



## Fifth 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 25<sup>th</sup> - The Annunciation of the Lord**

**4:30pm** Intentions of John Jackson by the Spiritual Library Committee

#### **Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> - 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

#### **Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm** Repose of the soul of Anna Cantoro by Nancy and Gino Langiano

#### **Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am**

#### **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

#### **Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**9:00am**

#### **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**4:30pm** Birthday intentions of Juliet Trolio by the James family

#### **Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> - Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

**9:00am** Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am**

### **YOUR OFFERINGS FOR**

**March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 = \$3,025.**

***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.

#### ***Intentions of the Holy Father for April 2023***

##### **For a culture of peace and non-violence**

We pray for the spread of peace and non-violence, by decreasing the use of weapons by States and citizens.

### ***The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year A)***

"Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go." [John 11:43-44](#)

The death of Lazarus can be seen as a symbolic representation of the soul that has died from mortal sin. This is similar to the fact that leprosy, physical ailments and the like are also symbols of sin. For that reason, Jesus' initial reactions reveal how we should respond to serious sin in our lives. When Jesus faced the death of Lazarus, "He became perturbed and deeply troubled," "Jesus wept." He became "perturbed again" and He "cried out in a loud voice." Though Jesus was God, He freely chose to assume human nature and to experience human emotions and passions to teach us how we should react. In this case, He chose to become perturbed, deeply troubled, to weep and to cry out to show us how we should react to grave sin. Grave sin kills the spirit. As a result, we must be deeply affected if we commit or witness a grave sin.

One lesson we can take from this passage is that when you or a loved one falls into grave sin, it must not be ignored. Final impenitence is a sin by which a person fails to have appropriate remorse for sin and reacts to it in a dismissive and casual manner. This cannot be our reaction. Begin by considering the great value of taking sin seriously, reacting to it with passion and emotion, and crying out to God for forgiveness.

When Jesus cried out, commanding Lazarus to come out of the tomb, the details were added that Lazarus did come forth but was still bound "hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth." Saint Augustine teaches that, in part, this symbolizes the entire process of confession and the forgiveness of sins. First, no person is capable of confessing their sins by their own effort. It must be that they are moved by grace and the command of our Lord to come forth to show themselves in their bound state to God. Lazarus' obedience to Jesus' command symbolizes the Christian's response to God when called to repentance. When our Lord says, "Untie him and let him go," this symbolizes the unmerited effect of the Sacrament of Confession and the power it has to release a person not only from their sins but also from the ongoing effects of those sins.

Our Church teaches that sin has a double consequence. First, it keeps us from eternal salvation. This effect is remedied through Confession and forgiveness. However, there is a second effect called "temporal punishment" (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1471-1473). This "punishment" is not from God, but from sin. It means that when we sin, even in a less serious way, we become attached to that sin and that the ongoing temptation to return to it is strengthened. Thus, ongoing conversion also means we hear our Lord say, "Untie him and let him go." This is especially accomplished by ongoing conversion and growth in virtue.

Reflect, today, upon the rich symbolism found in the story of the raising of Lazarus from the dead. As you do, listen for the passionate voice of Jesus who calls to you, "Come out!" What sin is Jesus calling you to be free from? Identify that sin and repent of it with the same passion that our Lord exhibits. From there, consider any ongoing temptation you struggle with and any attachment you still have toward a particular sin. Jesus desires that you be completely unbound and set free. Be open to that grace and do all you can to accept it.

*My merciful and passionate Lord, You command me, in love, to come forth from all sin. And when I respond, You command that the effects of my past sins be removed. Please free me, dear Lord, from all that binds me so that I will be set firmly on the glorious road of virtue that leads to eternal joy. Jesus, I trust in You.*

March 25, 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

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS DURING LENT

Please join us on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> –  
Led by Fr. Anthony



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

#### Lenten Penance Service

Please join us on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### 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.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

#### Chrism Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral:

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

**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](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](mailto:pl.barker@hotmail.com).

### CONFIDENCE

The Catholic Women's League relies on the teachings of the Catholic church to guide it. As a member you can be confident that what you do will further God's kingdom here on earth. Be confident – come walk with us.

Do you sense a call to the Diaconate? Has anyone told you, "You would make a good Deacon?"

The Archdiocese needs men with an unrelenting desire to serve God's people. Four information sessions will be held:

*Diocesan Centre* – Saturday morning, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 9-11 a.m., 1209 Michael St. North, Ottawa

*St. Mary's Parish* – Tuesday evening, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm., 100 Young St., Ottawa

*St. Columban Parish* – Thursday evening, March 30<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 p.m., 36 Fourth Street West, Cornwall

*Divine Infant Parish* – Saturday afternoon, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00-3:00 p.m., 6658 Bilberry Dr., Orleans

Contact Deacon Charles (Chuck) Fink at 613-880-7723 or email: [CharlesFink@ottawacornwall.ca](mailto:CharlesFink@ottawacornwall.ca) for more information.

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

This Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada's Stand for the Land campaign invites you to give generously and thanks you warmly for your generosity. Your donation transforms the lives of some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers across the world. Our solidarity rests on your generosity.

"The support we receive from Development and Peace has been very important for me. It allowed me to live again." — Raquel Soto, participant in the documentary filmmaking school of the Asociación Campesina de Antioquia (ACA, Peasant Association of Antioquia)  
Such is the difference you can make by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or at [devp.org/give](http://devp.org/give). Thank you for helping to build a world of justice.

**The Good Friday Collection** is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Church's holy places in the Holy Land, so important to the faith of Christians everywhere, and also to support the faithful who struggle to survive under political and economic oppression and persecution.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken during the Good Friday celebration on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Those who are unable to attend the service, or who prefer to contribute online, may do so by Interac e-transfer or CanadaHelps by visiting [www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us](http://www.commissariat.ca/supporting-us).



**Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
Holy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm

**Passion of the Lord**

**Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - 3:00 pm**

**Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 pm**

**Resurrection of the Lord**

**Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am and 10:45 am**