



## Second Sunday of Advent – 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, December 9<sup>th</sup>*

**4:30pm** Intentions and blessings of the new OLMM. CWL executive by Heather Sisk

#### *Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Advent*

**9:00am** Repose of the soul of Tara Bankley by the Bankley family

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

#### *Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Guadalupe*

**7:00pm** Repose of the soul of Gerry Redsell by Jim and Jane Munro

#### *Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> – St. Lucy*

**9:30am** Repose of the soul of Ron Lacroix by the Kolman family

#### *Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> – St. John of the Cross*

**9:00am** Repose of the souls of Mary and Bob Urlocker by the Swain family

#### *Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*

**9:00am** Intentions and blessings of all seniors

#### *Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>*

**4:30pm** Repose of the souls of Mary, Harry and George Chyzyj by Myra Chyzyj

#### *Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Third Sunday of Advent*

**9:00am** Birthday intentions of Brianna Hamilton by the Urlocker-Lalonde family

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

### YOUR OFFERINGS FOR

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 = \$3,543.**

**Thank you for your generosity and support**

### Intentions of the Holy Father for December

#### **FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

We pray that people living with disabilities: may they be at the center of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

**Have you moved or changed your phone number in the past two years? If so please contact the office with your updated information so we can input the information for the upcoming tax receipts. Thank you.**

### *Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)*

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: *Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way. A voice of one crying out in the desert: “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.”* Mark 1:1–3

These, the opening lines from the Gospel of Saint Mark, present us with Saint John the Baptist. John was the one that Isaiah prophesied would come before the Messiah. John was given the responsibility and privilege of being the one who would be the most immediate preparer for the Savior of the World.

Perhaps if most people were given the task of instructing John on how best to prepare the way for the Lord, they would tell him he must go to the leaders of the people, the civil authorities, the influential and those of status in society to win them over first. Many would conclude that the Messiah needed to have the full support of the leaders at that time. But that’s obviously not what John did.

John the Baptist, at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, was driven not into the homes of the most prestigious and wealthy, not into the halls of the civil governors, and not into the synagogues or Temple. Instead, John was driven into the desert. And in the desert, that dry and deserted place, he drew many people to himself and to his message of repentance.

God continues to call many today to follow in the footsteps of John the Baptist. Though John was a real person sent on a real mission at one particular moment in time, the mission he fulfilled is one that still needs fulfilling in various ways today. The “way of the Lord” still needs to be prepared. The Lord still desires to come to many, and He needs prophets to prepare the way for His continual coming by grace. Are you one of those people?

Truth be told, every one of us, rich or poor, learned or unlearned, young or old, etc., is called by God to prepare the way for His coming by grace every day. We are called to prepare the way by calling others to sincere repentance and conversion of life. This is done by the witness of our actions, by our words and by numerous other ways that God calls. How is God calling you to do His work? He is certainly calling you. You simply need to be open to that calling and generously respond.

Reflect, today, upon that “desert” to which you have been called, so as to prepare yourself and others for the coming of Christ. That desert is any place where there is need and every place where our Lord is not. It might be your family, work environment, community, among friends, or any place that lacks the superabundance of God’s grace. Seek to enter those deserts and to be open to be a channel of our Lord’s grace to those in need.

*Lord, You desire to come to me and to all of Your children every day. Please use me to not only prepare my own heart and soul for Your divine coming but to also prepare others to meet You. Give me wisdom and compassion, insight and strength, so that I can imitate Saint John the Baptist and prepare the way for Your most glorious coming by grace. Jesus, I trust in You.*

December 10, 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

### PARISH ADVENT ACTIVITIES

#### Advent Confessions

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 7:00 pm

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

#### Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 am

~ 4:30 pm

~ 6:30 pm

~ 8:30 pm

#### Christmas Day

Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ~ 9:00 am

#### New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup> ~ 9:00 am

~ 10:45 am

#### New Year's Day

Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup> ~ 9:00 am



*To help entertain the children during this season, come and browse through the Children's Christmas Books and DVDs in the OLMM Spiritual Library. You'll find this wonderful collection displayed on top of the cabinets by the staircase. Your children will thank you!*

### CHURCH DECORATIONS & FLOWERS

Parishioners can help beautify the church for Christmas by making a donation for church flowers and decorations 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 Christmas. If you have a loved one you would like to honor in this way, please fill out the envelope found in the pews including your donation. Deadline for envelopes to be in is December 17<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30pm mass we will offer the intention for their souls. Thank you!

**The parish is in need of a part time bookkeeper** to start as soon as possible. The bookkeeper is responsible for maintaining a complete and accurate set of records for financial reporting purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and other general duties. Working knowledge of Quickbooks accounting software and previous bookkeeping experience with a parish is an asset. Please see the full job posting and job description on our website on how to apply.

### INNOVATION

Members of the Catholic Women's League bring innovative ideas to develop resolutions for change. We read the signs of the times and propose creative solutions.

**The next dedicated Seniors' Mass** will be Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM mass. Come join us, it is not the same without you!

**Please pickup your 2024 donation envelopes** at the foyer. The envelopes are only for those parishioners that are not on automatic payment. For the special collections throughout 2024 there will be envelopes in the pews.

**OLMM is sponsoring a family of 7 this year at Waupoos Family Farm.** This is the information on the family; Mom, Boy 15, Boy 11, Girl 10, Girl 9, Boy 8, Boy 7. There is a sign up sheet with gift suggestions for parishioners to sign up for in the foyer. For any additional information please contact Karen Urlocker at 613-445-2962. Please bring unwrapped gifts to the church before Sunday, Dec.17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your constant generosity and support!

**Catholic Corner is a new locally owned and operated Catholic Gift Store.** Currently we offer a wide variety of items including books, medals, images, games and even Catholic Coffee! We are also adding new products every week. Come join us at the Corner [www.catholiccorner.ca](http://www.catholiccorner.ca).

**St. Mary's Anglican Church** at 139 Castor St. Russell is hosting a FREE Christmas Dinner, Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30pm. Eat-in, take-out or delivered. Open to all in the community. If you are a senior, a family, living alone, ill, grieving, or lonely, please join us. Please call Janice at 613-370-0555 to arrange for delivery, reserve your meals or confirm attendance.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 12401 CORNER

Council 12401 will be celebrating its 25th anniversary as a charter member of the Knights of Columbus on March 24, 2024. We are in the planning stages of celebrating this special occasion with a mass followed by a dinner set for Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024. If you would like more information please contact Michael Adams at 905-609-0034.

Council 12401 supports MADD Canada. After each mass on December 16-17, 2023 members of the Knights will be handing out red ribbons to support awareness against driving under the influence. Donations will be accepted and passed along with the council's donation to MADD Canada.