



Fourth 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 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

Tuesday, March 21st

7:00pm

Wednesday, March 22nd

9:30am Living intentions of Guy and Anita Belanger by Cath Gambell

Thursday, March 23rd

9:00am

Friday, March 24th

9:00am

Saturday, March 25th - The Annunciation of the Lord

4:30pm

Sunday, March 26th - Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00am Thanksgiving to June and Andre Pare by the Library Committee

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

March 12th, 2023 = \$2,125.

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 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.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life." John 3:14-15

The line quoted above concludes a dialogue that Jesus had with Nicodemus, a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. This is the first of three times Nicodemus is mentioned in the Gospel of John. The second time he appears is when he reminds the other members of the Sanhedrin that a man must be first heard before he is condemned. The third time was when Jesus was killed and Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes to prepare Jesus' body for burial.

Jesus was not accepted by most of the Pharisees and within the Sanhedrin. For that reason, Nicodemus was taking a risk by going to him at night to talk. But Jesus clearly senses faith in the heart of Nicodemus, which is why when Nicodemus asks Jesus about His teaching, Jesus answers him. Unlike the other Pharisees, Nicodemus was not trying to trap our Lord; he sincerely wanted to understand.

At the beginning of this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus, Nicodemus professes the beginning of faith in Jesus when he says, "Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with Him" (John 3:2).

Interestingly, Jesus then speaks to Nicodemus in figures of speech, saying that one can only enter the Kingdom of God when they are "born from above" and "born from water and the Spirit." Nicodemus tries to understand but fails. Jesus then gently rebukes him by saying, "You are the teacher of Israel and you do not understand this?" (John 3:10). Jesus then goes on to speak further in symbolic language and figures of speech, concluding with the beginning of today's Gospel quoted above when He speaks in a veiled way about His coming crucifixion.

One thing that is important to understand from this dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus is that Jesus' language is veiled in symbolic language because, even though Nicodemus was on the right path, he was not yet ready for the full revelation of the Gospel. He could not yet fully comprehend all that our Lord came to reveal. Thus, Jesus spoke in veiled language and invited Nicodemus to keep seeking its hidden meaning.

In our own lives, we can come to God and want Him to speak clearly and definitively to us, revealing His perfect will for our lives. But often He doesn't. Why? Because God knows we are not yet ready for the full truth. When He speaks to us and when we gain insight in one way or another, this is good and reveals we are on the right path. But the Gospel, in its fullness, is so radical and so demanding that most people are not yet ready for the full truth. Therefore, in His compassion, God gives us only what we can handle at the moment. But this humble truth should encourage us, as it did Nicodemus, to not give up and to continue opening ourselves to the fullness of the Word of God.

Reflect, today, upon how open you are to the fullness of God's Word. What would happen if God were to reveal to you, by an immediate personal revelation of divine knowledge, all that was in His sacred mind? Would it be too much for you to handle? Yes, it would be. But that humble admission is an important step toward that very goal. Humble yourself, today, more fully before the mysterious Word of God and pray that you will continue to be changed and open so that the clarity of God's truth will more fully penetrate your soul.

My teaching Lord, Your sacred Truth is so deep, so profound and so transforming that it remains too much for me to fully comprehend and embrace. For that reason, I thank You for the mercy of speaking to me in veiled ways so as to continually draw me deeper in my faith and knowledge of You. Please continue to open my mind and heart to You so that, one day, I will understand Your Truth most fully. Jesus, I trust in You.

March 19, 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

Notice to CWL Members:

Change in meeting date to **Wednesday, March 29th, 2023 at 7pm in the church hall.**

Please join us as we have a guest presenter **Life Member Joanna Sisk** to share the *Unity Outreach Project* with our council. Joanna is the Life member liaison for our Ottawa Diocesan council.

The more members who can attend the more voices will be heard as we participate in the question and answer portion of the evening. Refreshments will be available.

The Knights of Columbus will be handing out paper bags after all Masses this 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 next weekend, 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.

Lenten Penance Service

Please join us on Thursday, March 30th, 7:00pm. It is a great opportunity for us to prepare ourselves to celebrate our Easter with joy, peace and happiness through the sacrament of reconciliation. So, please take this opportunity to reconcile with God and each other. Visiting priests will be available.

Chrism Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral:

The Chrism Mass will be held at Notre Dame Cathedral on **Tuesday, April 4th at 5:00 PM.** All are welcome to attend.

COMPASSION

Do you recognize the human dignity in all people? Do you feel motivated to do something to help others? Catholic Women's League members embark on many projects that directly impact those who are disadvantaged in society. How can you help? Become a member and be part of the solution.

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

To delegates at the 4th World Meeting of Popular Movements, Pope Francis said, "...you have the ability and the courage to create hope where there appears to be only waste and exclusion." These are the words that inspired the choice of "Create Hope" as a five-year guiding theme at Development and Peace — Caritas Canada.

D&P ministry is guided by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, chief among them is the Preferential Option for the Poor. To our detractors I say, what could be more Catholic in character than these principles?! We uphold human dignity in our work & the way we carry that out, we respect the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death and the health & wellbeing of mothers & children are foremost in our work.

The courage to Create Hope is rooted in actions big and small. Jesus teaches us that in Him we can do all things. The Church teaches that we are the hands & feet of Christ in the world. D & P helps those in the world who are the most in need by offering them the hope that with just a little support, they can build better lives for themselves and their children. Jesus is hope. To drive away despair, we have to carry Jesus' love into the world. D&P does this by helping communities to help themselves. When we reach out to help others, we extend the light of Christ. What will you do this Lent to create hope? Join our campaign at devp.org/lent. For more information, please contact me at elserethierjanyce@gmail.com.



**Mass of the Lord's Supper
Holy Thursday, April 6th - 7:00 pm
Passion of the Lord**

Good Friday, April 7th - 3:00 pm

**Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 8th - 8:00 pm
Resurrection of the Lord**

Sunday April 9th - 9:00 am and 10:45 am

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.