

**Father Oliver's Weekend Reflection:**

**5th Sunday Ezekiel 37.12-14**

I am going to meditate on "I will open your graves and have you rise from them." "I will place my spirit within you, and you will live." This is a promise made by Ezekiel to those who feel demoralized, displaced, and hopeless. Israel isn't just hurting; they think their story is over. Their assessment is "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost." And into this hopelessness, God speaks with a promise: "I will open your graves."

This passage refers to more than just physical death. It encompasses every kind of "grave" we face, including depression, broken relationships, and a loss of faith or purpose. Similarly, sin enslaves us and leaves us feeling hopeless. We've all felt the sensation that something inside us has died. Nevertheless, God promises, "I will open your graves." God always takes a leading role in our Resurrection or regeneration. The second promise is this: I will place my spirit into you, and you will live. According to the Bible, life is more than just being alive; it is God's life or grace within us. Furthermore, God's spirit transforms dry bones into living beings, fear into bravery, and despair into hope. Thus, the challenge for us today is: Where are the "graves" in my life right now? What have I lost faith in? Where has my hope gone? What does it feel like when you go beyond healing and renewal?

Rather than resigning ourselves to words of despair—such as "It's over," "Nothing can change," or "This is how it will always be"—let us instead hold fast to the Lord's promise to open our tombs. God assures us, "I will instill my Spirit within you, and you will live." May this promise inspire us to embrace hope and trust in the renewal that only God can bring.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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!

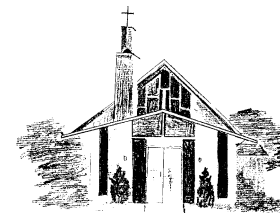
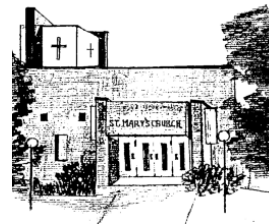
**Marriage:** 9–12-month notice is needed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Each couple is required to participate in a Marriage Preparation course.

**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**



31, Meikle Street, P.O. Box 612  
Morrisburg, On, K0C 1X0  
T 613-543-2544 F 613-543-2800

**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri, 9-12

Email: [StMary.Morrisburg@archkingston.ca](mailto:StMary.Morrisburg@archkingston.ca)

Web page: [stmary-stcecilia-parish.ca](http://stmary-stcecilia-parish.ca)

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

**Fifth Sunday of Lent ~ March 22, 2026**

Sun.	22 Mar	9:00 am	Anna Marie & Beat Schraner (The Family)
Tue.	24 Mar	9:00 am	Peter & Regina Fridgen & Family (Estate of B Fridgen)
Wed.	25 Mar	<b>9:45 am</b>	Albertha Smit (Zambon Family)

**Stations of the Cross: 9:00 am – 9:45 am led by the Knights**

**Palm Sunday**

Sun. 29 Mar 9:00 am Anna Marie & Beat Schraner (The Family)

**Holy Week**

Tue.	31 Mar	10:30 am	Mass of Chrism at the Cathedral in Kingston
Wed.	01 Apr	<b>9:45 am</b>	Deceased Members of the O'Brien Family (Pat Bisson)
Thu.	02 Apr	7:00 pm	Stefan Masternak (Nancy Richer)
Fri.	03 Apr	2:00 pm	Stations of the Cross led by the CWL
		03 Apr	3:00 pm Good Friday Service
Sat.	04 Apr	8:00 pm	Chuck Richer (Richer Family)
Sun.	05 Apr	9:00 am	Living & Deceased Mbrs of Gremli Family (Ray & Val)

# Fifth Sunday of Lent

**Etransfers Available:** We have set up the ability to send etransfers to the Church, please use [StMary.Morrisburg@archkingston.ca](mailto: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.

**Collection:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent: \$2,115.00 (2025: \$1,905.00)  
Roof Repair: \$1,620.00; Repairs & Maintenance: \$25.00; Lenten: \$100.00

**Roof Collected to date: \$17,125.00;** (Total cost \$120,000)

## Meetings:

**KNIGHTS - Mon 13 April,** 7 pm St. Mary's Meeting Room *\*Special Vote\**

**CWL - Mon 20 April,** 7 pm St. Mary's Meeting Room

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

**Rosary Group:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday after 9 am Mass **starting April 7<sup>th</sup>**

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

**First Communion:** April 5

**(1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & rehearsal May 5, 6 pm; 1<sup>st</sup> Communion May 8, 6 pm)**

**Confirmation:** March 29; April 26 (**Confirmation on Friday June 5, 6 pm**)

## Parish Activities:

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

**AA Meeting:** Wednesday, 8:00 pm,

**Coffee Social:** **March 8<sup>th</sup>** Marg Zambon (613-652-4741)



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

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

**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.

# March 22, 2026



**Good Friday – April 3:** Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection.

**Fast and Abstinence** Good Friday are mandatory days of Fast and Abstinence for Catholics.

**Fasts?** Those 18 - 59 years old. One regular and two small meals.

**Abstains?** Those 14 years old until death.

Abstinence means from your principal food. For 99.9% of people, this ordinarily means MEAT.

**Exceptions?** Those truly ill are excused from fasting, but not from abstinence.

**Parents:** Even though your children may be under the age limit, it doesn't hurt them to do some type of fasting and even abstinence.

**Rosary Group ~ starting April 7<sup>th</sup>:** Father Oliver would like to start a rosary group on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of the month after the 9:00 am Mass led by Ray Gremlie.



**Bus Trip ~ 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kingston:** You're invited! Join with fellow parishioners and take a coach bus trip to the Archdiocese's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Holy Mass and reception, in Kingston on Sat April 18<sup>th</sup>, cost \$40 per person. Bus will pick up from Chesterville, South Mountain and St. Mary's, Morrisburg. Please see poster and sign up sheet at the back of the Church.

**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.