

Father Oliver's Weekend Reflection: 18th Sunday Romans 8.28-30

In our second reading, Paul wonders, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ?" He describes every conceivable suffering, including tribulation, sorrow, persecution, famine, nakedness, threat, and the sword. Paul himself faced many of them, but his response is unwavering: "Nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ."

Paul understands that Christians may encounter hardships and even persecution since faith does not eliminate adversity but rather redefines how we approach it. Similarly, John Paul II explains that suffering is more than just a negative experience; it can be redemptive since it permits us to partake in Christ's suffering. This helps to secure our salvation while also enriching the spiritual lives of others. Thus, we Christians shall overcome adversity not by avoiding suffering, but by being united with Christ in the middle of it. As a result, God's grace, rather than our own power, brings us victory. Even when we feel weak, abandoned, or uncertain, Christ's love holds us close.

This passage invites us to look honestly at the fears that occupy our hearts—fear of failure, rejection, illness, loss, or death. Paul reminds us that although these realities may touch our lives, they cannot break the bond God has established with us through Christ. But remember, our security does not rest in changing circumstances, but in God's unchanging love. May the Lord strengthen our faith to trust Him in every circumstance and help us live each day with courage, hope, and confidence in His unfailing presence.

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.

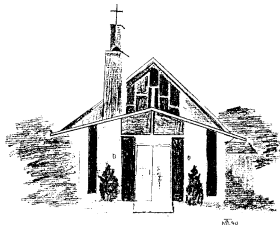
Anointing of the Sick: The Sacrament of Anointing is given on request, especially before going to the hospital, or at the hospital or at home.

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. Cecilia, 3 College Street, Iroquois

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

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ August 2, 2026

Sun. 02 Aug 9:00 am Intention of Filomena Zambon (Zambon Family)

No Mass Tuesday and Wednesday Father is away

Fri. 07 Aug 4:00 pm Int of Ian Weatherhead (Val & Ray Greml)

3:00 – 4:00 pm Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Sun. 09 Aug 9:00 am Myrna Watson (Jim & Marilyn Boissonneault)

Tue. 07 Aug 6:00 pm Past & Present Mbrs of the Knights of Columbus

Wed. 08 Aug 9:00 am Int of Betty Car (Bridget & Ted Van Der Zweep)

Sun. 16 Aug 9:00 am Missa Pro Populo (Mass for the people)

Clergy Appointments ~ Please see the bulletin board

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Collection: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time: \$1,424.00 (2025: \$2,305.00)

Roof Repair: \$975.00;

Roof Collected to date: \$25,735.00; (Total cost \$120,000) 20% of our goal!

Meetings:

Bible/Faith Study: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays after the 6 pm Mass in St. Mary's Mtg Room

Rosary Group: 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:30 pm before the 6 pm Mass

Parish Activities:

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

AA Meeting: Wednesday, 8:00 pm,

Coffee Social: **09 August** Marg Zambon (613-652-4741)



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

Pray for the repose of the soul of Erna Jakel, Florence McManus, Bill McSheffrey, Robert Miller, Julie Watters (nee Durivage), Margaret Lortie; Jim Kelly, Juliet Gremli, 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.

Spiritual Speakers Series: To honour the Archdiocese's 200th Anniversary, a special speakers' Series has been planned for Aug 13–15th at different parishes. All are welcome to attend! See the poster at the back of the Church for more details.

August 2, 2026

Fundraising: We have a committee! If you have ideas for fundraising please reach out to the office by email and they will be forward to the committee for consideration. Thank you for those who have volunteered.

Thank You

Donor match for Roof Donation!
THANK YOU WE SURPASSED OUR GOAL!

Grand total \$1,405.00

July 19th collected: \$430.00

July 26th collected: \$975.00

This Weekend At the back of the church, we have a young parishioner who has volunteered to help with fundraising by making and selling bracelets, keychains and necklaces.

17th Annual Women's Fall Retreat: Sat., Oct. 24, 2026, 9:00 am to 3:30 pm, at St. Michael's Catholic High School in Kemptville. Guest speaker Melanie Rabishaw reflects on the 200th anniversary theme of the Archdiocese of Kingston: "To know Christ and the power of His resurrection". Join us for Holy Mass, inspiring reflections, worship, personal prayer and fellowship. Registration (\$50) is limited to 100 participants: romancatholic.kingston.on.ca/womens-fall-retreat.



St. Mary's Cemetery Clean-Up Day: Monday August 10th from 10 am till noon. Everyone welcome, bring your own gloves and brush for cleaning the stones!

Charity Raffle: The Knights of Columbus presents its Ontario Charities Raffle (License #RAF1526797) in support of the Birthright, St. Vincent de Paul, Special Olympics and local projects. Open only to Ontario residents 18 or over; 50:50 grand prize Aug 31. Tickets are 10 for \$10, 40 for \$20, 125 for \$50 and 300 for \$100, contact Grand Knight Graham Darling 613-214-1968 or online at <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/k-of-c-ont/295>.