

Twenty-Third to Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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, Sep. 9th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Anne Gazo by Sophie Sediva

Sunday, Sep. 10th – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the souls of Peter Sediva and Joseph Gazo by Sophie Sediva

Tuesday, Sep. 12th

7:00pm Repose of the soul of Randy Klassen by the Gambell family

Wednesday, Sep. 13th – St. John Chrysostom

9:30am Repose of the soul of Steve Sediva by Sophie Sediva

Thursday, Sep. 14th – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9:00am Repose of the soul of Anne Gazo by Sophie Sediva

Friday, Sep. 15th – Our Lady of Sorrows

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

Saturday, Sep. 16th – St. Cornelius and St. Cyprian

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Nathaniel Boriel and consolation of his grandmother Judy and family by Faith Stephenson

Sunday, Sep. 17th – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the souls of Duncan and Erna Campbell by their daughter Tami Cherry

Tuesday, Sep. 19th

7:00pm Intentions of Liane Texmo by Cathy Gambell

Wednesday, Sep. 20th – St. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Ha-Sang and Companions

9:30am Repose of the souls of Peter Sediva and Joseph Gazo by Sophie Sediva

10:45am Repose of the soul of Randy Klassen by Gail Klassen and family (at Russell Meadows)

Thursday, Sep. 21st – St. Matthew

9:00am

Friday, Sep. 22nd

9:00am

Saturday, Sep. 23rd – St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Michael James by the James family

Sunday, Sep. 24th – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Repose of the soul of Sandra O'Connor Hogan by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Jesus said to His disciples: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.” **Matthew 18:15**

It takes much humility and a pure heart to confront another person with their sin in such a way that they listen and repent. Normally, confronting another with their sin is done more out of anger than it is out of love. We ought not confront another with their sin out of our woundedness and a desire to inflict guilt as retribution. We ought not confront another to humiliate them or harm them. We should only bring up another’s sin because we love them and have already forgiven them and now want them free of their sin for their own good. When this happens and when this is our sole motivation, another might more easily receive correction. This teaching, however, should not only be looked at from the point of view of us confronting others with their sins. It must also be looked at from the perspective of others confronting us with our sins. We sin every day. We sin against those whom we love every day. Therefore, try to think about someone close to you bringing your sin to your attention. How do you react when this happens? Perhaps if they did so with the most pure motivation and compassion, you would listen. But what if they did so because they were angry? Though this is not the ideal way for someone to confront you, it doesn’t give you the right to reject what they say. Therefore, it is a good spiritual practice to listen to anyone’s concern they bring to you regarding your sin, no matter how they bring it. If, after listening and evaluating their concern with humility you see they are right, even to some degree, then the loving response is to express sorrow, apologize and commit yourself to change. If, however, after humbly evaluating their concern you do not believe that you have sinned, then it is time for you to gently and compassionately try to confront that person with their rash and false judgment.

This passage gives three successive levels of confronting a person. First, it must be done one-on-one. Second, it is done with two or three others. Third, it is done in the presence of the Church. Try, at first, to set aside the second and third approach and only look at the first one. The goal of this one-on-one confrontation is reconciliation. It is good to put much energy into reflecting upon how well you do with this sort of situation because if you can do it well, there will be no need for the second or third form of confrontation.

The number one enemy of reconciliation is pride. Pride is a habit by which we think about ourselves first and foremost, or even exclusively in the most serious cases. Pride makes self-evaluation impossible. We become blind to our sin and are agitated the moment it is identified or causes problems. Of course, the opposite of pride is humility.

Reflect, today, upon how humble you are when someone expresses concern to you about your sin. How do you react? Do you find yourself getting angry and defensive when this happens? If so, be honest and admit to yourself that this is pride; this is your sin. Spend time trying to reflect upon the ideal and humble way you should respond when confronted by another. If reconciliation is your number-one priority in any relationship that has experienced hurt, then that holy and humble desire will become your guide to being able to reconcile with everyone in your life.

Most merciful Lord, You came to earth to reconcile us to You and to one another. Please show me my sin and give me the humility I need to see it so that I can repent and turn back to You. Help me to also be open to the many ways that You reveal my sin to me, especially through the mediation of others in my life. Jesus, I trust in You.

September 10 - 17, 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.

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?” Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.” Matthew 18:32–35

Love, kindness, gentleness, mercy...these and many like qualities are easy to think about. They inspire us to be holy by growing in virtue. But sometimes we need more. Sometimes pondering the beauty of the virtues and fruits of the Spirit do not suffice to help us embrace a life of holiness. This is one of the reasons for our parable today.

The *Spiritual Exercises* of Saint Ignatius of Loyola present us with a structure by which a spiritual director may lead a retreatant through a thirty day private retreat. Ignatius outlines thirty days worth of meditations. Interestingly, Ignatius does not begin by inviting a person to ponder the beautiful virtues to which they are called. Instead, for the first week, he has the retreatant ponder the horror of sin and the devastating effects that sin has upon a soul. By doing this, the person's eyes are more fully opened to their own sin so that, in the subsequent three weeks, they will be more properly disposed to reflect upon the inspiring life of Christ and His many virtues.

In a sense, our Gospel today is an ideal Gospel to ponder during that first week of an Ignatian retreat. And for that reason, it is an ideal Gospel to ponder anytime we want to get our spiritual lives in order. It is very easy to become complacent in our Christian walk. It is easy to become lukewarm in our prayer and even in our moral life. If that is you to any degree, then this Gospel is worth your careful and thorough attention.

The sin that Jesus addresses in this passage is the sin of unforgiveness. It clearly depicts the wrath of God that will be inflicted upon those who refuse to forgive others. The “wicked servant” to whom this is addressed was a man who was forgiven a “huge amount” by God. This is all of us. Every one of us has been forgiven by God an amount that cost Jesus His very life. The consequence of our sins was the death of the Son of God. Each of us deserves the penalty of death. But death has now been transformed into the very means of new life through the forgiveness of sins. And if we want to receive the forgiveness of sins and the new life that awaits us, we must fully share in God's forgiveness. Not only must we receive His forgiveness, we must also forgive those who have sinned against us. Completely. Totally. Without reserve.

In a commentary on this passage from St. Thomas Aquinas, the “torturers” spoken of, to whom we will be handed over if we do not forgive, are the demons. They will torment us when we lack forgiveness toward others. The torture, for now, will come in the form of obsessing over our wounds, dwelling upon thoughts of revenge, holding grudges, and lacking interior peace. This is the work of the demons, and they will torment us this way until we forgive.

Reflect, today, upon the absolute requirement of the Christian life to forgive. Mercy can seem unfair. From the perspective of strict justice, it is. But from the perspective of freedom and the virtues of Heaven, mercy makes perfect sense. Do not hesitate to forgive, for if you can do so from the bottom of your heart, God will lavish upon you the riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Most merciful Lord, You have forgiven me a huge debt. The cost of my sin was Your death on the Cross. Please fill my heart with such gratitude for this gift that I, in turn, offer the same depth of mercy to others. May I never waver in this depth of mercy so that I am freed from the torments that come from unforgiveness. Jesus, I trust in You.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Catholic Women's League

Women of the parish are invited to join CWL members at a pot luck dinner and brief meeting on Thursday, September 14th at 5:30pm. May Our Lady of Good Counsel guide us as we begin our CWL year.

The next dedicated Seniors' Mass will be Friday, September 15th at 9:00AM Mass. Come join us, it is not the same without you!

Spiritual Library

The Spiritual Library has been pleased to receive many book donations from a parishioner – John Serjak. The collection includes more books by Catherine de Hueck Doherty and Eddie Doherty; Mother Angelica; Henry J.M. Nouwen; Meditations by Mother Teresa and many more. There are also new children's books displayed in the library. A complete list of the donated books can be found in the Spiritual Library.

Youth Group

If you are between the ages of 18 – 35 and feel called to help with the youth group, please contact Chris Smith at cdansmith@hotmail.com

On September 23, come explore through art the beauty of God the Creator and His creation. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall in the Notre Dame Cathedral basement to celebrate the Season of Creation, the show will feature local artists with a focus on creation, and how we find God through it.

If you are a local artist and would like to submit your work for the show, please contact Mireille Church at mireille.church@ottawacornwall.ca

Thank you to Donna and her brother for growing and sharing the beautiful Gladiola flowers from their garden for another year. God has crafted these awesome flowers and His faithful servants, the McKluskys have tended and cared for them and shared them with our parish.

**Intentions of the Holy Father for September:
For people living on the margins**

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

FUTURE

My Catholic Women's League is active in the present and looks to the future with enthusiasm. For more than 100 years, members have been making a difference nationally and even internationally as a member of World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations.