

Third Sunday of Lent – Year C

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, March 22nd

4:30pm **Birthdays blessings for Georgia Langley by Gam and Pop**

Sunday, March 23rd – Third Sunday of Lent

9:00am **Repose of the soul of Kevin Ash by the Croskery family**

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

Wednesday, March 26th

9:30am **Repose of the soul of Elizabeth Grieco by the Urlocker-Lalonde family**

Thursday, March 27th

9:00am **Healing intentions of Quinn by Peter and Catherine Gambell**

Friday, March 28th

9:00am **Repose of the soul of Barrie Landry by William Eagles**

Saturday, March 29th

4:30pm **Repose of the soul of Ron Lacroix by the Kolman family**

Sunday, March 30th – Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

10:45am **Repose of the soul of Marguerite Hillcox by Mark and Gerri Brewer**

The Third Sunday of Lent (Year C)

“For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil? He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’” [Luke 13:7-9](#)

Imagine for a moment that you were the owner of the orchard in which this fig tree was planted. After the gardener asked you to wait for one more year and promised to fertilize the unfruitful fig tree and cultivate the ground around it, you agreed. Then imagine coming to inspect that same fig tree the next year. Imagine three scenarios. First, what would you do if, once again, there were no figs present? Second, what if there were only a few figs? Third, what if the tree suddenly produced an abundance of good fruit?

It seems clear that in the first scenario, if for the fourth year in a row, not a single fig was produced, it would be time to cut down the tree. This depicts the justice of God sent forth on those who obstinately resist His grace. In the second scenario, the decision might be more difficult. If the tree produced only a few figs for the first time, then perhaps that would provide enough hope for the future of that tree to ask the gardener to continue caring for it. This depicts those who are in a state of grace but are still lazy in their service of the will of God. In the third scenario, however, the reaction of the owner of the orchard would be clear. There would be much excitement and gratitude that the gardener’s good work paid off.

Jesus is the Gardener, and we are the fig tree. This parable should lead us to look at our lives and examine whether or not we bear good fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus comes to you to cultivate the soil of your heart, fertilizing it with His holy Word, watering it with His Sacraments, and doing all He can to allow you to produce the fruit of charity in your life. How successful are these actions of our Lord in your life?

Too often, when we see only a little good fruit being borne from our lives, we are satisfied. And though any good fruit is good, we are wasting our lives if we do not do all we can to become as abundantly fruitful as possible. Imagine the joy in the Hearts of our Lord and the Father in Heaven if they were to look upon you and see good fruit being produced beyond expectation. Why wouldn’t this be your goal in life? Our Lord is patient, but He is also just. Do not try His patience, and do not succumb to His justice.

Reflect, today, upon the image of you being this fig tree and our Lord as the divine Gardener. Commit yourself to His actions of tilling and fertilizing. You do so by strengthening your commitment to reading and understanding the Word of God, participating more fully in the Sacraments, being more focused upon your daily prayer, examining your conscience more fully, and sincerely confessing your sins.

My divine Gardener, You have committed Yourself to the humble work of tilling the soil of my heart and fertilizing it with Your abundant mercy. I choose, this day, to respond to Your grace and pray that my cooperation with You will produce an abundance of good fruit in my life for Your glory and the building up of Your Kingdom. Jesus, I trust in You.

INTENTIONS OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR MARCH For families in crisis

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness and rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences.

SUNDAY MORNING SMILE

A little boy had just got home from Sunday School and mom was cooking lunch. "Mommy, is it true that before you're born you're just dust and after you die you go back to being dust?" "That's right son, why?" "Well, that's just what they said at church today." "Now run upstairs and wash your hands son, lunch will be ready in a few minutes." About 10 minutes went by and she called out for him to come down. "I'll be there in a minute." As they were about to sit down at the table, the little boy asked again about being dust before being born and after you die. Once again mother said "yes son". The little boy looked at her and said, "then you better get up to my room pretty quick, because something under my bed is either coming or going!"

March 23, 2025

Are you new to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish?
WELCOME! If you have not yet registered, please complete a registration form in the foyer or office.

You may bring the completed form to the office or drop it in the collection basket.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

March 28th – Led by Our Lady's Children's Faith Formation

April 4th – Led by CWL (24-hour Adoration won't start until after Stations of the Cross)

April 11th – Led by Youth Group



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

Please join us on Wednesday, March 26th, at 7 pm for our parish Lenten Penance Service. Visiting priests will be available.

Spiritual Library - More new adult books on the Lenten season are available in the Spiritual Library.

MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT – Theme: “**Becoming Strong Disciples of Christ**”

There will be an OLMM Men's retreat on Saturday, March 29th from 9:30 – 11:30 am. All men are welcome. Coffee and doughnuts will be served courtesy of the Knights of Columbus Council 12401.

Are you interested in an OLMM pilgrimage to St. Joseph's Oratory?

OLMM is planning a pilgrimage by coach sometime in early to mid-June 2025. If this is something that you might be interested in participating in, then please sign up (no commitments required at this stage) so that we have an idea of the numbers. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer and at the front entrance of the church.

OLMM 33 Day Consecration to St. Joseph starting March 30th, 2025

You are invited to be part of a group that would like to make a personal and family consecration to St. Joseph this Jubilee year. The preparation for this will start on March 30th, with the consecration being made at an OLMM Mass on the Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st, 2025. More information to follow.

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 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 pew and include your donation. The cut-off date is **Sunday, April 13th**.



“MENTORSHIP” – Mentorship includes guidance, inspiration, and encouragement. The Catholic Women's League is a sisterhood of mentors willing to walk with you. Come be a part of the journey.

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 for the annual CWL bursary award of \$500. 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, 2025. Applications can be mailed in or dropped off at the office. For any questions contact Winnie Kerfoot, Bursary Committee Chair at wkerfoot@gmail.com



Handicraft Holy Land Christians



On the weekend of April 12-13, we will welcome our special guest Vanessa from Sebastien Cardinal's team representing "Handicraft Holy Land Christians", who after all the masses will briefly address the issues and concerns regarding the Christian presence in the Holy Land.

Christians in the Holy Land graciously ask your support through conscience prayers and will have many unique hand-carved olive wood religious art pieces made by these families in Bethlehem available for purchase after every mass.

Proceeds of the sales generate much-needed employment for our Christian brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

May God Bless you for your generosity, for your help and for your prayers."

Cash, debit, credit cards, and cheques will be accepted.

You can visit and support us at www.HolylandChristians.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12401 CORNER

Council 12401 will be holding a general meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025, in the parish hall.

Fellowship will begin at 7:00 pm followed by the General Meeting starting at 7:30 PM. All members of council 12401 are encouraged to attend.