain is believed to be just north of the Sea of Galilee, just a few miles from Capernaum where Jesus often stayed during His public ministry. Today’s Gospel presents us with the glorious and very high calling of the Beatitudes. This teaching on the Beatitudes sets the stage for the many other lessons Jesus taught.

The Beatitudes are certainly a teaching about morality, but the lessons are not the same as many of the moral teachings that the people were familiar with. Up until that time, morality was primarily seen as a list of forbidden practices. “Thou shall not...” was the general tone. However, the Beatitudes take morality to a much higher level. In this new teaching, Jesus did not start with that which was forbidden or that which was a violation of God’s Law. Instead, He explained that reaching for these ideals brought forth the greatest fulfillment in life. Morality was not only a list of regulations one needed to avoid. At the heart, morality was now presented by our Lord as a glorious journey to perfection. The result of this journey was the attainment of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Reflect, today, upon Jesus calling you to follow Him up the mountain of the Beatitudes. As you do, begin by considering this journey first from a physical point of view. It would have been much easier for His first hearers of this sermon to simply stay in Capernaum and recline at table, listening to Jesus speak. But the physical journey up the mountain gives insight into the high calling of the moral life. It requires effort and determination. From there, try to imagine yourself listening to Jesus preach. Remind yourself that the Christian life is one of perfection in every way. This is our calling. But the fruit of perfection is the fulfillment in which God wants us to share. The easy life of sin leaves us dry and interiorly dead, but the hard journey to perfection leads us to the deepest fulfillment we could ever attain. Commit yourself to the journey and do not hesitate on the way, and you, too, will be rewarded with the Kingdom of Heaven.

Lord of perfection, You call me to journey with You up the high mountain of holiness. May I always see this journey as one that is glorious and fulfilling. I choose the life of perfection to which I am called and pray that I will always be open to the deepest moral truths You wish me to live. Jesus, I trust in You!

January 29 –February 5, 2023

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 or drop in the collection basket.

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16

We've all experienced a time when the lights went out and we were in darkness. In this case, if you were to light a candle and place it in the center of the room, its light would make quite a difference. One candle in a darkened room transforms that room, making it a more comfortable dwelling place.

Using that image, consider the first line in Jesus' metaphor above. "You are the light of the world." Try to see yourself as that single candle in the darkness. That is your mission. Just as a single candle can give light to an entire room, so you are capable of being a source of light for many others.

One of the primary missions we have all received in life is to allow the light of God's grace to "shine before others." The result of fulfilling this mission is that others will see our good deeds that were inspired by God, and they will, in turn, glorify the Father in Heaven. Thus, your mission of radiating the light of Christ for others results in God being praised and glorified. This full statement of Jesus is especially helpful to consider when we struggle with pride. Pride is a way of pointing to ourselves. It's an act of selfishness by which we place ourselves in the spotlight as a way of trying to become the object of others' praise. But what Jesus tells us is that when we properly fulfill our role of being the light of the world, when we radiate the Light of Christ, others will be inspired not to praise us but rather to glorify God as He acts through us. This is quite a difference. With that being said, the beautiful thing about God being glorified is that God often wants us to share in that glory. That means that if you were to do an act of charity for another, and they were deeply grateful to you and thanked you, their "thank you" is an act of glorifying God when it is understood that you acted out of a love of God. God is praised when we, His children, give and receive love and honor between each other on account of our faith.

Reflect, today, upon two things. First, think about those upon whom God has called you to shine His light. Who is it in your life who needs an act of love, charity, mercy, forgiveness or compassion? Commit yourself to becoming God's light for them in their darkness. Second, think about those who have shone the Light of Christ upon you. When this has happened, how did you respond? Be the light of the world to a world in need and seek out that light as it shines brightly through others. This is the only way to step out of the darkness that constantly tries to pervade us.

Lord, You are the true Light Who dispels every darkness in life. You are the Light of my life and shine brightly for all to see. Help me to see Your light as it shines on others and to glorify You for that gift. And help me to be an instrument of Your light to those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening at Our Lady's

Wednesday, February 8th

6:00 pm – First Communion/Reconciliation Class

Thursday, February 9th

6:00 pm – Confirmation Class

Friday, February 10th

7:00 pm – Youth Group Meeting

First Friday Adoration

Friday, February 3rd, 4:00pm to Saturday, February 4th, 4:00pm. We would like to have two adorers per hour. If you would like to become a regular adorer or want more information please call Bernie Ethier at 613-863-2610 or email at bernie.ethier@gmail.com.

Handicraft Holy Land Christians

The weekend of February 11-12 we will have with us a special guest from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in The Holy Land. Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and the purchase of these special religious art pieces. Proceeds of the sales generate much needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem. Cash, debit and credit cards will be accepted. May God Bless you for your generosity, for help, and for your prayers." www.HolylandChristians.ca

Consecrated Life Celebration: Mass with Archbishop Damphousse and Auxiliary Bishop Mathieu, S.M. on Saturday, February 4th, 9:00am at St. Ignatius Martyr Parish, 518 Donald Street, Ottawa. All are welcome! Mass will be livestreamed on the St. Ignatius Parish.

Pope Francis's Message for the 31st World Day of the Sick: The Vatican has released Pope Francis's message for the 31st World Day of the Sick, celebrated on 11 February, liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Holy Father's message is entitled: "Take care of him" – Compassion as a synodal exercise of healing. In light of the Church's synodal journey, Pope Francis invites "all of us to reflect on the fact that it is especially through the experience of vulnerability and illness that we can learn to walk together according to the style of God, which is closeness, compassion, and tenderness."