

**EXETER
ST. JOSEPH
GRAND BEND**



LAKE HURON
CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

**ZURICH
GODERICH
MT. CARMEL**

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY—CLOSED

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
8:30 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M.

OFFICE INFORMATION

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LAKEHURONCATHOLIC@DOL.CA
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OFFICE LOCATED GODERICH

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OFFICE LOCATED MT. CARMEL

WEEKEND MASSES

GODERICH

SATURDAY 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.

GRAND BEND

SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.

ZURICH

SATURDAY 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.

EXETER

SUNDAY 8:30 A.M.

MOUNT CARMEL

SATURDAY 5:00 P.M.
SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.

St. JOSEPH

SUNDAY 11:00 A.M.

PRAYER LINE REQUESTS

st.p.prayerline@gmail.com

Being a mission-oriented Church that forms disciples of Jesus

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021 — 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear friends in Christ,

This 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time marks the end of the first month of the new year, 2021. Yet, this time is hardly ordinary. We are still immersed in a global pandemic, a lockdown for all who live in Ontario. Although we are separated from one another by masks and social distancing and many confined to their homes, we need to hear the comforting words of today's second reading from St. Paul, "Brothers and sisters, I want you to be free from anxieties" (1 Corinthians 7:32). These days continue to be anxious times, as all of our communities struggle to deal with many challenges and crises. Each of us is trying to move forward in a changed world that is grief-stricken and tear-stained from the loss of loved ones, yet bright with promise but not without dangers, especially for those who experience insecurities caused by limited resources.

I was recently informed of a young mother with three children, one of our own, a member of our Family of Parishes, who has limited resources. As a result of the pandemic, she was forced out of her home more than three weeks ago with no place to shelter her children. Her situation was brought to my attention. Since our office staff is now working from home and our churches are closed due to the recent lockdown, we decided, after some brief consultation with a few parish leaders, to offer her a temporary home at the rectory in Mount Carmel. This young mother has been in contact with Housing and Social Services, but they were unable to assist her at this time. I called two realtors from our Family of Parishes and they confirmed that there is little or no housing available at this time. Nevertheless, this young mother has been told that she is at the top of the list for housing when something becomes available.

In today's readings, we hear about a prophet to be raised up, a plea not to have hardened hearts when we hear the voice of the Holy One speaking in our midst and a new teaching with authority. These readings invite us to rethink our understanding of the prophet.

The prophet is often seen as the one who exposes realities that many people,

PASTORAL TEAM

PASTOR: REV. ANTOINE (TONY) LAFORET-X-222
ASSOCIATE PASTORS: REV. MATTHEW GEORGE-X-224 AND REV. VINCE GULIKERS-X-223
PASTORAL WORKER: LISA MASELLI-X-225
DEACONS: JOHN LAMMERS-X-235, BRIAN McDONALD, FRED TRUCHON

PARISH STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER: JIM VAN LANEN-X-240
OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS: TINA BOUTILIER-X-221 AND JANE LANSBERGEN-X-200
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATORS: KAREN KESTER-X-242 AND LORI LAPORTE-X-241

especially leaders, would like not to see or face. The prophet exposes injustices. Therefore, we must ask ourselves, "How do we make sense of the role of the prophet in the midst of this global pandemic we are still experiencing? Will we be able to respond and work for justice, which is central to the mission of the prophet?"

COVID-19, the most severe global crisis since the 1918 influenza pandemic, has plunged the world into a state of emergency with respect to health, humanitarian and development needs. This state of emergency compounds already existing inequities. Advanced economies have experienced higher rates of mortality among marginalized groups. In developing countries, vulnerable populations have suffered loss and pain.

Health care systems have struggled to cope. Incomplete social protection systems have allowed people to sink back or further into poverty. Hardest hit by COVID-19 are the millions who are poor, ethnic minorities, the handicapped, the elderly and the homeless.

The prophet has worked through COVID-19 because this horrific virus has exposed the inadequacies of two trusted global systems, the health care system and the economic system, both of which supported the wealthy and abandoned the neediest and poorest among us. COVID-19 has exposed the pandemic of global poverty.

Therefore, as a world community, will we allow our hearts to be pierced by the suffering of those on the margins? And if our hearts are not hardened, then what will be our response, and what will be our new works of justice? Will it be the work of dismantling systems and structures of oppression, or will we soon carry on with life as usual, happy not to wear a mask or social distance?

The work of the prophet is seeking justice. Will we look for only biblical prophets or will we come to grips with our own baptismal anointing, that which calls us to be priest, prophet and king? As prophets, will we recognize ourselves as being raised up for the work of global justice?

In the meantime, we are grateful to carry out this work of justice and to share our resources with this young mother and her children. If you wish to offer any assistance or have further questions please call me at 519 236-4191-x-222 or contact Fran Roelands at 519-870-6519, a member of our Parish Pastoral Council or contact Margaret Sutherland at 519-319-3696. Let's continue our work of being a mission-oriented church that forms disciples of Jesus!

Parents who wish to register their children for First Reconciliation can find a registration form on our website or may receive it from their child's school. Simply fill out the registration form and email it to Lisa Maselli at lmase@dol.ca or myself, Fr. Tony at tony@dol.ca. We will contact parents when we receive these registration forms and inform you when our online classes for parents will begin. These online classes will be led by members of our Pastoral Team and supported by parish lay leaders who will be ready to assist and walk with you, the parents.

We are still praying for parishioners who will answer God's call to become lay leaders. These leaders will assist parents and support their efforts in raising their children in the Catholic faith as they promised at their child's baptism. We will provide training for all our lay leaders. Please contact me, tony@dol.ca or Lisa Maselli, lmase@dol.ca if you are willing to respond to this request.

We are in need of a new recording secretary for our Parish Pastoral Council. Please consider this invitation to help us lead our Family of Parishes. With six parishes working together, it will take a team effort to build the church; this Family of Parishes, to be a beacon of hope and to serve the community; especially the poor among us.

Please check out our website for a new look this weekend and for the latest information on our Family of Parishes.

Finally, please consider phoning our parishioners who are either elderly and/or are isolated during this lockdown. They may require groceries or just a friendly reminder that they are not forgotten. This type of outreach, along with praying for others, is just another great way to respond and live our baptismal call!

Fr. Tony
Pastor of the Lake Huron Catholic Family of Parishes

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF
February 1 — 7, 2021**

MONDAY: February 1

(We pray for Rev. Christopher Boudreau)

Russell & Mary Inwards — Kate & Mike Moriarty
Rick Masse — Anthony & Monique Hartman & Family
Dec. mem. of Reidy & Kenny Families — Charlie & Joan Regier

TUESDAY: February 2

(We pray for Rev. Sekar Raj)

Patrick Mihm — Elaine Mihm
In Thanksgiving — Debbie & Larry Denomme
Dan Murphy — Evie Shand

WEDNESDAY: February 3

(We pray for Maija Wilson: Campus Minister)

Bert Flannigan — Margaret & Walter Kennedy
Cecelia Farwell — Karl & Mary Regier
Int. of Alice Marchand — St. Boniface C.W.L.

THURSDAY: February 4

(We pray for Rev. Gilbert Simard)

Jane Gillespie — Joe & Lynn Ryan
Tom Ryan Jr. — Jim & Natalie Glavin
Int. of Loretta Zettell — Mike & Kate Moriarty

FRIDAY: February 5

(We pray for Rachelle Leslie: Pastoral Minister)

Ronald Joseph — Mary Pavkeje
Int. of Tara & John Hartman & Fam. — Kathryn Regier
Leo & Cecile Meidinger — Children

SATURDAY: February 6

(We pray for Deacon Henry Tomaszewski)

Martha Wick — Jim & Patricia Martin

SAT.: Feb. 6 — 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUN.: Feb. 7 — 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dispensation from Sunday Obligation

Bishop Fabbro has extended the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, including the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Mary, Mother of God, until Easter. It seems unlikely that our situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will change in the near future.

Share Lent: Development & Peace

The 2021 Share Lent Campaign upcoming workshop will be held virtually on Wed., Feb. 10. 7-8 p.m. Please click on the link below for more details.

<https://lhcfp.dol.ca/news/share-lent-development-and-peace-workshop>

Diocese of London

For the most current information we urge to visit the diocesan website: <https://www.dol.ca/>

Employment Opportunity

A part-time caretaker is needed for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (approx. 6-8 hours per week). Duties include cleaning, minor repairs and maintenance. If interested, please call the parish offices or email Jim Van Lanen, jvanlanen@dol.ca

Mass Intentions & Mass Cards

A reminder that Mass Intentions are chosen at random unless a specified date is requested.

If you are wanting a Mass Card or wish to request that a Mass be celebrated, please email the office with your request. Masses are \$10.00.

What does the future of the church look like?

Can you envision **what a fully active Family of Parishes would look like, feel like and sound like?** Please email your response to our Pastor: tlaforet@dol.ca

Please visit our website at: <https://www.lhcfp.dol.ca/>

Special Collections

World Mission Sunday – Collected Feb. 6/7, 2021.

No printed materials will be distributed. Please see the link below.



<http://www.forums.dionet.ca/parishbriefings/Shared%20Documents/2021-01-January/World%20Mission%20Sunday%20Announcement.pdf>

Help Stop Bill C-7 (Medical Assistance in Dying)

The federal government has been given an extension to Feb. 26 to pass amendments to the Criminal Code that will make Medical Assistance in Dying (“MAID” or euthanasia) more accessible, putting the disabled and elderly at risk of having their lives terminated, possibly without their full consent. Please read the CCCB’s response and contact your MP. More information and contact options are available at this [link](#).

Helping our Brothers and Sisters!

A member of our parish family is in need of permanent housing; a single mom with three young children. She has exhausted all efforts to find accommodation through the usual agencies and is in desperate need of our help. If anyone knows of an apartment or small house which might suit this family's needs, please call the Parish Office or email Fr. Tony at tlaforet@dol.ca.

Remember Matthew 25 : 40. "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

4 Ways to Donate to Our Family of Parishes

E-Transfers: simply send funds from your account to your parish site: St. Peter's, Goderich
stpetersgh@dol.ca

St. Boniface - stboniface@dol.ca

St. Peter's, St. Joseph's - stpeter@dol.ca

IHM - ihtmgrandbend@dol.ca

Precious Blood - preciousblood@dol.ca

OLMC - ourladymc@dol.ca

PAD : sign-up and donate from your account.

Please contact Lori or Karen for more information: 1-877-450-6414.

Envelopes: during the pandemic you may mail or drop them off at the parish office.

Pllenty: Donate with your credit card via our Pllenty link at the parish website under **DONATE**.

<https://lhcfp.dol.ca/donate>

Retrouvaille Weekends – Upcoming Dates for Windsor and London

The Windsor Retrouvaille Community is holding a virtual Retrouvaille weekend starting Thursday, February 11 until Sunday, February 14. Space is limited and the deadline for Registration is January 31. Interested couples should go to the Windsor Retrouvaille [website](#) to register. London/ St Thomas Retrouvaille is hoping to have an in-person weekend in London, that will adhere to the appropriate government mandated COVID-19 protocols, on Friday, April 9 until Sunday, April 11. If we are in lockdown, we will offer a virtual weekend. Couples must register at www.retrouvaillelondon.com as space is limited and confidentiality is assured.

Our Website

We encourage you to visit our parish website on a regular basis as more information may be found on the website that may not appear in the bulletin.

<https://www.lhcfp.dol.ca/>

Laudato Si' Resources

The special Anniversary Year for Laudato Si' runs until May 24, 2021. The Pastoral Services office has compiled links to several additional resources to help promote Pope Francis' encyclical:
-From the Archdiocese of Ottawa: Care for God's Creation - A Guide for Parishes in [French](#) and [English](#)
-A Laudato Si' [study guide](#) and a [backgrounder](#) on the Green New Deal by the Jesuit Forum for Social Faith
-A statement from the Assembly Catholic Bishops of Quebec (in [English](#))

Several providers are currently offering marriage preparation courses for couples in the Diocese:

Marriage Preparation – Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk.

Marriage Preparation Course on March 26 and 27 by Zoom. Coordinated by Mike and Pat Fiddler, it's open to all couples planning for marriage. Register by phoning the parish office at 519-582-1312 and ask for Barb Balog.

Marriage Preparation – Bruce Tallman
This course is available any time, to any couple via Zoom. For more information email btallman@rogers.com or call 519-433-0981. More information is available at this [link](#).

Marriage Preparation – Catholic Engaged Encounter

Virtual Marriage Preparation Weekends in 2021 will be offered for couples in Ontario on Feb 20-21, April 16-18 (**FULL**) and June 11-13. The cost is \$150.00. Engaged couples can view the CEE program website and register at this [link](#). Additional weekend added: May 14-16.