

The Third to Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year B

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 2nd

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Mary Jarzab by the CWL

Sunday, March 3rd – Third Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Bruce Helliker by Winnie Kerfoot

Tuesday, March 5th

7:00pm CANCELLED

Wednesday, March 6th

9:30am Healing intentions of Erika Barten by Diane Cepenkus

Thursday, March 7th

9:00am For the family of Mariette Brault

Friday, March 8th

9:00am Repose of the soul of Dolores Major by the Joiner family

Saturday, March 9th

4:30pm Repose of the souls of George Hendley, family members and friends

Sunday, March 10th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00am Repose of the soul of Mary Alice Doyle by the KOC Council 12401

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

Tuesday, March 12th

7:00pm Intentions of Deacon Tom Stephenson by the CWL

Wednesday, March 13th

9:30am Intentions of Nicole Desmarais by Cathy Gambell

Thursday, March 14th

9:00am For the family of Mariette Brault

Friday, March 15th

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

Saturday, March 16th

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Dick and Sally James By Ken and Heather Sisk

Sunday, March 17th – Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Bev Cote by the KOC Council 12401

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

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.

Intentions of the Holy Father for March, 2024 FOR THE NEW MARTYRS

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

March 3rd – 10th, 2024 (Revised)

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

PLEASE JOIN US EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

March 8th – Led by K of C

March 15th – Led by CWL

March 22nd – Led by Fr. Anthony



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

There will be a teaching Mass for SMTCS-Grades 3 to 6 on Tuesday, March 5th at 10:00am. Hence, the Mass at 7:00pm is cancelled.

Our next dedicated seniors mass will be on Friday, March 15th at 9:00am with a prayer for seniors and a special blessing. There will be light refreshments after the mass.

CWL Bursary Applications are available to any student of our parish currently in their graduating year or within 1 year post graduation from Grade 12. The annual bursary award has been raised to **\$500** this year. For more information and/or to obtain an application please refer to the parish website: http://www.olmm.ca/groups_cwl.html or the parish office.

Completed applications and supporting documents must be submitted by April 30th, 2024. Applications can be mailed in or dropped off at the office. Any questions contact Heather Sisk, Bursary Committee Chair, at 613-443-2870 or email heatherasisk@gmail.com

"Be still, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). Are you interested in experiencing contemplative prayer? Christian Meditation meeting at Our Lady of Fatima, 153 Woodroffe Avenue: Saturdays @ 9:45am. Info: Theresa Ziebell 613-722-1693.

Legion of Mary

Annual Acies which is our consecration To the Blessed Virgin Mary

Date: Saturday March 23, 2024

Time : 10am to 1pm

Place: St. Maurice Catholic Church
4 Perry St., Ottawa, Ont.

All members both active and auxiliary
Light refreshment afterwards

MEANING

Life has meaning when you recognize your God-given gifts and share them with others. Join the Catholic Women's League and celebrate the meaning of Life as you share your gifts.

OLMM Spiritual Library

Come and browse through the OLMM Spiritual Library. Look for the section now devoted to books and DVDs for Sacramental preparation – First Communion, Confession, Confirmation. Many books on the lives of the Saints are available also.

NEW BATHROOMS

All three bathrooms have been backed-up previously because of hand towels, flushable wipes and diapers being flushed down the toilets. This is an unnecessary expense to the church. Please be mindful that even if the diapers and wipes are flushable, they can still cause blockage to our bathrooms. Thank you for your cooperation.

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 **Sunday, March 24th**.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12401 CORNER

i) Council 12401 would like to thank all parishioners who came out to support our parish breakfast. It was a huge success and we look forward to seeing everyone at our next breakfast once we have a date confirmed.

ii) Please don't forget to get your Knights of Columbus 50 / 50 tickets. The next draw is set for April 28, 2024. You can purchase your ticket by finding the link on our parish web site. By purchasing a 50/50 ticket you are supporting our council and our charitable causes.