



Bulletin for the Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021

Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

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

**Grow:** Today's readings are at once challenging and reassuring. Challenging, because we are to remain in Christ, by "[keeping] his commandments and [doing] what pleases him"; and reassuring, because we know that the Holy Spirit is with us and we can "have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask." As Jesus says to us, "I am the vine, you are the branches ... without me you can do nothing." Through the Eucharist, the sacraments of the Church, Sacred Scripture, and in belonging to a faith community, God gives us many ways to grow closer to Jesus, and to direct our life toward him. In the pruning of sinful habits from our lives and building us up, through grace, to walk in the fear of the Lord, God transforms our hearts so that we remain in him, and he in us. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to speak out boldly in the name of the Lord.

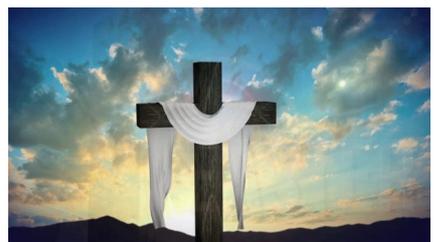
Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

**GO:** Just as the new life and growth of springtime is already very visible in many parts of the United States, today's first reading describes a kind of springtime in the Church. Even as Saul faced multiple death threats, he continued to boldly proclaim the Good News. "The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit it grew in numbers." Today, many Christians around the world face persecution for their beliefs or live in cities or countries where violence, poverty, or hunger threaten their lives. We, too, face challenges and hardships. Life is not easy! Let us find "consolation" in the Holy Spirit and build up the Church and one another through prayer, generosity, and friendship.

**Pray:** Consider spending an hour with Jesus in Eucharistic adoration. Find a small way to build up the Church beyond your family and parish by praying for Christians in other parts of the world..

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Schedule for the week of May 3—8



Tuesday

- 1. Elsie & John Conroy
- 2. Kent Abbott
- 3. Anne Goodyear

Janet Conroy  
His family  
The St. Cecelia Choir

Wednesday

- 1. Joyce Eusebi
- 2. Garry Curry
- 3. Roger Trites

Marco, Lisa & Eva Eusebi  
The family  
Brenda Heisz

Thursday

- 1. Carlo Boscarato
- 2. Bhanuath Nair
- 3. Bob Paxton

Shirley Ann Beecroft  
Anne Weerasinghe  
Anne & Read Paxton & family

Friday

- 1. Keith & Fran Culliton
- 2. James Culligan
- 3. The intentions of those who use the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul food bank

Their family  
Howard & Catherine Culligan



**We ask you to pray:**

**Please pray for those who have died—**

Especially, Peter Bokkers, 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. Thomas Janisse, Fr. Matthew Bedard, Fr. Daniel Bombardier, Fr. Dick Bester, Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood, Fr. Gary Ducharme, Fr. James Mockler, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

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**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.

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**Other News**

**Diocese of London**

**Employment Opportunities**

The Diocese of London, Diocesan Centre, Virtual, is seeking the following positions: One Team-Lead Online Presence & Virtual Programs. Three Co-Leader-Virtual Programs. Details are available at : [www.dol.ca/employment\\_opportunities](http://www.dol.ca/employment_opportunities) .

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank**

We have received a number of inquiries regarding the Food Bank. Please note that the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is still able to operate the weekly Food Bank at the St. Joseph’s Parish Hall. Strict Covid 19 Protocols are in place for this essential service.

**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.

## 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](http://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 & Mass Registrations:** ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED. NO SCHEDULED CONFESSIONS AT THIS TIME.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nbomasuit@dol.ca)

## AVON-THAMES CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

Email: [avonthamescatholic@dol.ca](mailto: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**