

Bulletin for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 25th, 2021

Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

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

Grow: I really feel for teenagers these days. It seems that today's kids face – if not *more* challenges than I did – at least many more ways those challenges can present themselves. The usual adolescent pressures present themselves in person, as always, but also now on the many forms of social media. For young people, and all of us, living as “children of God” is certainly not for the faint of heart! As our Psalm today says, we should place our trust in God – take refuge in him – rather than in what others may think of us. Why? Because living as disciples of Jesus can fly in the face of cultural norms. After all, Jesus was the stone the builders rejected – who became the cornerstone! He and the apostles challenged the status quo and faced ridicule and rejection, and even death because of it. Still, they always did the right thing. That's hard, for sure. But Jesus, the Good Shepherd, laid down his life for us, and that requires a response. Discipleship calls us to serve others by doing the right thing so that God's kingdom will triumph over the kingdom of darkness.

Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

Go: St. John told his community that “the reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.” The key to being a loving force for good in the world is humility, and looking to God, rather than how we are perceived on social media or the car we drive, for our identity and worth. Tackling our ego begins by taking stock of what we value and whose opinion (rightly or wrongly) matters to us. Once we have explored those troubled waters, we can absorb St. Teresa of Calcutta's advice: “Accept being slighted, forgotten and disliked. Our slow steady witness shines light into darkness. The consistent challenge of our Christian behavior, offered without judgment, will promote God's values in our families, schools, work, and neighborhoods. Our faithful witness allows God to work. Remember, God uses the stones that are rejected to become the cornerstone.

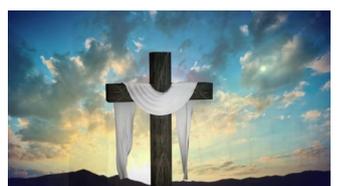
PRAY: Pray for the Holy Spirit to strengthen you to live humbly. Then ask the Spirit to open the door for you to invite others to know the joy of living according to God's ways. In the meantime, pray the *Litany of Humility*. It will help train your ego to seek God's approval only.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Schedule for the week of April 26—May 1

Tuesday

1. Fred Guy
2. Shirley Uniac
3. Sharon Klooster



Tim Bastin & family
Annie Van Straaten
Her friends

Wednesday

1. Carmine Paola
2. The intentions of Joseph Dewan
3. Theresa Mycyk

Knights of Columbus, Council 1431, 3rd Degree
Joan & Dave Franks
Linda Murray & family

Thursday

1. Terry Calver
2. George Van Slyck
3. Olga Semeniuk

Shirley Ann Beecroft
Huron Perth Catholic Principals CO
Anne & Read Paxton & family

Friday

1. Roger Trites
2. Kent Abbott
3. Jean Stelmachuk

Knights of Columbus, Council 1431, 3rd Degree
His family
The Chisholm and Norman families



We ask you to pray:

Please pray for those who have died—

Especially Blanch Overholt and Paul Gray. 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:

Juan Carlos Giraldo (sacramental coordinator), Fr. Matthew Kucharski, Deacon Dennis Kosokowsky, Fr. Christian Amogu, Fr. Peter Keller, Fr. Benjamin Huyge, Fr. Jan Burczyk, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

Sacraments - During the current stay at home order, baptisms and confessions are suspended (with the exception of an emergency) and our date for First Communions has been put on hold. Weddings and funerals may be celebrated with a maximum of 10 people in attendance. For an emergency requiring the assistance of a priest, please call the Parish office and press ext. 9.

Baptisms - Baptisms are once again on hold. However, you are most welcome to still call the office and register your child. Please leave a message at extension 0.

First Reconciliation Registration begins again in the fall, 2021.

First Holy Communions Our original First Communion date for all children making the sacrament has now been postponed. We will prepare for a new date as soon as COVID restrictions allow. However, 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!) Any questions can be directed to Mary Chisholm at 519-271-6722 ext. 24. Registration for this sacrament is now closed for this year.

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. If COVID restrictions allow, 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

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!

Flocknote—Why is it such a useful tool for our Parish?



Our relatively new communication tool called 'Flocknote' has many ways to help reach out to our parishioners. Most are familiar with receiving a weekly email to register for Masses, but there is **so much more to this tool!** Fr. David sends out a weekly message that is meant to update and inform his flock, along with sending out the weekly bulletin. We use **Flocknote** for sacramental preparation as we are able to communicate directly with families who have children making First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion or being confirmed. (we can even send out instructional videos!) Parish Council, CWL's, music ministry, altar servers are examples of groups that will be communicating and updating in this way. If you aren't registered you may be missing out! All that is required is an email address and/or a cell phone number.

If you know of a senior, whether a family member or friend, who isn't coming to Mass yet and isn't receiving a message from our Pastor, please help them to register for **Flocknote**. Simply go to avonthames.flocknote.com and follow the very simple prompts. Most people have an email address and would really benefit from 'keeping in the loop'. We appreciate your assistance to help us reach as many people as possible; especially during this time.

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 All Masses have been suspended. All Scheduled Confessions have been suspended.

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 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

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

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.