

## Third Sunday of Advent-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph-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, December 11

**4:30 pm**-For the repose of the soul of Marty Chesser by the Oldford family

#### Sunday, December 12-Third Sunday of Advent

**9:00am**- For the intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am**-For the birthday intentions of Brianna Hamilton by the Urlocker/Lalonde family

#### Tuesday, December 14-St. John of the Cross

**7:00pm**-For the repose of the soul of Robert W. Fillion by the Croskery family

#### Wednesday, December 15

**9:30am**- For the repose of the soul of Robert W. Fillion by the Croskery family

#### Thursday, December 16

**9:00am**

#### Friday, December 17

**9:00am**

#### Saturday, December 18

**4:30pm**-For the intentions of the Brault family by Mariette Brault

#### Sunday, December 19 -Fourth Sunday of Advent

**9:00am**-For the repose of the soul of Alfred Longchamps by Colleen and family

**10:45am**- For the intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

#### Tuesday, December 21

**7:00pm**-For the blessings of Theresa and Stewart on their engagement and upcoming marriage by the James family

#### Wednesday, December 22

**9:30am**-

#### Thursday, December 23

**9:00am**-For the intentions and well being of all seniors

#### Friday, December 24-The Nativity of the Lord

**4:30pm**-For the repose of the soul of Jared Oldford by Mom, Dad and his loving family

**6:45pm**-For the intentions of Dick and Sally James by the James family

**9:00pm**-

#### Saturday, December 25-The Nativity of the Lord

**10:00am**-To Jesus our Saviour

#### Sunday, December 26-The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**9:00am**- For the intentions of the Parishioners by the Pastor

**10:45am**- For the repose of the soul of Marty Chesser by the Pat and Gerry Redsell

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**Reminder:** Our December seniors mass will be on Thursday December 23 at the 9:00am mass. All seniors are welcome to join us and celebrate this advent season.

### Preparing for Christmas

This is the time of year when everyone starts getting ready for Christmas. The stores are packed with people buying gifts. Those boxes packed away months ago are brought out and all of that lovely Christmas stuff is put out. The houses are decorated with lights and trimmings and yards become the showcases of Christmas splendor.

When we truly prepare for Christmas, there is a personal cleansing. When we truly prepare for Christmas, there is a new arrangement of our priorities. When we truly prepare for Christmas, there is a decorating of the heart. When we truly prepare for Christmas, there is a receiving and giving of gifts.

#### I. The cleaning of the heart

Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God. [Matthew 5:8](#)

The word "blessed" literally means happy in the original Greek. From this statement of Jesus we see that the pure in heart are the happy in heart. Why? Simply because they will one day see God. Now this sounds really simple, doesn't it, because all that you need is a pure heart. The good news is that God is the one who cleans the heart and all that you need to do is ask Him. David asked God for this exact thing: Create in me a pure heart and renew a right spirit within me. ([Psalm 51:10](#)) God granted David's request and gave him a clean heart. He can do the same for you; all you need to do is ask Him.

#### II. The arranging of priorities

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well. [Matthew 6:33](#) An essential part of preparing for Christmas involves re-arranging. Just as we arranged our homes, schedules and other aspects of our lives for Christmas. God wants us to arrange our hearts for Christmas. His desire is for you to make more room for His Son in the room of your heart. When we make this extra room in the heart, God blesses us with more of Christ. It is then that the blessings of God begin to rapidly flow into our lives and overflow into the lives of others. When we put Christ in the center of our lives, everything else comes together. We become so busy celebrating the season that we totally miss the reason for the season! We become centered on shopping for the right gifts and forget to tell others of God's perfect gift. We are not prepared for Christmas until our priorities are in line.

#### III. The decorating of the heart

What does God do to decorate a heart?

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. God decorates a heart by gutting the old and creating something new.

**December 12-December 26, 2021**  
**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**

Far too often, we only give God partial control and we only allow Him to make the changes that we approve. God's desire is to take your life and make it even more beautiful. God wants to add value to your life. God wants only the very best for your life and he wants to be the influence of your life. However, he waits for you to give Him permission to begin the work. God desires to decorate your life with his blessing and give you something completely new.

#### **IV. The receiving and giving of gifts**

##### **A. The receiving of gifts**

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. John 1:12 John speaks of those who received Christ. The Greek meaning of the word "receive" means "to welcome" or "to accept." John is making it clear that we are to welcome Christ into our lives. This receiving is not just for part or some of our life but rather it is for every area of our life. To believe in the name of Jesus means to put faith in Him as a person and in what he represents. The simple act is life changing and transforming because we become children of God. God has given us an incredible gift. By faith, in Christ, we can become children of God.

##### **B. The giving of gifts**

One of the greatest joys of Christmas is found in giving. It is indeed better to give than to receive. I don't always enjoy the shopping or the wrapping of gifts but I love to give the gifts. The same may be true for you. You love to watch others tear through the wrapping. You love to watch their face light up. You love to hear the words "It's just what I wanted!" It might surprise you but this applies to Christ as well. There is great joy when you give a gift to Christ. What does Christ want from you? My child, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways. Proverbs 23:26

**The greatest gift you can give to Christ is yourself**

##### **Conclusion**

So, where are you with your preparations for Christmas? Are there some areas of your heart that need to be cleaned? Maybe you need to rearrange some things to make more room for Christ in your life? Perhaps your heart is fairly barren and needs some of God's blessings for decorations. Have you received the gift of Christ and have you given Him your heart.

This year the wonder of Christmas can come alive for you in brand new ways if you will open your heart and allow God to prepare you for Christmas.

**Advent Reconciliation Service**  
**Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm**

**Mark your Calendars!!**

#### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

##### **Christmas Eve**

Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
4:30pm, 6:45pm and 9:00pm  
(all at OLMM, the regular Friday 9:00am mass will be cancelled)

##### **Christmas Day**

Saturday, December 25<sup>th</sup>-10:00am  
(the regular 4:30pm Saturday mass will be cancelled)

##### **Sunday, December 26<sup>th</sup>**

Regular Sunday masses at 9:00 and 10:45 am

**Reservations for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day will be taken on Wednesday, December 22 from 9:00am until 2:30pm.**

##### **New Years Eve**

Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>- 4:30pm  
(the regular Friday 9:00am mass will be cancelled)

##### **New Years Day**

Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - 10:00am  
(the regular 4:30pm Saturday mass will be cancelled)

##### **Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Regular Sunday masses at 9:00 and 10:45 am

**Reservations for New Years Eve, New Years day and Sunday will be taken on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am until 1:30pm.**

**FOOD DRIVE** "The Knights of Columbus Food Drive has been postponed until the New Year."

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE** at [www.olmm.ca](http://www.olmm.ca) and our Facebook page  
Email: [admin@olmm.ca](mailto:admin@olmm.ca)

**Knights of Columbus 50/50** Charity Lottery with early bird prizes – Proceeds from this lottery benefit both our local council and provincial charities. Please visit <https://bit.ly/KofC-50-50> to purchase tickets.

**Intentions of The Holy Father for December:**  
**Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.