

## Fifth to Sixth 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, May 6<sup>th</sup> – St. Francois De Laval**

**4:30pm**

**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00am**

Rest of the soul of Marilyn Geis by June and André Paré

**10:45am**

Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm**

**Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am**

**Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

For the safety of the clergy and lay people of Nigeria while they celebrate their faith

**Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

For the intentions of all priests by Cathy Gambell

**Saturday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30pm**

For our mothers, godmothers and grandmothers by the James family

**Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> – Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**9:00am**

Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am**

Rest of the soul of Lise Tessier by the Geerts family

**Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00pm**

**Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30am**

**Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

CANCELLED

**Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**9:00am**

Intentions and well-being of all seniors

**Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30pm**

Rest of the soul of Barbara Fleet by the James family

**Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> – The Ascension of the Lord**

**9:00am**

Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am**

Intentions of Sally James by the James family

### YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

**April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 = \$2,950.**

**Thank you for your generosity and support**

### **Intentions of the Holy Father for May:**

#### **For church movements and groups**

We pray that Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelization each day, placing their own charisms at the service of needs in the world.

### *Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)*

Jesus said to His disciples: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in Me. In My Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If there were not, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?” John 14:1–2

These consoling and encouraging words, spoken by Jesus to the Apostles at the Last Supper, come immediately after Judas left to betray Jesus and after Jesus told Peter, in the presence of the others, that Peter would deny Jesus three times before the cock crowed. As a result, the Twelve (now Eleven) would have been discouraged, especially Peter. Jesus senses this and says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

Peter was told that he would soon commit a grave sin against Jesus. As we are later told, as soon as Peter committed these sins, he went out and wept bitterly. Perhaps, as he did, he would have recalled Jesus’ words: “Do not let your hearts be troubled...”

Being tempted toward sin can be discouraging. But that can turn into a good thing. If we are not affected by our temptations, then we lack love for God. And if we give into those temptations and fail to experience sorrow, this is even worse. However, discouragement over our sins cannot remain; it must turn into its opposite, the virtue of hope. Hope will result from sin only when we hear and understand Jesus’ promise, seen above.

Jesus not only tells the disciples not to be troubled, He also tells them why. Jesus promises them He will prepare a place for them in Heaven and will come to take them to that place in His Father’s House, despite their failings. By believing, Peter and the other apostles will be able to dispel the initial discouragement they feel over their failings and turn back to God with the anticipation of Heaven.

Do you get discouraged by your sin? Begin by calling to mind any sin that you regularly struggle with. Habitual sin, especially, will lead to either sorrow, repentance and hope, or to a discouragement that ends in despair and the abandonment of virtue. Like Saint Peter, we must strive to weep bitterly over our sins. We must let our sins, and the temptation toward despair, become a motivation to regain hope, courage, and determination. This will only be possible if we always hear Jesus say to us, “Do not let your hearts be troubled...” We must sense His compassion and tenderness and allow that love to fill us with confidence that we will one day overcome all sin and be welcomed into the Father’s House.

Reflect, today, upon any sin with which you regularly struggle. As you do, consider whether your discouragement leads to despair or hope. Hope does not come from your ability to overcome sin on your own. It comes from the compassion of our Lord and His promise to redeem you. If you do have a troubled heart, that is good. It is the starting point for hope. Allow Jesus to lift your troubled heart and to point your eyes to Heaven.

*Most compassionate Lord, though I am a sinner, You speak to me with tenderness and call me to repent so that I will always have hope in Heaven. Please give me a true and holy sorrow for my sins and help me to always turn back to You so that You will one day lead me to the fullness of the Father’s House. Jesus, I trust in You.*

May 7-14, 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.**

### ***Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year A)***

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows Him. But you know Him, because He remains with you, and will be in you." John 14:15-17 Imagine a spouse or a friend saying to you, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Such a statement might cause you to react with surprise.

Ordinarily, we do not see obedience to another as a sign that we love them. However, what if a parent were to say to a child, "If you love me, you will be obedient." That statement is easier to accept because of the unique role of a parent to their children. In regard to our love of God, obedience to His divine will is the greatest act of love we can offer. This is because God's will is perfect. It's exactly what we need in life. It's what we were made for. And it is the one and only way to achieve the human fulfillment that we seek. Only God can say such a thing to us because only God is God.

Jesus followed up His call to obedience by saying that obedience to Him will result in Jesus and His Father bestowing the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth upon you. The Holy Spirit will remain "with you, and will be in you." This is such a profound statement from our Lord. In fact, so much of what He says within this sermon given at the Last Supper is profound beyond comprehension.

One clear thing this tells us is that obedience to God leads to a discovery of the Truth. And as Jesus says elsewhere, "If you remain in My word, you will truly be My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32). Obedience leads to Truth. Truth leads to freedom.

This begs the question: Do you want to be free? Clearly you do. We cannot not want to be free. Meaning, we are obliged to want freedom, just as we are obliged to want happiness. Why? Because the desire for freedom and happiness is written upon our very nature. It is a desire that we cannot escape. It's how we are wired. However, it is quite possible to become confused about the way we achieve these desires. For many, obedience is not always understood as the pathway to that desired freedom and happiness.

Consider, again, a child. Imagine a parent telling that child not to eat a certain wild berry that grows behind their house because the parent knows the berry is poisonous and will cause the child to become sick. If the child disobeys and eats the berry anyway, he will learn the important lesson that he should have been obedient. Or if the child were to get in a fight with his brother and was angry and crying, the parent may tell him to say he's sorry and reconcile with his brother. If the child refuses, he will remain angry and crying. But if he obeys, then he and his brother will once again be able to have fun together.

On a grand scale, this is what God does for us. He is the perfect Father Who always knows what is best for us. For that reason, we must not only conform to His will, we must desire it, seek it out and desire to be obedient to the greatest degree. This is the path to Truth. It is the path to freedom. It is the path to the happiness we desire.

Reflect, today, upon your own level of obedience to the will of God and your understanding of the importance of that obedience. Do you realize that God's will is perfect? Perhaps you do intellectually, but how about practically? When you read through the Scriptures and hear Jesus' commands of love, do you seek to follow them without hesitation? For example, do you forgive those who seem undeserving? Can you say, with our Lord from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do?" Reflect upon anything this past year that was difficult for you to embrace from God. Ponder it, pray over it and seek to obey whatever He has revealed to you. Doing so will be the first step toward the fulfillment of your deepest desires in life.

*Most glorious Jesus, Your will is perfect in every way. Obedience to Your will leads to the fulfillment of my life and my every desire.*

*Please bestow the Spirit of Truth upon me so that I will always know Your will and embrace it with all my might. Jesus, I trust in You.*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The Code to the lock box at the church side door has been changed. Please call the office if you need the new code. Thank you.**

#### **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 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm. For more information contact Chris Smith at [cdansmith@hotmail.com](mailto:cdansmith@hotmail.com).

**Please note the Mass for Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM is cancelled due to Pastoral Day Event.**

#### **Journey of Discovery: Spiritual Gifts Seminar**

You are invited on a Journey of Discovery, a journey to discover your God-given gifts (charisms) for service and ministry. Sign up to attend an interactive workshop to be offered at St. Mary's Parish Friday May 12 (7:00-9:30pm) and Saturday May 13 (9:45am-4:30pm). For more information, contact the parish at 613-728-9811 or email: [spiritual.gifts@stmarysottawa.ca](mailto:spiritual.gifts@stmarysottawa.ca).



### **Happy Mother's Day**



Heavenly Father, on this Mother's Day, we thank You for our mothers through whom Your gift of Life begins and through whom we are nurtured into great human beings. We lift up all mothers to Your love and care. We pray for them, for their needs of strength and support to continue to nurture a family love, in honor and love for You, our God. Amen.

### **FRIENDSHIP**

Catholic Women's League members build enduring friendships. We celebrate new members, anniversaries and special events along the way. Meetings, socials, projects and conventions create bonds of friendship. Meet new friends from your parish and beyond. Join today.