

First Sunday of Lent - 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, February 25th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Kenneth Gaydamack
by the KOC Council 12401

Sunday, February 26th - First Sunday of Lent

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

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

Tuesday, February 28th

7:00pm Repose of the soul of Michael Toth by Mom
and Dad

Wednesday, March 1st

9:30am Repose of the soul of Jocelyn Whalen by
Charlene Swatman

Thursday, March 2nd

9:00am Repose of the souls of Christopher, Doris &
George Swatman by Charlene Swatman

Friday, March 3rd

9:00am Repose of the soul of Joe & Lois Shubaly by
Charlene Swatman

Saturday, March 4th

4:30pm

Sunday, March 5th - Second Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Lise Tessier by the
Geerts family

YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

February 19th, 2023 = \$3,690.

Thank you for your generosity and support

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.

Intentions of the Holy Father for March 2023

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

First Sunday of Lent (Year A)

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards He was hungry. Matthew 4:1-2
"Forty" is a significant number. In Scripture, it is used more than 145 different times. For example, the rain during the Great Flood lasted forty days and forty nights. Each time Moses went up Mount Sinai, he remained there for forty days and nights. The Israelites wandered in the desert for forty years. After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days before ascending into Heaven. And there are many other uses of "forty" throughout the Bible. Interestingly, forty is even significant within human nature, in that we develop within our mother's womb for forty weeks before being born.

The "forty" that we commemorate today is the forty days and forty nights that our Lord spent in the desert being tempted by the devil while He fasted and prayed. Forty is used to symbolize a time of testing, purification, trial or probation. For that reason, it should also be seen as a symbol of your entire life here on earth. In Saint Matthew's version of Jesus' temptation in the desert, He specifically uses the wording "forty days and forty nights." Saint Bede, in commenting upon this, points out that this period of time not only symbolizes our entire lives, but the "days" represent the many graces and blessings we receive, while the "nights" represent the crosses we endure.

As we begin our Lenten journey, it is important to once again apply the lessons of Jesus' time in the desert to our entire lives. Let's consider two lessons we can take from the passage quoted above. First, we see that Jesus was "led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." This teaches us that Jesus not only endured temptation, He confronted it. He was not afraid of the devil and did not fear his attacks. Instead, He willingly faced those temptations, being led by the Spirit, so as to not only overcome them in His life but also to enable us to confront, in our lives, every temptation by the power and initiative of the Holy Spirit. We must never be afraid to confront temptations directly and confidently when the Holy Spirit is in the lead.

Reflect, today, upon the importance of embracing the virtue of temperance with courage throughout life. Throughout life's many ups and downs, joys and sorrows, blessings and crosses, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit, confronting every circumstance with courage and self-control. Reflect upon any ways that you struggle with the crosses you endure or excessively cling to the consolations of life. Seek to embrace the road of virtue this Lent in imitation of Jesus' forty days and nights in the desert.

My temperate and courageous Lord, You confronted all temptation with courage and strength. You fasted throughout the forty days and forty nights so as to teach us how to navigate the ups and downs of life. Please give me the virtues of temperance and courage, and bestow the Holy Spirit upon me so that I may follow You into the desert of my own life. Jesus, I trust in You.

February 26, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT FOR
THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 3rd – Led by the CWL

(First Friday Adoration won't start until after Stations of the Cross)

March 10th – Led by Deacon Allan

March 17th – Led by K of C

March 24th – Led by Youth Group

March 31st – Led by Fr. Anthony



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

First Friday Adoration

Friday, March 3rd, after the Stations of the Cross at 7:00pm 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.

Bishops and Catholic Organizations in Canada Launch Turkey/Syria Earthquake Emergency Aid Campaign:

With the support of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Aid to Church in Need (ACN), Canadian Jesuits International (CJI), Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA) Canada, and Development and Peace-Caritas Canada (DPCC) are launching an emergency aid campaign in response to the destructive earthquake that hit Turkey and Syria. They have pledged the total sum of nearly one million Canadian dollars. "As Catholics we are compelled to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in dire circumstances like the thousands of families that have lost loved ones, or are injured and have lost their homes, due to the earthquake," said Bishop Poisson, president of the CCCC and Bishop of Saint-Jérôme-Mont-Laurier. "For this reason, local Bishops have been invited to promote this emergency campaign in their dioceses/eparchies and to invite their faithful to donate to any one of the organizations collecting funds." For more information visit:

<https://www.cccb.ca/media-release/bishops-and-catholic-organizations-in-canada-launchturkey-syria-earthquake-emergency-aid-campaign/>.

CWL - ACTION

As a Catholic Women's League member, you are part of an organization of women who act through prayer, faith development, ministry, service education and advocacy on social justice issues. Choose your action. Join us today.

Mary's Way of the Cross for Lent: A Lenten Journey Through Mary's Eyes. This Way of the Cross takes us through Lent to Easter. It begins in ashes and enters the desert of our emptiness. Fridays during Lent: March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and ending on Good Friday, April 7. Starting at 6:45pm with hymns and 7pm Mary's Way of the Cross. Sponsored by the Committee of the Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré and Our Lady of the Cape. Info at mike.budge@bell.net.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86321925761?pwd=aVl0dzFoZzJHWjZoaFlTODRVTEwxdz09>.

Suggestions for the Lenten Season from the Spiritual Library

Adult Books

- B06 - Give Up Something Bad for Lent: a Lenten Study for Adults
- B06 - Season of Mercy: Lent and Easter; Meditations and Traditions from Catherine Doherty
- B16 - Conversing with God in Lent: Praying the Sunday Mass; Readings with Lectio Divina
- B16 - Who do You Say I Am? Family Scriptural Reflections and Prayers for Each Day of Lent
- B18 - Daily Grace: Devotional Reflections to Nourish Your Soul - Daily devotions filled with spiritual truths

DVDs – Adult Fiction

Jesus Christ Superstar - The rock opera tells the story of Christ's final weeks with unforgettable songs.

Jesus of Nazareth - Beginning before the nativity and extending through the crucifixion and resurrection, the movie tells of the life of Jesus as told in the Gospels.

DVDs – Adult Non-Fiction

Living Stones: Walking Humbly in the Land We Call Holy - Travels through Jordan, Palestine and Israel meeting Christians and learning about their work.

SoulCore: Glorious Mysteries; Exercise for Body, Mind & Soul - A contemporary core workout that pairs exercise with the prayers of the rosary - Glorious Mysteries.

BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



Welcome to the family of God:

Reese Elizabeth Marleau