

Father Oliver's Weekend Reflection:

3rd Sunday of Lent Exodus 17.3-7

In this text, we find the Israelites in the midst of a severe crisis. They are in the desert, thirsty since there is no water. And their fear swiftly transforms into anger. So, they complain to Moses: "Why did you ever make us leave Egypt? Was it just to have us die of thirst?"

This is certainly not just about water but about trust. God had already freed them from slavery, parted the Red Sea for their swift crossing, and God had fed them with manna. Yet, at the first sign of hardship, they begin to doubt: "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" This is the same question we occasionally pose in our own desert experiences, especially when prayers go unanswered, illness persists, finances are strained, relationships fail, and ministry seems overwhelming. In such daunting situations, we ask, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" However, despite their complaints and doubts, God does not desert them. God instructs Moses to strike the rock, and water springs from the rock that was hard, dry, and lifeless. This reading tells us that it is frequently during the dry seasons in our lives that we uncover our actual source. When our customary support systems fail, we discover whether we rely on ourselves or on God.

Let us learn to trust God rather than testing Him in our moments of thirst. When we return to our own Massah and Meribah, may we remember that the Rock (God) still offers living water. For the Lord is present in the Eucharist, in His Word, in the community of believers, and even in the wilderness.

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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!

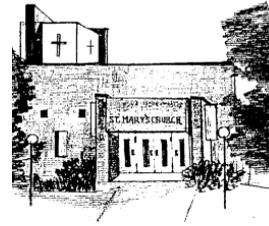
Marriage: 9-12-month notice is needed for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Each couple is required to participate in a Marriage Preparation course.

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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Father Oliver Wekesa, Administrator
Mrs. Nancy Richer, Parish Secretary

Third Sunday of Lent ~ March 8, 2026

Sun. 08 Mar 9:00 am Debbie de Bruijn & Arie Stuyt (G. Stuyt)

Tue. 10 Mar 9:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving (Joanne Williams)

Wed. 11 Mar **9:45 am** Souls in Purgatory (Linda Fleury)
Stations of the Cross: 9:00 am – 9:45 am led by the Knights

Marian Mass

Sat. 14 Mar 8:30 am Margaret Lortie (Robert Lortie)
Mass at 9:30 am

Lenten Penitential Service: March 14th 8:30 – 9:30 am

Sun. 15 Mar 9:00 am Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the people)

Tue. 17 Mar 9:00 am Margaret Lortie (Peter Pepers)

Wed. 18 Mar **9:45 am** Sihle Tsabedze (Zambon Family)
Stations of the Cross: 9:00 am – 9:45 am led by the CWL

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.

Third Sunday of Lent

Collection: 2nd Sunday of Lent: \$2,047.00 (2025: \$1,623.00)
Archdiocesan Lenten \$81.10; Roof Repair: \$450.00; Repairs & Maintenance: \$25.00
Roof Collected to date: \$15,485.00; (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: April 5

(1st Reconciliation & rehearsal May 5, 6 pm; 1st 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 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 Bill McSheffrey, Robert Miller, Father Stan Alanen, Julie Watters (nee Durivage), Margaret Lortie; Jim Kelly, Juliet Gremli, Catherine Lortie, Tina Serviss, and Beat Schraner.



Liturgical Ministry Training/Refresher: This is for Communion Ministers, Readers and Ushers. It will take place in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday March 17th at 6:30 pm, for about 1/2 hour. Those who are interested in joining the ministries are welcome to attend.

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.

March 8, 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.

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.



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

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.

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.