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Parish Ministries

Liturgical Ministries:

Altar Servers
Extraordinary Ministers
of the Eucharist
Readers
Ushers

Music Ministry:

Saturday Vigil Music
Sunday Choir & Organist

Parish Groups

Altar Society
Friends of St. Kateri
Friends of St. Mary's
Gospel Reflection Group
Holy Communion to Shut-ins
Hot Lunch Program
Parish Finance Committee
Parish Screening Committee
St. Mary's Parish Friends
Sacramental Prep

Catholic Organizations

Catholic Women's League
Children's Rosary Program
Development and Peace
Knights of Columbus
St. Vincent de Paul Society



The Kindness of Jesus

In biblical times leprosy was believed to be highly contagious. For this reason lepers were forced to live outside the community. They were known as the *untouchables*. (We now know that leprosy is spread not by physical contact but by bacterium).

Theirs was a cold, lonely existence. They had said good-bye to home, family, and friends. Once they were somebody in life now they were nobody. Their life was a living death. People believed they were cursed by God. They considered them to be not only sick but also unclean.

This was the kind of man who approached Jesus. He shouldn't have appeared in public without ringing a bell, or shouting a warning. He ran the risk of being chased away with stones. But he was determined to meet the one man he believed would not reject him.

(continued on next page...)

Parish Pastoral Team

Alison Coort / Office Administrator

Marguerite Goodfellow / Parish Nurse

Judith Gottschalk / Ministry Rep (contact the parish office)

Jan Sirek / Deacon /jsirek54@gmail.com

Fr. Dominick Mbah/

FrDominickMbah@peterboroughdiocese.org

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday / 9:30AM - 2:30PM

Confessions: Saturdays 3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Parish Office: 705-789-2348

Email: office@stmaryshuntsville.ca

website: maryassumptionparish.com

St Mary's Elementary School / 705-789-6481

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February 11, 2024

(continued from previous page)

Jesus saw the leper approaching, and allowed him to come right up to him. But would he or wouldn't he touch the leper? If he did touch the him, what would he be saying? If he didn't touch him what would he be saying?

Well, seeing the pitiful state he was in, Jesus took pity on him, and reached out and touched him. It was a symbolic act which no doubt shocked the onlookers. By touching the leper Jesus became ritually unclean himself.

Most of us are afraid of the sick and the very poor. We may give a few pennies to a beggar, but make sure there is no contact between us and them. Yet we love to be touched ourselves. We feel honoured when someone important shakes hands with us or gives us a pat on the back.

Physical contact is precisely what gives people, especially sick and wounded people, a sense of acceptance. By the very act of touching another person we accept that person exactly as he or she is. Jesus touched lepers, sinners, sick people, and the dead.

Jesus' gesture in touching the leper was a small thing in itself. Little gestures can give us greater insight into a person's character than big gestures. The big gesture shows us a person's power. The little gesture shows us a person's humanity.

That small gestures meant the world to the leper. He felt he was a human being after all. His body was horribly wounded by leprosy. But his spirit was even more deeply wounded—by the sense of having been rejected and abandoned by everyone, including God. By touching him Jesus healed his wounded spirit. Then he cured his wounded body. Now the man was *wholly* cured.

But Jesus wasn't finished with him yet. Knowing the great sorrow and indignity he had suffered as a result of family separation and abandonment, he eased his return to society by telling him to show himself to a priest. (The priests were the only people who could officially authenticate his cure).

Kindness is almost as important to a sick person as medicine. When people come out of hospital after an operation or a bout of illness, one of the things they always comment on is how they were treated by the doctors and nurses.

Jesus asked the leper to keep quiet about his cure. But he broadcast everywhere what Jesus had done for him. And it wasn't just the fact that Jesus had cured him that he spoke about, but the astonishing kindness and respect with which he had treated him.

Jesus reached out a loving and healing hand towards a pariah. He challenges us his followers to reach out to those society rejects today: prisoners, drug addicts, aides victims...

It's amazing what people can do for people. People can rekindle hope, bring back the zest for living, inspiring plans for the future, restore self-respect and pride. They can even mirror dimly the infinite compassion of God.

McCarthy, Flor. "Fifth Sunday of the Year". *New Sunday & Holy Day Liturgies*, 2011, pp. 203-204.

Next Weekend Ministry Schedule - February 17th/ 18th, 2024

	4:00PM MASS	9:00AM MASS	11:00AM MASS
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Lectors	Ben Boivin	Helen Hebb	Michelle MacIsaac
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EMC	Victoria Baumgart	Jo Ann Giesler	Diane Poling
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Ushers	Margarite Goodfellow	Lou Luvison	Hugh Knox
	Walter Grys	Andre Lamy	Bob Lacroix,
		Maureen McIntyre	Linda Lacroix
		Urszula Lewgowd	

Counters	Tues., February 13, 2024	Bob Moore	&	Mary Kudryk
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Parish Pastoral News

St. Mary's 2023 Tax Receipts / are now available at the back of the Church. They will be here until February 25, 2024. After this date they will be mailed out. Please pick up your tax receipt to save us the cost of postage. Thank you for your continuing support.

SVDP / The St. Vincent de Paul income tax receipts were mailed out February 4, 2024. Many thanks to all of our donors.

Hot Lunch Program / In order to keep this program running, we need your financial support. Our Parish volunteers **serve 35 to 40 people every week.** Any monetary donations are greatly appreciated. You may use the Poor Box at the entrance of the church, or any envelope designated as Hot Lunch. Again, thank you for making this possible!

There will be Ash Wednesday services at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14, 2024.

Book Study / Have you ever wondered about the presence of Mary Magdalene as one of the early believers and followers of Jesus? Was she really this "scorned" woman she has been portrayed to be? Why would Jesus choose her as a follower? How did she earn the traditional title of "Apostle to the Apostles"? Starting on **Wednesday, February 28th** these questions and more will be explored in the book, **The Meaning of Mary Magdalene, Discovering the Woman at the Heart of Christianity** written by Cynthia Bourgeault. The sessions will be from **6:30-7:30.** All are welcome! If interested, the book may be purchased through Amazon.

Parish Nurse News / There will be no clinic on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 or on February 27, 2024. The clinic will resume on March 5, 2024.

The members of St. Vincent de Paul Society in our parish thank you for your continued and gracious donations to the Food Bank.

Nothing is ever too small or too little.

Peace, Good Will, and Thank you!

SVDP SOCIETY

Hotline:

In advance, we thank you for whatever you have been able to share with us in the way of monetary donations. The money we collect from you, helps us to buy some perishable food items that we are able to add to their food hampers. Those coming to our food bank receive not only food, but kindness and the encouragement to remain hopeful. *Shalom*

Week of February 12th - 18th, 2024

The **"Let's Get Physical" Exercise Class /** There will be no class on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024. Classes are cancelled on February 21st and February 28th. Exercise class will resume on March 6, 2024.

SVDP Monthly Food Drive / will be on February 20, 2024. We are in need of peanut butter, coffee, canned tuna and salmon, 1 liter Juice, cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta sauce. Any amount you are able to donate is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support.

Kindergarten Registration at SMCDSB

Is your child turning 4 in 2024? If so, it's time to register for Kindergarten!

There is something truly unique and special about learning that is rooted in faith and spiritual growth. It is a blessing that the youngest members of our parish have the opportunity to grow in spirit and faith within a Catholic school community. Catholic schools offer distinct faith-filled learning experiences, with a combined focus on academic, spiritual, social and emotional growth. Together, our Catholic schools and our parish community will guide children in their ongoing growth in faith.

We encourage parents who want to register their child for Kindergarten to visit the website at smcdsb.on.ca for welcome videos and registration information.



Knights of Columbus / There were 2 winners from our Parish in the Knights of Columbus Monthly Calendar draw. They were Glen Martin \$40 and Jean MacInnis \$40. Congratulations to both.

Stations of the Cross / There will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent. Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Stations of the Cross.

Parish Group Meetings /Events

Tuesdays	11:30AM -1:00 PM	Parish Nurse Available / Knights of Columbus Room –cancelled Feb.20th and Feb.27th
Tuesdays	12:00 PM - 1:00PM	Hot Lunch / Parish Hall
Wednesdays	9:30 AM	Gentle Exercise Class / Parish Hall
Wednesdays	6:00 PM	Choir Practice / Choir Loft
Thursdays	6:00 PM	Huntsville Community Band Practice / Parish Hall
Saturday	February 10th	First Communion Class / Parish Hall/ 2:45 p.m.
Monday	February 12th	CWL General Meeting / Parish Hall / 10:00 a.m.
Friday	February 16th	Confirmation Class /Parish Hall /

Mass Schedule

Week of February 12th – 18th

Tuesday, February 13th / 12:00 Noon

**Wednesday, February 14th /
Exposition & Adoration / 11:00AM
Mass 12:00 Noon -**

Mass 7:00 p.m.

+Pawel Medon

(Req. By: Adam Medon)

Thursday, February 15th / 9:00AM

+Cheri Webster

(Req. By: David Webster)

Friday, February 16th / 7:00 PM

+Helen Hutch

(Req. By Sheila Bruce)

Saturday, February 17th / 4:00PM

SI Walter Grys

(Req. By: Eleanor Wolfe)

Sunday, February 18th / 9:00AM

+Wayne Cormier

(Req by: The Knights of Columbus)

Sunday, February 18th/ 11:00AM

SI For the People of the Parish

Let us pray for those who have died and for those who have asked for our prayers ...

Jaymie Ward, Phillip Tomkin, Joe Hanrath, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Ron & Margaret Smith, Angela & Stephanie Braithwaite, Robert Foley, Ruth Anne Foley, John Dunbar, Doris Lane, Connie Gregory, Sharon & Ben Boivin, Timothy Pelyk, Pat Morra, Kirsten MacDonald, Marion Majkot, Peter Poustie, Pam and Don Mackenzie, Esther Phillips, Carole Ruttan, Kevin Phillips, Stephanie Jarvis, Ian Bruce, Mabelle Claer, Janine Wright, Edward and Claire Hortensius, Anna Maria Ertler, Mike & Loretta Pearson, Doris Cristiano, Karl Richter, Wayne Arbeau, and Dallas Clarke

Sunday Offertory

February 4, 2024 \$3,967.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.