

Father Oliver's Weekend Reflection:

1st Sunday of Lent, Genesis 2:7-9, 16-18

Today's reading takes us back to the beginning—to the intimacy of creation, where God is close, personal, and genuinely involved, rather than distant or abstract. This verse encourages us to cherish the life we've been given and to recognize the care and purpose that went into our creation. Thus, we must question ourselves, "Do I remember that my life is a gift sustained by God's breath?" Do I believe God's laws are life roads, not barriers?"

According to the scripture, "the Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." This is a great image. Humans are created of dust, which means they are fragile, limited, and dependent. We are animated by God's breath, making us both humble and holy. Moreover, we are earthbound, but we contain God's very existence. And every breath we take serves as a reminder that life is a gift, not something we create. This reveals a crucial aspect of our identity. Our dignity is not derived from our achievements, wealth, or social standing. God's breath within us causes it. Thus, this holy breath is present in every human being, no matter how feeble, destitute, or broken. Hence, to ignore this is to lose touch with our true selves.

May we remember that we are dust, but dust filled with God's breath. And may that knowledge shape how we live, love, and care for one another.

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Liturgy and Sacraments:

Baptism & Instruction in the Catholic Faith: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on Sundays as needed. Parent preparation is required.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Those wishing to join the Catholic Church please call the office (613-543-2544). Classes starting soon!

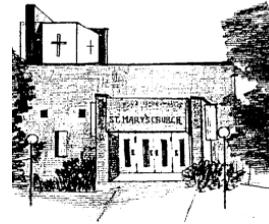
Marriage: 9-12-month notice is needed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Each couple is required to participate in a Marriage Preparation course.

Reconciliation: Confessions heard half hour before Mass or by appointment.

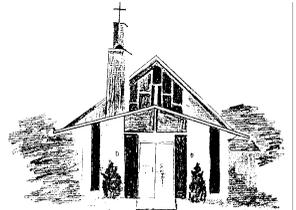
Anointing of the Sick: The Sacrament of Anointing is given on request, especially before going to the hospital, or at the hospital or at home.

Sick List: Please call the office if anyone needs prayers, a visit or is seriously ill. If you are unable to attend Mass for an extended period of time, please contact St. Mary's. Arrangements can be made for reception of the Holy Eucharist in the home.

ST. MARY'S - ST. CECILIA'S PARISH



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Civic Address: St. Mary, 31 Meikle Street, Morrisburg
Civic Address: St. Cecilia, 3 College Street, Iroquois
Father Oliver Wekesa, Administrator
Mrs. Nancy Richer, Parish Secretary

First Sunday of Lent ~ February 22, 2026

Sun. 22 Feb 9:00 am Anna Marie & Beat Schraner (Rita Rimann)

Tue. 24 Feb 9:00 am Bonnie & Wayne Lynch (Fred & Sandy Diegel)

Wed. 25 Feb **9:45 am** Int of Jocelyn Arnott (Zambon Family)
Stations of the Cross: 9:00 am – 9:45 am led by the Knights

Sun. 01 Mar 9:00 am Tina Serviss (Mary Van Moorsel)

Tue. 03 Mar 9:00 am Linda Casselman (Fred & Sandy Diegel)

Wed. 04 Mar **9:45 am** Mass of Thanksgiving (Carol & Al Belanger)
Stations of the Cross: 9:00 am – 9:45 am led by the CWL

First Friday

Fri. 06 Mar 4:00 pm Margaret Lortie (Janis Tindal)
3:00 – 4:00 pm Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Etransfers Available: We have set up the ability to send etransfers to the Church, please use StMary.Morrisburg@archkingston.ca, in the remarks area please give your name and what you wish the money to be used for eg. Roof, Regular Collection etc.

First Sunday of Lent

Collection: 6th Sunday: \$1,262.00 (2025: \$305.00)

Archdiocesan Lenten \$215.00;

Repairs and Maintenance: \$30.00; Roof Repair: \$50.00;

Roof Collected to date: \$8,325 (found error this is the corrected amount)

(Total cost \$120,000)

Meetings:

KNIGHTS - Mon 9 March, 7 pm St. Mary's Meeting Room

CWL - Mon 16 March, 7 pm St. Mary's Meeting Room (No Meeting Jan & Feb)

Bible/Faith Study: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 6 pm St. Mary's Meeting Room

Sacramental Preparation: Meetings will be held after the 9 am Mass

First Communion: March 1; April 5

Confirmation: February 22; March 29; April 26

Parish Activities:

Choirs: St. Mary's: Jim Boissonneault (543-3435) new members are welcome!

AA Meeting: Wednesday, 8:00 pm,

Coffee Social: **March 8th** Marg Zambon (613-652-4741)



Pray for those who are sick in our families and parish especially:
Tony Byvelds, Bridget Van Der Zweep, John Ricci, Alice McNairn, Noella Kirkwood, and Louise Altimas.

Pray for the repose of the soul of Robert Miller, Father Stan Alanen, Julie Watters (nee Durivage), Margaret Lortie; Jim Kelly, Juliet Greml, Catherine Lortie, Tina Serviss, and Beat Schraner.

Tax Receipts are ready for pick up in the back of the Church. Included with your tax receipt is a letter from Father Oliver and a copy of the financial report.

Used Stamps are used to help the Redemptorists Missions fund their work. Catherine Dwyre will be collecting them in March; this will be the final time as the process has changed for sending them and is no longer feasible.

February 22, 2026



Lent for Christians is a solemn period in which we reflect on the way we live our lives by imitating the 40 days of Jesus's sojourn in the desert. This period of purification assists us in our spiritual growth. Sundays, because it is a solemn feast day is not one of the 40 days of Lent.

Free Will Offering for Missals and Word Among Us if you are able, please consider helping with the cost of these items, the box is located at the back of the church. Thank you for your continued support of our Parish.



Fundraising Committee Needed! Please consider joining this committee to help our parish reach its goals and be a part of uplifting our parish! Help make a difference in your parish!

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the Church for volunteers to sign up to be on this committee.

Food Bank Collection Please bring any non-perishable food. A cash donation can be made, please make the cheque to Community Food Share and put in the collection basket marked Food Bank. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Mass Intentions The parish has a shortage of weekday Mass Intentions, cost \$20. Please consider gifting a Mass intention for someone who is celebrating a special occasion. Having a Mass in memory of a loved one is a wonderful way to remember.

50/50 Raffle Tickets: The Knights of Columbus presents its Ontario Charities raffle tickets in support of their local projects. Open only to Ontario residents over 17, 50/50 grand prize is April 26. Tickets are 10 for \$10, 40 for \$20, 125 for \$50 and 300 for \$100 or online at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/295> or call Graham Darling at 613-214-1968.