

Twenty-Ninth 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, October 21st

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Lise Tessier by the Geerts family

Sunday, October 22nd – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

10:45am Repose of the soul of Rob Burns Jr. by Robert Burns

Tuesday, October 24th

7:00pm Repose of the soul of Eugenio Caraang by his loving family

Wednesday, October 25th

9:30am Repose of the soul of John Trocci by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

Thursday, October 26th

9:00am Healing intentions of Albert Plant by the Gambell family

Friday, October 27th

9:00am Repose of the soul of Rejean Dorval by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

Saturday, October 28th – St. Simon and St. Jude

4:30pm Repose of the soul of Rejean Dorval by the Beaudin family

Sunday, October 29th – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00am Repose of the soul of Rose Caron by the Joiner family

10:45am Intentions of the parishioners by the Pastor

YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

October 15th, 2023 = \$2,898.

Thank you for your generosity and support

Intentions of the Holy Father for October: For the Synod

We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level, and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap him in speech. They sent their disciples to Him, with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that You are a truthful man and that You teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion, for You do not regard a person’s status. Tell us, then, what is Your opinion: Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?” **Matthew 22:15-17**

It has been said that “the enemy of my enemy is my friend.” In other words, two people who are enemies with each other will often join together if they see an opportunity to jointly attack an even greater enemy. This is what was happening in today’s Gospel. Jesus was considered the greatest enemy of the Pharisees and the Herodians, and both of these groups joined together in a plot to trap Jesus even though they greatly disliked each other.

The Pharisees were very nationalistic and were strict observers of the Law of Moses. It was their view that the people should not have to pay taxes to the Romans, and many of the people agreed. The Herodians supported the Romans and, therefore, were supporters of Herod, the Jewish ruler appointed by the Roman Emperor. One of Herod’s responsibilities was to obtain taxes from the Jews for use by the Roman government. Those who opposed the paying of taxes to the Romans could even be put to death.

This joint questioning of Jesus had one goal: to get Him in trouble. If Jesus said it was unlawful to pay taxes to Caesar, Herod’s soldiers could arrest Him. If Jesus said that the people should pay taxes to Caesar, the Pharisees could turn the people against Him. It appeared to be a lose-lose question posed to Jesus. Of course, Jesus’ answer was perfect. Without violating the Law of God, He also refrained from violating the civil law. Upon hearing His answer, all who heard Him “were amazed, and leaving Him they went away.”

The lesson learned from this passage is an especially important lesson to apply to family life. It is very common for conflicts to arise from time to time among those who are close to each other. When that happens, we can often take the approach of trying to trap the other person and trip them up with our deceptive reasoning. When this happens between two people, the conversation often turns into a shouting match with each party seeking only to find fault with the other.

The solution to such situations is simple. Every conflict must be resolved by the truth. Jesus did this perfectly. He did not attack when He was attacked. He did not defend Himself irrationally. He did not shy away from the confrontation. He did not manipulate the truth to His own advantage. Instead, He spoke openly and honestly the full truth and refused to engage His opponents in their trickery. Consider this question. What if you were in Jesus’ position and the Pharisees came to you, asking you this question? What would you be tempted to answer? Most likely, you would try to answer them in such a way that appeased them.

You might whisper, “We shouldn’t pay the taxes but don’t tell that to the Herodians.” And if the Herodians were to ask you that question, you might be tempted to give a different answer that appeased them.

Oftentimes, when we feel as though another person is trying to trap us, condemn us, or challenge us, we become more concerned about our defense than with the honest truth. We can become afraid to say anything that will give them reason to attack us. We will be tempted to twist our answers rather than speak forthrightly with sincerity and honesty. This will never resolve a conflict. The only way to resolve anything is with the truth.

Reflect, today, upon how you work to resolve conflict when it arises. Are you more like the Pharisees and Herodians whose only goal was to trick, trap and win? Do you see the other as an enemy in those moments? Or do you strive to be like Jesus who didn’t shy away from the conversation, answering honestly and directly? Of course, the truth was easy for Jesus since He was without any fault. In our lives, the truth may require that we admit our sin and apologize when confronted. However, if the truth, the full truth and nothing but the truth is our goal, then our conversations will imitate Jesus and, most often, a peaceful resolution will ensue.

My truthful Lord, Your wisdom is perfect and Your words are truth. Please give me the gifts of wisdom and all truth, especially when conflicts arise. In those moments, please keep me from reacting in an angry and defensive way so that I can always be an instrument of the unity You desire. Jesus, I trust in You.

October 22, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Take a look at these new additions to the adult books collection in the Spiritual Library:

B13 - God Speaks Your Love Language: How to Experience and Express God's Love - Gary Chapman

B18 - Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith; 101 Stories to Offer Hope, Deepen Faith, and Spread Love - Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and LeAnn Thieman

B18 - 15 (Fifteen) Minutes Alone with God for Men - Bob Barnes

OLMM will once again celebrate a monthly Children's Mass on the third Sunday of each month at the 9:00AM Mass. The children and youth of our parish (SK to Grade 12) will have the chance to participate in various ministries before, during and after the Mass. For example, children and youth can sign up to be greeters, ushers, lectors, gift bearers, etc. The children will also be invited to participate in the closing song in a special way. If your child is interested in participating in this event, please fill out the registration form available in the church foyer. Families who register will be notified in advance when it is their child's turn to participate.

The Church's Commitment to Our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters

While the Church and Indigenous peoples have been on a journey towards mutuality and healing for several years, last year's visit by Pope Francis brought a certain urgency for reconciliation, for healing and for justice. Your generous participation in "A Christ-Centred, Co-Journey Towards Healing" is a concrete step on this journey. Your donation helps local Indigenous organizations such as Mādahōki Farm, who are using their grant money to establish an equine assisted learning program specifically for Indigenous children and their families, using rare, endangered Ojibwe Spirit Horses. Learn more at www.journeyforhealing.ca

BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



Welcome to the family of God:

Maria-Victoria Vinueza Acosta
Avery Michel Mark McLean
Rory Scott Franklin McLean
Alice April Lyne Prévost

HOPE

Hope is the essence we hold onto during times of adversity and is the beacon of light in the darkness. Anyone seeking refuge and hope can find it in the Catholic Women's League. Members find hope in one another. Join and be a woman of hope.

St Mary's Kids All Saints' Eve Party

Looking for a family-friendly alternative to Halloween? Look no further! St. Mary's Parish is hosting an All Saints' Eve Party on October 31st from 5pm – 7pm. Dress up as your favourite Saint or biblical character and join us for a night of fun and games. We'll have plenty of candy to give away, and hotdogs available for purchase. Plus, if you select the option when buying your ticket, your child will go home with a bag full of treats! Don't forget, there will also be a prize for the best costume, so make sure to bring your A-game. This is an event you won't want to miss!

In preparation for *Jubilee 2025*, the year 2023 is dedicated to Vatican II. **The CCCB Office for Evangelization and Catechesis will host a webinar series, "The Four Constitutions of Vatican II"**, inviting the faithful to reflect on the meaning of these documents for the life of the Church today. **Simultaneous interpretation (French/English) will be available for all four sessions of the webinar series:**

1. **"Sacrosanctum Concillium" — Monsignor Murray Kroetsch, PH, VG**
Tuesday November 7 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST
2. **"Dei Verbum" — Bishop Yvan Mathieu, SM**
Tuesday November 14 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST
3. **"Gaudium et Spes" — Sr. Donna Geernaert, SC**
Tuesday November 21 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST
4. **"Lumen Gentium" — Dr. Catherine Clifford**
Tuesday November 28 from 1:00-2:30 pm EST

All webinar sessions will be recorded and packaged with a reflection guide for later release.

If you wish to attend any of the webinar sessions or to be notified when session recordings are made available, please register at https://cccb.ca.zoom.us/webinar/register/9416927172336/WN_Xf09Vsi_SjiiLwdLPzWMdQ#/registration.

Established in 2020, **Renewed in Liturgy Ministry** is an annual event spread over three evenings in November. It helps Catholics of Ottawa-Cornwall Diocese to gain an in-depth understanding of celebration of Eucharistic Liturgy.

This year's speakers are, Most Reverend Yvan Mathieu, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall, Rev Fr. Rob Arsenault, CC and Rev. Fr. Pierre Champoux. The sessions will be held on Nov 10, Nov 17 and Nov 24 at Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Ottawa. See below for more details.