



Divine Mercy Sunday to Third Sunday of Easter – 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, April 15th – Easter Octave

4:30pm Birthday intentions of Stuart Mulholland by the James family

Sunday, April 16th – Divine Mercy/Second Sunday of Easter

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor
10:45am Repose of the soul of Diny Achtereekte by the CWL

Tuesday, April 18th

7:00pm

Wednesday, April 19th

9:30am

Thursday, April 20th

9:00am

Friday, April 21st

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

Saturday, April 22nd

4:30pm

Sunday, April 23rd – Third Sunday of Easter

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor
10:45am In thanksgiving on birth and baptism of Georgia Langley by her grandparents

Tuesday, April 25th – St. Mark

7:00pm

Wednesday, April 26th

9:30am

Thursday, April 27th

9:00am

Friday, April 28th

9:00am

Saturday, April 29th – St. Catherine of Sienna

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Wilfred Young by Evelyn Goodfellow

Sunday, April 30th – Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor
10:45am

YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

April 9th, 2023 = \$3,439.

Thank you for your generosity and support

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.

Divine Mercy Sunday (Year A)

Saint Faustina reports in her *Diary* what Jesus told her about Divine Mercy Sunday:

“My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow” (*Diary* #699).

That day is today! It is the Feast of Divine Mercy! Today’s feast is among the newer feasts in our Church. Though Jesus’ desire that this feast be celebrated on the eighth day of Easter was spoken to Sister Maria Faustina Kowolska back in 1931, it was not solemnly instituted until the year 2000. On April 30 of that year, Saint Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina and inaugurated the Feast of Divine Mercy as a universal feast within the Church. Because this Feast is so recent within the Church, we can be certain that we still have much to learn about the message of this Solemnity as well as the numerous messages about God’s mercy revealed in Saint Faustina’s *Diary*.

Among the many messages contained within her *Diary*, Jesus revealed to us that this Sunday, the eighth and final day of the Octave of Easter, is a day like none other. Though grace and mercy are continuously poured out from Heaven upon us, Jesus is very clear that today is unique. Today, “a whole ocean of graces” is poured forth upon souls who approach the font of His mercy. Sit with that image for a time. “A whole ocean of graces.” What does that mean?

Symbolically speaking, a whole ocean is meant to depict the infinite. Try to imagine what it would be like to have the entire ocean poured upon you—it’s beyond comprehension! Thus, God is saying that the infinity of grace is given today. The question for us all to ponder is this: How receptive am I to those infinite graces?

The heart of the path laid out in the *Diary* of Saint Faustina is as follows: Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion so as to obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. However, as many of the great spiritual writers explain, such as Saint Teresa of Ávila, there are many levels we must pass on our spiritual journey so as to be able to encounter God in His fullness. This, of course, includes encountering God’s mercy given to us in Holy Communion and Confession. Those who receive these Sacraments while dwelling only in the first dwelling places, for example, will never benefit from them to the extent that those who dwell in the seventh and central mansion where the King dwells in fullness. Thus, mercy is given in its fullness but unless we make the transforming journey to God through conversion and purification of our souls, we will never be able to receive the ocean of graces God bestows.

Reflect, today, upon this ocean being poured forth upon you. How much of this mercy are you able to receive right now in your life? As you humbly admit your limited openness to God’s grace, know that God patiently waits for you, dwelling in His fullness deep within you, waiting for you to make the journey to Him. Commit yourself to this journey by prayer, fasting, penance, the reading of Scripture, the celebration of the Sacraments and spiritual reading. There is an ocean of the fullness of life waiting for you. Dive in and allow His mercy to deepen your capacity to receive Him most fully.

My Lord, You are The Divine Mercy, the source of all grace and the Bestower of this grace in superabundance. I thank You for the infinity of Your generosity and pray that my soul will be more fully disposed to receive You. Please stretch the capacity of my soul through my ongoing journey of purification and conversion so that I will receive all that You wish to bestow. Jesus, I trust in You.

April 16-23, 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.

Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

"But we were hoping that He would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find His body; they came back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that He was alive." Luke 24:21-23

The day on which our Lord rose from the dead, some of the women who had accompanied Him went to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body and found the tomb empty. An angel spoke to them of Jesus' Resurrection and then these women went to tell the disciples what they saw. The reaction of the disciples is recorded this way: "but their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them."

Later that day, two of those doubting disciples were traveling on foot to the town of Emmaus. As they traveled, they were "conversing and debating" about what had happened to Jesus and also about what these women reported to them. It is clear from their words that they were quite confused and discouraged about what was happening. They encountered our Lord in His public ministry. They had listened to His powerful teachings. They witnessed His miracles. They had hoped that He was the Messiah. But then they saw Him arrested, humiliated, beaten, crucified and killed. Jesus' death took a serious toll on them and made them question their faith in Him. And even after they heard that He had risen, they couldn't bring themselves to believe. Thus, they traveled the road to Emmaus—discouraged, confused and doubting.

As these disciples walked along, our Lord appeared to them, but they did not recognize Him in His resurrected form. They expressed their confusion to Him and Jesus finally said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" After Jesus went on and explained the Scriptures to them, they were hungry for more. They asked this stranger to stay with them and He did. That evening, Jesus broke bread with them, and in that sacramental act, they recognized Him before He vanished from their eyes. We must see ourselves in these disciples. There are many things in life that can lead us to discouragement. When we strive to follow God's will but find that things have not turned out how we expected, there is a temptation to doubt. Why is that? What is the cause of doubt? More than anything else, doubts and discouragement come from our failure to understand the perfect plan of God for our lives.

If these disciples had understood, from the beginning, all that Jesus explained to them on the road to Emmaus, they would not have despaired. They would not have lost hope. So also with us, when we begin to lose hope in our lives, it is primarily because we have failed to understand the divine plan for our lives correctly. We have failed to see that God permits certain things for His glory. He permits certain hardships to deepen our faith and trust in Him. When we fail to see His permissive will in all things, we will become discouraged and confused.

Reflect, today, upon these two disciples. They had the incredible privilege of spending much time with our Lord during His public ministry, seeing His miracles and hearing His sermons. But when the Cross ensued, they doubted and despaired. Let these disciples witness to you and reveal to you any ways that you fall into similar temptations. Do you have perfect hope in God and His plan for your life? Or do you allow the various crosses you endure to confuse you and lead you to doubt? Allow our Lord to appear to you through prayer and reveal to you His perfect plan. Be open to the gift of understanding by trusting that the wisdom of God will dispel every temptation you have toward doubt, replacing it with trust and hope.

Lord of perfect wisdom, Your plan for my life is perfect and glorious beyond imagination. Too often, I fail to understand Your will and fall into confusion and doubt. Please open my mind to Your truth and help me to see everything from Your perspective so that I will always walk with hope and trust in You. Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seniors' Mass. Join us on Friday, April 21st for the Seniors' Mass at 9 am, followed by refreshments and fellowship in the parish hall.

The Legion of Mary (Ottawa Regia) Celebrates 350th Birth Anniversary of St. Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort: At Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 435 Montreal Rd., Ottawa, Fri., Apr. 28, 4-6:30 pm. Mass celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Yvan Mathieu, S.M. Legion of Mary prayers and Rosary, Holy Mass, followed by a procession with a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Reception to follow. All are welcome. Info: <http://legionofmaryottawa.com/events.php>; legionofmaryottawa@proton.me.

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.

NET Retreat

If you are in grades 7-12 and want to deepen your faith while having a fun time, come to a NET Retreat right here at Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, Saturday, May 20th from 9am-4pm. For more information contact Chris Smith at cdansmith@hotmail.com

"Theology on Tap - May 4th, 2023"

The Knights of Columbus are organizing a Theology on Tap social event open to all men in the parish 18 years and older. Come learn more about your Catholic faith in an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. Please RSVP to Michael Adams by email at michaeladams1118@gmail.com or at 905-609-0034

The parish is in need of a part time bookkeeper with at least 2 years experience to start as soon as possible. The Bookkeeper is responsible for maintaining a complete and accurate set of records for financial reporting purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other general duties. Working knowledge of Quickbooks accounting software and previous bookkeeping experience with a parish is an asset. Please see the full job posting and job description on our website on how to apply.

FAITH

Catholic Women's League members know faith is important to women. Members are called to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service. We are Catholic and Living It! Come grow with us!