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**The Magnificat**

*My soul magnifies the Lord  
and my spirit rejoices in God  
my Savior;  
because He has regarded the lowliness  
of His handmaid;  
for behold, henceforth all generations  
shall call me blessed;  
because He who is mighty has done  
great things for me, and holy is His  
name;  
and His mercy is from generation to  
generation on those who fear Him.  
He has shown might with His arm,  
He has scattered the proud in the  
conceit of their heart.  
He has put down the mighty from  
their thrones, and has  
exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good  
things, and the rich  
He has sent away empty.  
He has given help to Israel, his serv-  
ant, mindful of His mercy  
even as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his posterity  
forever. Amen*



**St. Mary of the Assumption Parish**  
12 Centre Str., N. Huntsville, ON P1H 2K8

Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday / 9:30AM - 2:30PM  
Parish Office: 705-789-2348  
website: maryassumptionparish.com

Parish Team: Margaret Warman (Office Administrator), Rosie Vandenberg (Lay Pastoral Assistant), Deacon Mr. Jan Sirek (Deacon), Fr. Paul Hogan (Pastor)

St. Kateri Mission  
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**Why Should Christians Care About Justice? / from Association For A More Just Society**

Christians are called to bravely pursue justice. We find this calling throughout the Bible – from its earliest books, to the courageous prophets that challenged their country’s failure, to respond to the needs of the poor, and into Jesus’ New Testament teachings and the apostles’ writing. We therefore take seriously Micah’s call **“to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,”** (6:8) and Isaiah’s command to **“seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, [and] plead the widow’s cause”** (1:17).

**But what is justice?** Justice looks at the systemic barriers to thriving, at the misuse of power that exploits people’s lives, labor, and dignity. This means that justice is intricately tied to power and seeks to repair harm and inequities. Powerful people (that often includes all of us!) command society’s political and economic resources, and utilize them to maintain power. In this way, they violate the basic rights of others that are essential to justice and cultivate a disordered, violent society, as is the case in Honduras. *Justice differs from charity and development* as it challenges powerful people and structures that perpetuate cycles of corruption and violence and disenfranchise the poor. This work is essential to lasting development and true human flourishing.

**If you’ve heard that justice is not part of a Christian’s life, you’re not alone.** While Christians around the world have pursued social change as a part of their faith, philosopher Nicholas Wolterstorff explains in his book “Call for Justice”, that the American white evangelical tradition has uniquely seen things differently. This is partly because the Greek word *dikaionuné*, which appears hundreds of times in the New Testament, is translated in Latin languages (Spanish, French, Italian, etc.) as “justice”, but in English as “righteousness.” As a result, the North American church only focused on righteousness or limited the idea of justice to vengeance or punishment in courts and prisons, as opposed to the wider vision of restoration. **And yet as we read the Bible, we see God saying over and over again, “I love justice.”**


Throughout the Bible, God denounces greed and calls for the right use of power. God speaks out, cares for, and protects those whose life, labor, and dignity is abused. And God continuously calls for right treatment of the widow, immigrant, and orphan.

Wolterstorff writes, **“God asks of you and me that we share that love.”** It is a gift and responsibility to be invited into the masterpiece of working in a world to make it better reflect God’s abundant love and justice.

**SVDP SOCIETY**  
12 Centre Street N.,  
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Hotline:  
705.789.0008

The members of the St. Vincent de Paul group here in our parish, thank you for your continued **Food Pantry Donations!**

Next Food Drive, Tuesday February 16, 2021,  
9:30AM to 12Noon, Parish Garage. Thank you.





February 7, 2021

## Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Mass Will be Celebrated for the Intentions of the Family and Friends of St. Mary's, Huntsville and St. Kateri, Baysville

A podcast homily will be available on our Web Site at

[maryassumptionparish.com](http://maryassumptionparish.com)

Let us pray for our loved ones who have died, especially **Doña Guadalupe Pelayo**

And join our prayers with those who are in need ...

Rebecca Muzzi, Ian Bruce, Sam Muzzi, Joe Hanrath, Pamela Festing, Connie Gregory, John Schreurs, Robert Foley, Steven Knox, Paulin Schumacher, Claudette Mainville, Ruth Anne Foley, Bianca Laurie de Hernandez, Patricia Quinn, Ed Quinn, Brian Haywood, Peter Tompkin, Alana Murphy, Brian Dittmar, Peter Gos, Ben Boivin, Pauline Pilon, William Hanrath, Vano Mauro, Jim Poling, Sharon Boivin, John McInnis & Myles Hammond (who is less than one year old).

~ And those for whom we hold in the silence of our hearts ~

If there is someone you would like to have added to our prayer list, please contact the office. Thank you

**Please Note:** All mass intentions that were scheduled from December 26th and going forward, will be rebooked. They will be said when the lock down has ended and you can be present Sorry for the inconvenience. Fr. Paul

St. Ignatius of Loyola once wrote, we are to "Pray as if everything depended on God and work as if everything depended on you."

Prayer is what we do in unison with God when we allow the author of all prayer, who is God, to write and to speak within us according to God's Will. We then unite ourselves with those we pray for, and so in turn unite them with God.

This is universal intercessory prayer.



"In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed"

Mark 1. 35

"What draws us into the desert is the search for something intimate in the remote"

Edward Abbey

### Prayer Is Less About Asking, Than It Is About Listening / pab

Jesus enters the darkness, not merely of the night, but of the interior life. It is here where most often our fears and defeats lay. Not as some sleeping giant that we attempt to keep at bay, but all too often use as the fuel for the engines of our daily living. It is here in the darkness where the light is most in need. For it is here where light reveals not only that which is hidden, but what has slowly taken the form of disease and death, convincing ourselves it to be life. Jean Vanier once wrote, "we do not know what to do with our own weakness except hide it or pretend it doesn't exist. So how can we welcome fully the weakness of another if we haven't welcomed our own weakness?" Jesus enters into the darkness for the sake of embracing his weaknesses, so he may in turn embrace the fragility and brokenness of others. Going to the deserted place allowed him to do this. It is here where the essence of prayer is seen.

Away from the familiar, the noise, expectations, the roles and functions that we all take upon ourselves for whatever reason, they all fall away in the desert. It is here where prayer becomes not what we do, but is what will be done to us and in us. What happens to Jesus while in prayer, and it will always be in a "desert type" setting, is that we see the essential nature of prayer: *it is a personal transformative process, best not observed by others, for fear we wish to perform or worse, impress and be praised.*

Prayer is not words, concepts or ideas, but it is to avail ourselves patiently for our undoing. It is in part a matter of God revealing something to us. It is a process of our accepting the wisdom of God, who assists us in peeling back the layers of fear we have imposed upon ourselves. We see now what had always been present. It is in recognizing these layers for what they are, that frees us of their grip and control that we have given to them over us. This is not an act of force or desperation, wrenching these things from us. But it is to see them for what they are, and then, to bless them, and to let them go. That which does not serve our good and wellbeing, serves no ones' good and wellbeing. If we graciously let it go, this process assists in the interior knitting together of who we are in God.

The result is that we do not get stuck on guilt and shame, for what we have done, but are instead filled up with gratitude because we have been awakened. Punishing ourselves is all about us, and has nothing to do with God. As we let the layers fall away, that which we had once used to protect ourselves from life, is now that which opens us up to it. Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "When Christ calls a man, he bids him come and die" And is this not what happens? The person that we open up to God (*the desert*), cannot, and will never be the same person ever again. It is not about leaving or entering God's presence; it is to know that we walk and live in the presence of God always, but requires our awareness of this. Jesus never actually left the desert, but lived out of it in the world, through his daily living. For us, it is a matter of entering the desert and it is here where the false and old self may die. We are then remade anew in Christ, so we may necessarily re-enter the world.

This process has only one purpose in mind. Our personal edification is a bonus, but not the goal. Rather, it is always about allowing ourselves to be part of God's expansive and inclusive nature. We are drawn up into the good will of God that carries us into the world, as a presence of understanding, mercy, compassion, healing and, challenging all at the same time. It is about being light and hope to others.

## Parish Pastoral News

It would appear, the Provincial Lock Down will be until February 11th. Tentatively, we will have masses Saturday/Sunday, February 13th/14th. We will be following the same protocols, and you may return to the mass you were attending, prior to the lockdown. If this changes, we will let you know. If you require something, please either email or phone the office, and we will respond to you. We will make ourselves available to you.

**Hot Lunch Tuesday:** Your helpful support is continually appreciated. You may drop off your donations to the office, during office hours. Thank you.

**St. Vincent de Paul News:** We are in need of **Plastic Grocery Bags** for the Food Bank. You can drop them off at the Parish Office. **ALSO** the **Monthly Food Drive** will be **Tuesday February 16th, 9:30AM - 12Noon at the Parish Garage.** If you are able, they will also accept your financial donations. **Thank you!**

**Ash Wednesday Masses: Wednesday February 17th, 12Noon (no exposition prior) and 7PM**

### Ordinary Miracle / Sarah McLachlan

It's not that unusual  
When everything is beautiful  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

The sky knows when it's time to snow  
Don't need to teach a seed to grow  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

Life is like a gift they say  
Wrapped up for you everyday  
Open up and find a way  
To give some of your own

Isn't it remarkable?  
Like every time a rain drop falls  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

Birds in winter have their fling  
But always make it home by spring  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

When you wake up everyday  
Please don't throw your dreams away  
Hold them close to your heart  
'Cause we're all a part of the ordinary miracle

Do you want to see a miracle?

It seems so exceptional  
The things just work out after all  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

The sun comes up and shines so bright  
And disappears again at night  
It's just another ordinary miracle today

It's just another ordinary miracle today

### February - Black History Month Harriet Tubman

**Harriet Tubman** was a leading Abolitionist who went on to become the most famous conductor of the Underground Railroad — a network of secret routes and safe houses destined to help those enslaved during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Born into a family of slaves, she was beaten, sold and constantly ill due to poor conditions and endless struggles; yet Tubman knew that she was destined for something bigger, which gave her the determination to escape — and take others with her.

She would become a great leader, helping many reach freedom through the Underground Railway, and as spy during the Civil War, working alongside the Union Army, always putting her life at risk.

Harriet Tubman became a highly respected figure in history and an American icon. Here are a few Harriet Tubman quotes to help you find the leader within.

"Don't ever stop. Keep going. If you want a taste of freedom, keep going."

"I had reasoned this out in my mind; there was one of two things I had a right to, liberty or death; if I could not have one, I would have the other; for no man should take me alive."

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."

"I can't die but once."

"And I prayed to God to make me strong and able to fight, and that's what I've always prayed for ever since."

"It wasn't me, it was the Lord! I always told Him, 'I trust to you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect You to lead me,' and He always did."

"Slavery is the next thing to hell."

"I freed a thousand slaves I could have freed a thousand more if only they knew they were slaves."

### Charitable Tax Receipts

If you contributed this past year to our parish in the form of donations, either through envelopes or Pre-Authorized Giving, your Charitable Tax Receipt is available for pick up at the office, Tuesday to Thursday 9:30Am - 2:30PM. Thank you

"Pay attention to the people God puts in your path if you want to discern what God is up to in your life ...

every time there are losses there are choices to be made. You choose to live your losses as passages to anger, blame, hatred, depression and resentment, or you choose to let these losses be passages to something new, something wider, and deeper"

Henri Nouwen