

**Father Oliver's Weekend Reflection: The Novena to the Holy Spirit**

Friends, as Pentecost approaches, the church invites us to prepare our hearts through the prayerful practice of the Novena. A Novena is a traditional nine-day prayer asking for the guidance, wisdom, strength, and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The novena to the Holy spirit is considered the oldest novena in the Church because it began with the Apostles and the Blessed Virgin Mary praying between the Ascension of Jesus and the feast of Pentecost (Acts 1:12–14). We often pray this novena especially in the nine days before Pentecost, **and** before important decisions, for renewal of faith, for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit, and for personal or parish spiritual renewal.

Many popes have promoted the novena, especially Pope Leo XIII in the 19th and early 20th centuries. This Pope issued several important documents about the Holy Spirit. We are therefore invited to pray the Pentecost Novena for the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, especially since it is through the Holy Spirit that a person can encounter Jesus Christ and experience the love of God our Father. Whilst this is something that each of us needs, the Novena challenges us to go beyond our own needs by asking for this incredible blessing for others.

A fuller novena usually has: An opening prayer, Scripture reading, Meditation or reflection, a prayer for one gift of the Holy Spirit each day, and a closing prayer. Therefore, before you start: Be ready to start the novena nine days before Pentecost and set a time each day when you will take a moment of Prayer. You only need about 10 minutes. You may put a reminder on your phone, a note on your fridge, or something to prompt you to pray each day. As a parish, we will begin our novena on May 15, and it will be in the context of adoration. Please refer to the bulletin for the schedule. I encourage everyone to remain committed to praying for this—even on days when we are not gathering at church for Mass.

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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.

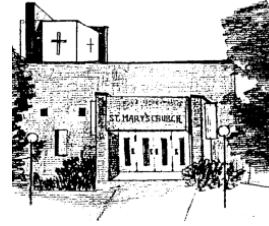
**Anointing of the Sick:** The Sacrament of Anointing is given on request, especially before going to the hospital, or at the hospital or at home.

**Sick List:** Please call the office if anyone needs prayers, a visit or is seriously ill.

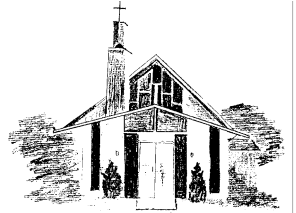
If you are unable to attend Mass for an extended period of time, please contact St. Mary's.

Arrangements can be made for reception of the Holy Eucharist in the home.

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



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 Morrisburg, On, K0C 1X0  
 T 613-543-2544 F 613-543-2800



**Office Hours:** Mon, Wed, Fri, 9-12  
 Email: StMary.Morrisburg@archkingston.ca  
 Web page: 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

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter ~ May 10, 2026**

Fri. 08 May 6:00 pm First Communion **All Parishioners Welcome**

|                    |        |         |                                                                                               |
|--------------------|--------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Marian Mass</b> |        |         |                                                                                               |
| Sat.               | 09 May | 8:30 am | Peter & Regina Fridgen & Fam (Estate of B Fridgen)<br>8:30 – 9:00 am Rosary ~ Mass at 9:00 am |

Sun. 10 May 9:00 am Beat & Annemarie Schraner (Schraner Family)

Tue. 12 May 9:00 am Richard de Vette (Leo & Lucille Beriault)

Wed. 13 May 9:00 am Carnie Helen Doyle (Denis Doyle and Louise Altimas)

Fri. 15 May 3:00 pm Intentions of the all parishioners of St. Mary's  
 Mass, Adoration and begin Novena to the Holy Spirit

Sun. 17 May 9:00 am Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the people)

**No Masses May 18 to 22 ~ Priests Retreat**

Sun. 24 May 9:00 am Arie Stuyt (Georgette Stuyt)

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**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:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: \$2,481.00 (2025: \$1,234.00)  
Roof Repair: \$105; plus, donation from the Knights \$5,000.00; Papal Charities: \$225

**Roof Collected to date: \$22,525.00;** (Total cost \$120,000)

### Meetings:

**KNIGHTS - Mon 11 May,** 7 pm St. Mary's Mtg Room (AGM & Elections)

**CWL - Mon 18 May,** 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

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

**First Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> Communion May 8, 6:00 pm**

**Confirmation: Confirmation on Friday June 5, 6:00 pm**

### Parish Activities:

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

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

**Coffee Social: May 10<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** Fidelis Ajawara (Father Cosmas's Father), Bill McSheffrey, Robert Miller, Father Stan Alanen, Julie Watters (nee Durivage), Margaret Lortie; Jim Kelly, Juliet Gremlie, Catherine Lortie, Tina Serviss, and Beat Schraner.

**Religious Items for Free:** Please see the back of the Church for some items that have been donated to the Church. Free to take home with you.

## May 10, 2026



**Congratulations** to the following students who received their First Holy Communion on Friday! Thank you to the parents, and Bridget Van Der Zweep and Carol Belanger.

**Konnor Markell**      **Vanellope Blue**  
**Octavia Boisvert**      **Russell Free**      **Jack Morrell**

**March for Life** in Ottawa [www.marchforlife.ca](http://www.marchforlife.ca): Mass St. Patrick's Basilica 10 am, Thursday May 14 then noon rally on Parliament Hill. Bus leaves 8 am from Days Inn, 160 Stewart Blvd, Brockville, \$50 by Monday May 4, Susan 613-547-5004; Graham (613-214-1968 car pool).



### Rosary before Mass Sundays for the month of May:

The rosary will begin 20 minutes before Mass.

Led by the CWL and the Knights of Columbus.

**Novena to the Holy Spirit:** The Easter season culminates on Pentecost Sunday, May 24. Christians have prepared for Pentecost for over 2000 years by joining together for 9 days of prayer. Everyone across the three Parishes of Chesterville, South Mountain and Morrisburg are invited to join in praying the Novena to The Holy Spirit from Fri. May 15<sup>th</sup> to Sat. May 23<sup>rd</sup>. St. Mary's, Morrisburg will have Mass on Friday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm with Adoration and to start the Novena. The Novena will also be said before Sunday Mass on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Parishioners are encouraged to pray the Novena on their own so the 9 days can be completed in its entirety. Copies of the Novena will be available at the back of each Church the weekend before the 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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.