



Bulletin for Divine Mercy Sunday, April 11th, 2021

Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

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

Grow: Do you ever have times – at the dinner table or at a gathering of friends – where all seems right with the world? I often hold my breath, conscious of the fragility of those moments, fearful that saying something might jinx things. It's a little like rooting for a pitcher cruising into the bottom of the ninth with a no-hitter – that feeling that we are on the verge of perfection. Well, as Christians, we are on that verge, although perfection will not come in this life but the next. And so, as fleeting as these human moments feel, and can actually be, we are reminded in today's psalm: "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting ... Let those who fear the Lord say, 'His mercy endures forever.'" As we celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday, and enter the second week of Easter, let us give thanks for the gift of God's great mercy, and pray for the grace to be as loving and merciful to others.

Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

Go: I'm taken by the story of doubting Thomas. For a long time I've focused on the "doubting" part of his name, the fact that he demanded to place his fingers in the nail marks and his hand in Jesus' side. However, when Jesus addresses Thomas, Thomas' response is immediate and unqualified: "My Lord and my God!" Thomas has recognized the divine nature of Jesus; he sees him not just as the man he has followed, but as God. As Catholics, we may sometimes face questions about how the Church has come to believe and teach certain things. Thomas' ultimate affirmation encourages us to be steadfast in our faith, and to be patient with any of our own and others' questions. That is because Christ will come to meet us where we are. As the Incarnation of God's divine mercy, Jesus Christ is the one who hears our doubts and insecurities, and he answers them: "Here I am. Look at me. Touch me. Feel my presence." Thomas was not afraid, and we need not fear either. God's mercy is upon us, "and the victory that conquers the world is our faith." Let us witness to our faith as Thomas did to his.

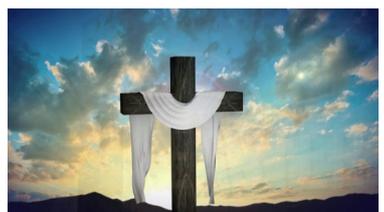
Pray: Today is Divine Mercy Sunday, a day when we are reminded of God's immense love and mercy for us. Learn more about this day and how to recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet: usccb.org/prolife/divine-mercy-sunday.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Schedule for the week of April 12—17

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

- 1. Nick Forte
2. The intentions of Michael & Rosa Ort
3. John Snyders
4. The intentions of Alan Read



- The Schmitt family
Randy & Patti Rothwell
Harry & Madeleine Visser
Paul and Nancy Culliton

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

- 1. Giuseppe Eusebi
2. Veronica Franzato
3. Sharon Klooster
Marco, Lisa & Eva Eusebi
Maria Zanin
Her friends

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

- 1. Dec'd members of the Flanagan family
2. Dec'd in 2020 members of the Holy Name of Mary CWL
3. Lois Paxton
The family
Anne & Read Paxton & family

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

- 1. Jean O'Donovan
2. Dec'd members of the Kramers & Schuster families
3. For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
Marg & Jim Brickman
Nellie Vanderhyden



We ask you to pray:

Please pray for those who have died—

Especially Fr. Ray Masse. 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:

Fr. John Johnson, Catholic health care workers in the Diocese of London, Deacon Joseph Ryu, Deacon Andrew Always, Fr. Hoang Nguyen, high school campus ministers, Fr. Eugene Roy, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

Sacraments

Baptisms - 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 Registration begins again in the fall, 2021.

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.

Deadline for registration is April 16th. 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 Groups

St. Joseph's CWL—

Anniversary update: due to the recent 'stay at home' order and the ongoing concerns with COVID, the 100th anniversary and celebration with Mass and a tree planting will be put on hold until further notice. We pray for this time of COVID 19 to pass and we especially pray for all those affected.

We will be holding a general meeting via Zoom on Monday, April 19th at 7:00 pm. If you would like to join, please ensure that we have your email address. You are welcome to email me at mjcobb@gmail.com using the subject line 'hello zoom meeting' and I will add you to the list.

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.



Parish Office and Premises Updates

The Parish Office is CLOSED. Parish Staff are working from home. Staff can be reached during regular office hours by phone or email. PLEASE leave a voice message if you call so that we can handle your requests efficiently.

The Parish Halls are CLOSED. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be able to continue operating the Food Bank and providing take-out only Community Meals from the St. Joseph's Parish Hall. Strict Covid Protocols are in place.

Masses & Mass Registrations: Masses will continue under strict Covid Protocols. If you leave a message to register for Mass, do not presume you are registered. Staff will confirm with you or, please call back to confirm. We are under a strict 15% attendance rule and we are not able to add extra seats.

There are a few 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 with a priest for emergency reasons. 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. Email: avonthamescatholic@dol.ca

For questions regarding donations of any kind and for E-transfers please contact Maureen at: 519-271-6722 ext. 23 or mmarcelissen-hnm@dol.ca. You can donate online by clicking the links on Page 2 of this bulletin.

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.

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