



Bulletin for the Third Sunday of Easter, April 18th, 2021

Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

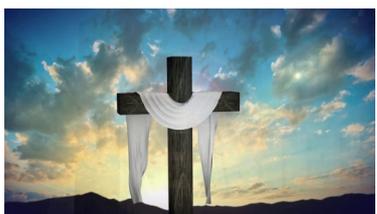
Grow as a Disciple | pray, study, engage, serve

Grow: In each of our lifetimes, we can look back to a time when we witnessed history. Depending on our generation, it's likely we remember exactly what we were doing the day JFK was assassinated, on 9/11 or, more recently, when our school or workplace shut down because of the coronavirus pandemic. Even these far-reaching events pale in comparison to what the disciples witnessed when the risen Christ appeared to them. Assuring them he was not a ghost, Jesus "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures," and reminded them that they were witnesses to a different kind of history – salvation history: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name." Let us pray that we, too, may have our minds open to the eyewitness accounts in Scripture and our hearts open to repentance, so that "[our] sins may be wiped away."

Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

GO: I'm struck by the disciples' reaction when they realized Jesus really was in the room. They were "incredulous for joy" and "amazed." After this encounter with Jesus, they could not help but share the Good News. Just as the disciples in the early Church testified to Christ's resurrection, today's readings challenge us to share the Good News in a similar way. For many Catholics, this isn't at the top of our skill-set. However, in a 2019 gathering on the New Evangelization, Pope Francis reminds us not to fret over finding the right words. "The joy of the Gospel comes from the encounter with Jesus," he says. "When we meet the Lord, we are inundated by that love of which he alone is capable." This love transforms our whole life, and "the need to announce it arises spontaneously, it becomes irrepensible." The pope's words challenge us first to deepen our relationship with Jesus, then to allow it to transform us, and finally to share Christ's love through our words and actions.

Study: The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a short document on its website from St. Paul Street Evangelization titled "Taking the First Step: Keys to Sharing Faith Person-to-Person." Give it a read: usccb.org.



MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Schedule for the week of April 19-24

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

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|--------------------|---|
| 1. Sharon Klooster | Margaret & John Bettridge |
| 2. Eugene Hagen | Knights of Columbus, Council 1431, 3rd & 4th Degree |
| 3. Paul Nickel | Andrew & Trish Nickel & family |

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

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|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Sergio & Antonietta Rizzo | Their Family |
| 2. Eleanor Parr | Audrey Murray |
| 3. Rose Whaling | Sharon Whaling |

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

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|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Albert Weernink | Shirley Ann Beecroft |
| 2. The Hall Family | Kathleen & Rob von Euw |
| 3. Cecillia Fernando | Anne Weerasinghe |

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

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Denise Marsh | Harry & Eileen Thomas |
| 2. Intentions of Joanne Stanton | Nellie Vanderhyden |
| 3. Friedel Fuhry | John Fuhry |



We ask you to pray:

Please pray for those who have died—

Especially Margaret Merkel. 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. Donald Theriault, Catholic elementary school teachers, Fr. Leo Walsh, Fr. Len Desjardins, Deacon Leonard Hughes, Fr. David Furlonger, Fr. David Butler, 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 Registration is now closed for this year. Children are continuing their preparation with their workbooks and will soon view a Parish video entitled "Fr. David presents— how to receive your First Communion!" (starring Fr. David!) First Communions will take place on Sunday, May 16th at each of our churches. A reminder that registration for these families is live now. 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. Confirmation will take place at Holy Name of Mary and St. Joseph's churches on Sunday, June 13th.

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.

Missions—(a note from Marg and Jim Brickman) We have been reflecting on the past 18 years of travelling to Haiti, raising much needed funds and working with the precious Haitian people. It has been quite a journey of faith! We have received countless blessings from this Mission work, both in Haiti, and in Canada - the ongoing faith, prayer support, generosity, love, caring, kindness, and keen interest from so many people has and continues to be a great strength to us! You have all played an important role in helping to keep HOPE alive in Haiti! We cannot THANK YOU enough!

No donation is too small and if you cannot give a donation, your prayers for us, and the Haitian people, are certainly much needed and greatly appreciated! We cannot do this work without the ongoing prayer support from so many people!

We are unsure of when we will be able to return to Haiti. However, we are still able to have money wired to our very trustworthy friends who use this money for the ever increasing needs in education and healthcare.

If you wish to donate, please make your donation payable to:

St. Joseph's Church, 96 Huron St., Stratford, On. N5A 5S6 and please earmark your donation for Project Precious Haiti(for education) OR HBS Haiti(for healthcare).

You can also donate through our website www.projectprecioushaiti

We, along with the Haitian people, are so truly grateful for your prayer and financial support! You can be assured of our prayers for each one of you, as well!



Parish supported groups

Stratford and District Right to Life- In just over a month, the **24th National March for Life** is descending upon Parliament Hill in Ottawa and to TV and computer screens all across the country. Over the last two months we have worked tirelessly to prepare what we think is one of the most ambitious March for Life programs ever addressing not only the issue of abortion but also that during these unprecedented times, our government also passed a law expanding euthanasia and assisted-suicide.

There is a month full of March for Life content to inform, inspire, and call to action. For more information please contact: Virginia Miller at virginiamiller16@gmail.com

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

Masses will be suspended after this weekend.

Please watch for Flocknote updates and visit the Website.

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.

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 the bottom of this page.

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.

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.

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