



Third 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, March 11th

4:30pm

Sunday, March 12th - Third Sunday of Lent

9:00am Repose of the soul of Jean-Bernard Leblanc by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

Tuesday, March 14th

7:00pm

Wednesday, March 15th

9:30am Repose of the souls of George Hendley, Family members and friends

Thursday, March 16th

9:00am

Friday, March 17th

9:00am Intentions and well-being of all seniors

Saturday, March 18th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Madelyn Lily Marshall and the intentions of the Marshall family by Gladys & Carlo Schippers

Sunday, March 19th - Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Maria Serjak by John and Lisa Serjak

YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

March 5th, 2023 = \$3,095.

Thank you for your generosity and support

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.

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

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.

Third Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Today, throughout the world, Catholic liturgies will celebrate the first of three Scrutinies of those adults who are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. The word "scrutiny" comes from the Latin word *scrutari* which means an inquiry, close examination or search of something. It originally referred to rummaging through rubbish so as to find something of value. In a sense, this is what God does with all of us. When we first turn to Him, He sorts through the disorder of our fallen human nature and our sins so as to point to the goodness and beauty of the child He created. As for the liturgical rite that will be celebrated in churches throughout the world today, the *Right of Christian Initiation of Adults* describes it as follows: "The scrutinies are meant to uncover, and then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good" (#141). The Gospel story we read today depicts this action beautifully. It is the long and inspiring story of the woman at the well. This story is filled with symbolism, much of which the casual reader could easily miss.

To begin, it is important to prayerfully imagine the scene. Jesus was all alone sitting next to Jacob's Well around noon. Few women would come to the well at that time of day due to the heat. But this woman came at this time because she knew others would not be around. She was a sinner, and many of the other women of the town knew it. Therefore, in an attempt to avoid them and avoid feeling shame, she came at a time when she could avoid the other women. So the first thing to consider is the suffering this woman was enduring because of her shame and embarrassment over her sinful life.

As she approached the well, she was surprised to hear Jesus ask her for a drink. She was a Samaritan. Jews generally considered Samaritans as ritually unclean. For that reason, Jews would not drink from their vessels. But Jesus broke this unholy custom and looked at her as a daughter of God with innate dignity and value as He engaged her in conversation.

Within the heat of the day, Jesus spoke lovingly to this woman and said, "Give me a drink." Saint Augustine states that, symbolically speaking, Jesus thirsted for her soul, for her salvation. He longed to give her the grace soon to be won through His Cross. Her willing reception of this gift would also bring satiation to the Heart of our Lord.

As we celebrate the Scrutinies this Sunday, reflect upon this woman at the well. First, she is a symbol of every person coming to faith in Christ and preparing for the Living Water of Baptism this Easter. But she is also a symbol of your own soul, to the extent that it has become cluttered with the rubbish of sin and disorder. Do not let shame, fear or a sense of unworthiness deter you from engaging in this same conversation with our Lord. Hear Him say to you that He thirsts for you and longs to be satiated by the sacred act of the ongoing bestowal of His Divine Mercy, poured forth through the Living Water superabundantly given to you at your baptism.

My thirsting Lord, You see me, peer deeply into my soul, see all the filth of sin and disorder and love me anyway. As You spoke to this woman at the well, so You also speak to me, asking me to satiate Your thirst by being open to Your mercy. I do open myself to You, dear Lord, and pray that Your Living Water will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Jesus, I trust in You.

March 12, 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

Seniors Mass

Start your St Patrick Day out right! Join us on Friday, March 17th for Seniors Mass at 9 am, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall. You might have the luck of the Irish and win our draw for a lovely Easter basket! See you there!

The Legion of Mary

To Jesus through Mary, God sent Jesus to us through her and she brings us closer to Him. We consecrate ourselves to the Blessed Virgin at our annual Acies. "We are all yours our Queen, our Mother, and all that we have is yours". (handbook Appx. 11.) This is for active and auxiliary (praying) members. This year it will be at St. Patrick's Church in Fallowfield, 15 Steeple Hill Cres., Nepean K2R 1G2, Saturday, March 18th 12:30-3pm. Bring a snack.

The Knights of Columbus will be handing out paper bags after all Masses next weekend, March 18th and 19th for the Township of Russell Good Neighbours Food Bank. Our local Food Bank needs your help. If you can, pick up a bag, and when you bring it home, please remember to fill it. These bags will be collected downstairs in the church hall before all Masses on the weekend of March 25th and 26th. Items needed are canned meals (soups, chili, stews, etc.), canned meats, peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits, cereals, fruit juices in single serving boxes and other non-perishable items. Cheques payable to "Good Neighbours Food Bank" can also be donated.

CWL Bursary Applications are available to any student of our parish currently in their graduating year or within one year of graduating from grade 12 for the annual CWL bursary award of \$400.00. For more information and/or to obtain an application form please refer to the parish web site: http://www.olmm.ca/groups_cwl.html or at the parish office. Completed application must be submitted by April 30, 2023. Application can be mailed in or dropped off at the office. Any questions: contact Lorraine Barker, Bursary Committee Chairperson at 613-445-5779 or email: pl.barker@hotmail.com.

Safety Reminder

Please be mindful of your parking space during weekend Masses. The Russell Township By-Law officers informed us that they received several complaints pertaining to the double-parked vehicles along the First Street and First Avenue during weekend Mass times. It is against the law and a major safety risk to the community especially when an emergency vehicle cannot pass. The By-Law officers will keep patrolling these streets.

Please join us on Thursday, March 30th at 7:00 pm for our parish Lenten Penance Service. Visiting priests will be available.

CHARITY

Catholic Women's League councils provide an opportunity for others to contribute monetary aid through fundraising activities that create awareness and community building. Be part of this organization that gives to others.

Easter Flowers: Parishioners can help beautify the church for Easter by making a donation for church flowers in the name of a departed loved one. The names of the donors and the names of their departed loved ones will be published in the church bulletin at Easter. If you have a loved one you would like to honour in this way, please fill out the envelope found in the pews including your donation. Cut-off date is **April 2nd**.

Development & Peace 2023 Share Lent Campaign Create Hope: Stand For the Land

Land & Water Defenders, most often Indigenous Peoples, are being silenced here in Canada and abroad. Hundreds of Indigenous Peoples from Canada to Columbia, and Honduras are being targeted and killed to prevent them from spreading the truth about the human rights and environmental abuses that are part of current practices and policies of mining and economic development around the world. Because of the way Canadian business law is structured most large scale mining companies are registered as Canadian businesses. This means that we – you and I – are complicit in the injustices carried out by these companies in the world. Right now, Canadian reputation is scarred by the image mining has created globally.

This year, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada's Share Lent campaign, Create Hope: Stand for the land calls you to support our sisters and brothers here and in the Global South, who are defending their territories from reckless environmentally destructive mining and development operations led by human greed. You can help by 1) Donating online at devp.org/give or during the Solidarity generosity collection on March 26th, the Fifth Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 86 projects in 40 countries around the world! and by 2) Learning more by reading our Mini-magazine (please see the display in the foyer) and other resources available at devp.org/lent/resources. and/or by 3) Obtaining more information from Janyce Elser-Ethier, OLMM parish representative, at elserethierjanyce@gmail.com.

OLMM Spiritual Library News

Children's (Kid's) Books are contained in three cabinet drawers. A fourth bottom drawer contains a selection of Children's Bibles.

Suggested Children's books for the Lenten season:

- Stations of the Cross - Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik
- Guidebook for Confession for Children (9-13 Years Old) - Beatriz B. Brillantes

● Come to Jesus: A Kids' Book for Eucharistic Adoration - Anne Flanagan

- The Sacrament of Reconciliation – Winkler
- Going to Confession - Fr. Lovasik
- Receiving Holy Communion - Fr. Lovasik

Suggested Children's DVDS, (located on two shelves in the library) for the Lenten season are:

- The Animated Passion for the Whole Family! - NEST Family Entertainment
- The Bread of Life: Celebrating the Eucharist - Brother Francis (Herald Entertainment)
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids (EWTN)
- First Communion (EWTN)
- Forgiven: The Blessings of Confession – Brother Francis (Herald Entertainment)