

Bulletin for Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021

Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

Grow as a Disciple | pray, study, engage, serve

Grow: I have happy memories when I think about all the Easter celebrations I experienced as a child. Easter baskets with nicer-than-usual chocolate; indoor Easter egg hunts – check under the lampshade! – and wearing the best of our Sunday best to Mass. I wouldn't trade these memories for anything, but writing this reflection reminds me that our modern-day celebrations and traditions don't come close to truly capturing the gamut of emotions the disciples must have felt on that first day of the week. From the fear, despair and confusion they initially experienced, to the joy that would have enveloped them when they realized what the empty tomb meant: Jesus had risen! The beloved disciple entered the empty tomb of Christ in today's Gospel, "and he saw and believed." As Christians, I think we sometimes take this foundation of our faith for granted. And so I pray for a renewed sense of awe at the stunning reality: to "see and believe" that God so loved us that he gave his only Son, who died and rose so that we, too, might live forever in God's love.

Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

Go: Some days I wake up with particular joy or anticipation: "Today we are going on vacation!" Or, "Today my son graduates from college." It is a wonderful feeling, and one that helps me jump – OK, roll a little faster – out of bed. If we take to heart the psalmist's message today, we see that this is how God intends for us to awaken every day: "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad." God is the author of our life, and on this Easter Sunday, we celebrate the gift of eternal life in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In today's first reading, Peter relates how the disciples were commissioned to share the Good News of Christ's resurrection. His words remind us that the story of Easter cannot and should not be contained. Instead, we are called to witness that "everyone who believes in [Jesus] will receive forgiveness of sins through his name." That is good news worth sharing, whether on our social media feed, or with our loved ones and those we encounter each day.

WITNESS: Happy Easter! Perhaps visit the graveside of a loved one, and take the opportunity to talk about life after death. Say a special prayer of thanks at your Easter meal. And remember to smile in the direction of new faces at Mass today!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Schedule for the week of April 5—9 (The Octave of Easter)

Tuesday - 7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Church

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|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Keith & Fran Culliton | Their family |
| 2. Ed Murray | The family |
| 3. Anne Goodyear | Marie & Doug Rhodes |

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Brede Moss (anniv.) | Her family |
| 2. Ariel Andrew Hall | Kathleen & Rob Von Euw |
| 3. Nora Ryan | The family |

Thursday—10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church

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| 1. Harry Weersink | The family |
| 2. The intentions of those who use the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul foodbank | |
| 3. Shirley Uniac | Pat & Allison Knight |

Friday—8:00 am. at St. Joseph's Church

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|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Stephen Culligan & Patrick Culligan | Howard & Catherine Culligan |
| 2. Antonio Sacco | His family |
| 3. Leslie Psutka | Laurie Ash |



We ask you to pray:

Please pray for those who have died—May they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family to sing Your praises forever.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially for:

Hermina Reurink, Gerry Schulz, Alea Fletcher, Barb Leyser, Claire Nicholson, Connor Bennett.

Please pray for vocations, especially for:

Francine Visser (Pastoral Minister) Virginia Eade (Pastoral Minister), Fr. Jose Seminati, Ursuline Sisters of the Agonizing Heart of Jesus, Fr. Alan Dufraimont, Fr. Alan Momney religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

Sacraments

Baptisms - At this time, we are able to celebrate baptisms with 2 families at each celebration both at 1:00 pm. and 2:00 pm. Baptisms take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month with the baptismal preparation class taking place the Tuesday before Baptism Sunday. Maximum guests allowed (including parents and child) is 15 people. To register your child, please call the office.

First Reconciliation Completed for 2020.

First Holy Communions Parent meetings have wrapped up and children are now beginning their preparation by working through their books and viewing the Gr. 2 retreat online. Any questions can be directed to Mary Chisholm at 519-271-6722 ext. 24.

Confirmation Candidates and their families continue to prepare for this sacrament at home by participating in the Decision Point program that is online with full support from the Parish Team. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca.

Weddings—should be booked six months to a year in advance by calling either church office to speak with one of the priests.

Parish Office Updates

Although the Parish office remains closed there are a few new things to help us to serve you better. You will find a secure drop box just to the right of the office door which will accept envelopes and packages. You will also find a doorbell just above the drop box if you have a pre-arranged appointment.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these uncertain times.

For general inquires please call 519-271-6722 for the main office or St. Marys office at 519-284-2593.

For questions regarding donations of any kind please contact Maureen at: 519-271-6722 ext. 23 or mmarcelissen-hnm@dol.ca

For questions regarding the premises, buildings and COVID protocol please contact Nancy at 519-271-6722 ext. 21 or nbomasuit@dol.ca

To help us keep you informed, please register for Flocknote. Go to avonthames.flocknote.com to receive up to date emails and texts.

Easter Office Hours

The Parish office will be closed Good Friday, Easter Weekend, Easter Monday and Tuesday. We will re-open for regular business hours on Wednesday, April 7th. The office is still closed to the general public but staff are available by phone or email to serve you.



DONATE

During these difficult times your financial support is especially appreciated:

Holy Name of Mary: <https://dol-hnom.plenty.com/>

Immaculate Conception: <https://dol-ic.plenty.com/>

St. Joseph's: <https://dol-sjcc.plenty.com/>

To e-transfer, please email Maureen or leave a message for her at extension 23.

O Death, where is your sting?
O Hell, where is your victory?
Christ is risen and you are overthrown!
Christ is risen and the demons are fallen!
Christ is risen and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen and life reigns.



Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave.
For Christ, being risen from the dead,
Is become the first fruits of those
Who have fallen asleep.
To Him be glory and dominion
Unto ages of ages.

St. John Chrysostom, Easter Homily

On this **Easter morning**, this Catholic Community gives praise and thanksgiving to our Risen Lord as we warmly welcomes all those who now have full communion with the Church:

- ◆ Kelly Ann Aarts
- ◆ Chantel Poisson
- ◆ Mike Bartlett
- ◆ Nicole Ladouceur
- ◆ Francesca Callow
- ◆ William Inigo Tobias Scott-Callow
- ◆ Jason Kucharski
- ◆ John Tadzio Scott-Callow
- ◆ Haley Nelemans
- ◆ Madilyn Aurora-Anne Wolstenholme
- ◆ Gloria Walch
- ◆ Shyla Winter-Rayne Wolstenholme

May you come to know more deeply the Risen Lord
through this Parish family.

AVON-THAMES CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

Email: avonthamescatholic@dol.ca

Stratford Office: 96 Huron Street Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

St. Marys Office 149 King Street North Thursdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Phone: 519-271-6722 Stratford

519-284-2593 St. Marys