

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 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 Medal parish through the liturgy, faith formation and sacramental life, provides opportunities for members to develop their faith and service to others.

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> –**

**4:30pm** Repose of the soul of Arturo Nuesca Lopez by his loving family

**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00am** Repose of the soul of Jeannine Lalonde by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

**10:45am** Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> - St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus**

**7:00pm**

**Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> – The Holy Guardian Angels**

**9:30am** Repose of the soul of Sylvie Barrett by the Mazur family

**Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**9:00am**

**Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> – St. Francis of Assisi**

**9:00am** Birthday intentions of Bridget Mulholland by the James family

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**

**4:30pm** Repose of the soul of Gisèle Langevin by Lynne Dupuis

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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

**10:45am** Repose of the soul of Réal Fortier by the James family

### *Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)*

“If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out...” [Mark 9:43–47](#)

Sometimes we need to wake up to the horror of sin. Sin and sin alone is capable of sending you to hell. Hell is real, and going there for eternity is a real possibility. Therefore, we must do whatever it takes to avoid that frightful possibility. At first, this teaching from Jesus might not be thought of as one of His most inspiring teachings, but it should be. It’s not inspiring in the sense that it is quite graphic. But it is very inspiring in the sense that it has the potential to motivate us to action.

Are you motivated to do all that you can to avoid sin? Would you even go so far as to cut off your hand or foot, and to pluck out your eye to avoid sin? First of all, this should not be seen as a literal command in which Jesus is telling us to mutilate ourselves. But He is the one Who chose such graphic language. Therefore, we should not shy away from prayerfully pondering these images to more clearly see those things that lead us to sin. When we see them, we must take the radical step of eliminating them from our lives.

Many Church Fathers say that the hand, foot and eye in this teaching refer to our friends. Just as a hand, foot and eye are good in and of themselves, so also are friends. We are made for friendship with God and with others. However, not every friendship helps us grow closer to God. Therefore, when an earthly friend becomes a source of sin, we must eliminate that friendship.

Friendship is different from charity. We owe charity to all people, even those who are the most sinful. But acting with charity toward others is different from being friends with them. To be a friend implies mutual giving and receiving. And though we must always give of ourselves to others, we ought not always to receive from them when what they have to offer is an invitation to sin. This is how we “cut it off” and “pluck it out.” When another person tries to relate to us in such a way that they lead us into sin, we must take that temptation very seriously and reject it with much vigor.

The hand, foot and eye in this teaching also represent every situation in life that tempts us to sin. People are drawn to nice things. But does possessing nice things help your soul to become holy? One could argue that they can have nice things, while at the same time remaining spiritually detached from them. Living simply is almost always better for your soul than living in luxury.

Reflect, today, upon those things or persons in your life that have become an occasion of sin for you. Do not fool yourself into believing that you can handle the temptation. If you have some source of ongoing temptation in your life, you need to eliminate it. Ponder this very graphic teaching from Jesus and try to apply it to your life. Identify those things that lead you into sin and eliminate them with much determination.

*My radical Lord, You call all of Your children to a life of holiness and perfection. Please help me to take Your teachings seriously so as to eliminate all occasions of sin from my life. May I have the eyes to see these temptations and the courage to reject them with all my might.*

### Intentions of the Holy Father for October FOR A SHARED MISSION

We pray that the Church continues to sustain in all ways a Synodal lifestyle, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, the communion and the mission shared among priests, religious and lay people.

### BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



Welcome to the family of God:

**Benedict Joseph Mazur**

