

April 1, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Today is Holy Thursday – a day that is so important in our Church. Today we hear in the Gospel of Jesus who kneels down and teaches His apostles and all of us, how to be servant leaders. He also celebrates the Last Supper and gives us the Institution of the Eucharist – as we eat His flesh and drink his blood as true food and drink for our souls. We have so much to be grateful to God for. Tomorrow, we celebrate the Passion and death of our Lord Jesus and by his suffering on the cross we are saved.

As of this afternoon's announcement by the Premier, we have been moved to GREY zone. This now allows our parish to be open safely at a 15% capacity. You can continue to attend Mass and we will have Masses for Easter. You can continue to attend Mass daily as well. REGISTRATION ONLINE IS REQUIRED.

Since the Premier has put all parts of Ontario into the GREY zone effective Saturday April 3 @ 12:01am – this means that it will affect Easter Sunday.

I had opened up registration numbers for Easter at a 30% capacity, however the rules have changed and now we are only allowed at 15% capacity. To be most fair to all parishioners in regard to attending a Mass of choice, I will be CANCELLING ALL EASTER SUNDAY REGISTRATIONS. Anyone wishing to attend Mass on Easter Sunday must RE-REGISTER using the parish website – www.stjosephgrimsby.ca.

Registration for Easter Sunday will be open on Friday April 2 @ 9:00am for all Easter Sunday Masses. Please do NOT call the parish office as the pastoral team is not working and I will be busy with liturgies over the Triduum. If you registered previously for Easter Sunday – again your registration will be cancelled and you must RE-REGISTER for Easter Sunday only.

Please note – if you have signed up for Holy Thursday. Good Friday or Holy Saturday – these registrations will continue and you are welcome to come to those Mass and celebration times. You do NOT need to re-register for Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday/Easter Vigil. Re-registration is for EASTER SUNDAY ONLY.

For contact tracing, I kindly remind everyone that for you to attend Mass, you MUST still sign up using the parish website please.

Note for Easter Sunday - the Mass schedule is DIFFERENT.

Our Holy Triduum and Easter Sunday schedule is as follows. Masses will be filled by online registrations only - unfortunately, we will not be able to accept walk-ins.

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord’s Supper – April 1

-Mass – 7:00pm (Livestreamed on Parish Facebook page)

-Altar or repose set up in the Church – adoration until 12:00 midnight

Good Friday – April 2

-Young Children / Family Good Friday Service (not geared for adults, rather for young children and families only) 10:30am (Livestreamed on Facebook)

-Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion (all are welcome) – 12:30pm

-Solemn Celebration of the Lord’s Passion (all are welcome) – 3:00pm (Livestreamed on Facebook)

-Stations of the Cross – Mary’s Way – 7:00pm (Livestreamed on Facebook)

Holy Saturday – April 3

-Confessions 9:00am-10:30am

-Blessing of Easter baskets / foods – 11:30am

-Easter Vigil Mass – 8:30pm (Livestreamed on Facebook)

Easter Sunday – April 4 (Re-registration required – opens April 2 @ 9:00am)

Masses

8:30am

10:30am (Livestreamed on Facebook)

12:30pm

2:30pm

NOTE – Again ALL parishioners must sign up for Masses online, there will NOT be a binder with paper signups at the door.

You are again reminded that the office is closed to parishioners at this time in person, your pastoral needs can be answered via phone or email. This has been mandated by Bishop Bergie and is for your safety and to protect the pastoral team here. Thank you for respecting that.

Please also note that, at the request of the Bishop, there is to be no parish meetings here on the campus during the lockdown – we are encouraging all parishioners to exploit the digital meetings held here at the parish each week.

Important updates:

1. Once again, this is the St. Joseph prayer we have used through the Novena and will continue to use at all Masses. I encourage each of you to use this prayer at home with your families as well.

St. Joseph Prayer

Good Saint Joseph, ever watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ, keep us free from the blight of error and corruption, and be our ally in the conflict with the powers of darkness. As of old you rescued the child Jesus from the plots of Herod, so now defend the universal Church from all harm. Keep us one and all under your continual protection, so that by your help and example, we may lead a holy life, die a happy death, and come to possess eternal life in heaven. Amen.

2. Feast of the Divine Mercy – Sunday April 11, 2021

As in the past, **our parish will be hosting a Divine Mercy Celebration the Sunday after Easter from 2:30pm until 4:00pm in the Church.** Fr. Stanley Ksciuk – pastor of St. Elizabeth in Wainfleet, will lead us in a Liturgy of the Word and I will lead a Eucharistic Holy Hour as we call on the mercy of God and the special indulgences and promises Jesus gives to those who receive him in Holy Communion, have a true confession, and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the hour of mercy (3pm) on this special day. **Priests will be available to hear your confessions as well.** Nancy Bodsworth, Catholic recording artist, will be our guest leader of music ministry and will lead us in song. Please invite your family and friends to this special celebration of God's mercy. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

3. This weekend brings our seventh week of METANOIA to a close. Let us continue to reflect upon the importance of hearing the unique call of Jesus – who calls and empowers us.

I remind you to watch the video at least once during the week and continue to reflect upon the questions that I have outlined.

I have included the questions here for those who are not following on our Parish Facebook page. Beginning on Sunday, I invite you to begin watching the 5th video entitled “Jesus Prays.”

Questions to Ponder....

METANOIA Discussion Session #7 – Jesus Calls & Empowers

1. Do you recognize yourself as a beloved son / daughter of God?
2. Jesus calls through the scriptures.....do you hear the call of God in your own life?
3. Have you ever felt that Jesus was calling out to you? If so, how?
4. Jesus asks Bartimaeus, and he asks you..... what do you want me to do for you? What is it that you want Jesus to do for you? What is your response? What is your plea?

5. How you feel when you hear the Passion Narrative? Do I feel that I have a part of Jesus' suffering, or do I feel it is all a result of others' sins?
6. Am I able to recognize the presence of God in other? Do I see God in the people I love most – even those that get on my nerves? If I see God in them, then why is it easiest for me to target them most? Can I see past my own sins and vulnerabilities?
7. Who is the person who calls you by name that speaks of a deep intimacy / personal level? When you hear their voice, how does it make you feel? When you hear them say your name, how do you feel?
8. Do you hear the Lord calling your name – speaking of a desire to come to the house of your heart?
9. Do you hear the Lord calling you to come down from your 'sycamore tree?' What is the tree that I have climbed that Jesus is calling me down from?
10. Zacchaeus' call was immediate from Jesus. What was it about Zacchaeus that Jesus wanted to be a part of?
11. If Jesus was interested in being with Zacchaeus – can I believe that Jesus is wanting to be in my house? Can God have his eyes on me?
12. Am I living an authentic Christian witness – or do I act differently depending on whom I am around? In Church, at home, with my family, social network.
13. Am I living life to the full?
14. What is it that binds me?
15. Have you ever been afraid of what God is asking of you? In the past, present, or what he might be calling me to in the future? What am I afraid of?
16. What is the tomb that the Lord is calling you out from?
17. Do I believe that God loves me?

God bless you all as we continue our week long retreat with the Lord here in Holy Week.

Gentle reminder, for those who wish to participate or observe a group think, I hold 3 livestream sessions each week to allow for dialogue, discussion and asking of questions. These live sessions take place through the parish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby) and take place at the following time slots to accommodate your schedule. **Watch the movie 30 minutes before these three live sessions and use them to assist you to grow spiritually.**

Mondays @ 12:30pm / Thursdays @ 7:30pm / Saturdays @ 11:30am

(Note – they will all be uploaded to the Parish YouTube channel for those who do not use the Facebook platform). Again, kindly watch the videos BEFORE these sessions – we will not be watching them together on Facebook (in case of internet crash, slow connection etc.).

4. I continue to remind all families with young children of the 4 videos I have produced to help families pray the Rosary together as a family. Find these videos on our parish website at the following link: <https://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca/resources/> - scroll to the bottom and you will see the Video links. What a great opportunity to join in prayer as a family and pray the rosary together during Lent.

5. Unfortunately the front doors of the church are old and are not functioning properly anymore (able to lock and unlock) please use the side doors as indicated on the signs we are working at having them fixed/ replaced. Sorry for the inconvenience.

6. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign

Thank you for your generosity towards this year's Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign – this collection will remain open for the next 2 weeks. If you have not yet made your contribution, please do so at this time.

Please indicate "Share Lent" when completing an e-transfer to the parish (myparishgift@gmail.com). If desired, you may use the Share Lent envelope in the Sunday Offering Envelopes box and drop your contribution off at the church. Alternatively, donate directly to Development and Peace at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>

If you missed seeing the "Share Love Share Lent" video, here is the link <https://youtu.be/xkylFzbJibM>

Find attached the link to the Encyclical letter from Pope Francis - http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

7. Please read the Bishop's Easter Message to all parishioners of the Diocese. It is attached to this email.

8. Pray for our young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the week after Easter. Bishop Bergie will be coming to our parish to confer the Holy Spirit upon our young people in 4 Confirmation liturgies – April 6,7,8 & 15. Please note that these liturgies are only open to the candidates and their parents and siblings. They will be live-streamed through the parish website. This is done to limit the number of people gathering in the Church as per the Bishop's Diocesan directives. Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers.

9. In the weeks following Divine Mercy Sunday – we will be inviting the young children of our parish who have been preparing to receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please continue to keep them in your prayers that they may open their hearts to the love of Jesus in the Eucharist.

CHILDREN LITURGY / LITTLE SPIRITS RESOURCES

Use the link for the most up to date resources for Children's Liturgy (<https://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca/childrens-liturgy/>) and Little Spirits (<https://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca/little-spirits/>)

OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES

1. Please pray for our 7 elect – who will become full members of the Church at the Easter Vigil on Saturday night. They will receive the Sacraments of baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers as they Journey with the Lord Jesus!
2. Our 2nd ALPHA has now concluded. Thanks to all who participated in this faith lifting series. We look forward to our upcoming 3rd ALPHA series in September, and I remind all parishioners, that the goal is for every parishioner of St. Joseph to participate in this spiritually enriching program to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.
3. Please continue to remember the parish regarding financial giving. We rely on your weekly contributions to sustain and build the kingdom of God in our parish. You can drop your offerings off in the boxes following Mass this weekend, drop it off in the outside mailbox, bring it to the parish office all week, or through the etransfer option – myparishgift@gmail.com. Thank you in advance to those families who continue to sustain our parish through their contributions.
4. Please continue to support our campaign for the new Heating and Air Conditioning units here at St. Joseph. **This project will cost the parish \$120,000** and your generosity is required to meet these costs. Thank you to those who have already stepped up and made donations – to date, we have **currently raised \$51,795 towards the total**. I am asking all parishioners to contribute significantly to this project since we all expect a warm church in the winter and cool church in the summer months. The old units, original to this church building, lasted us 25 years – and for those of us who are homeowners, we know that we certainly ‘soaked’ every ounce of life out of them. As you make your contribution, please write **“HEATING / AIR”** on the front of your envelope or in the memo line of an etransfer (myparishgift@gmail.com) and those funds will be counted towards your tax receipt for the end of the year. Special envelopes will be available to pick up for this project next weekend. Thank you in advance for your assistance.
5. 2021 envelopes are available for pickup in the foyer of the Church. Please pick up your envelopes for the new year which begins the end of November. **Please contact the parish office if you are shifting from the paper envelope to e-giving only. We can cancel your box order for 2022 and save on the purchase of envelopes, in addition to being more environmentally friendly. Thank you!**
6. 2020 tax receipts are now available for pickup in the foyer of the Church. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the parish this past year.
7. Confessions will be heard on **April 3 from 9:00am – 10:30am. There are no confessions on Holy Saturday in the afternoon.**

8. The parish website continues to help so many – visit www.stjosephgrimsby.ca – and our social media accounts to help enhance your faith. Also please continue to look at the parish YouTube channel for daily updates.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby/>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/stjoesgrimsby/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/stjoesgrimsby>

The parish YouTube channel once again is

- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX5_TJMB7GpOw6M0LV8t9pw

9. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday April 13 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 6-7. Click on the link below and join as you are encouraged to deepen your relationship with God and the study of the scriptures. If you need help setting this up – contact the parish office.

Fr-Rico Passero is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Fr. Rico Passero God Talk Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82763215683?pwd=TnFENVhveEF5VktKem1NMDVMldzQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6321 5683

Password: GodTalk

10. I continue to invite you all to utilize the FORMED.org platform. Again, free to all parishioners, there are NUMEROUS resources for you to check out as an individual and as a family. Free to all parishioners. I have again included the instructions to enroll here:

To log onto FORMED (again FREE to all parishioners)

- Visit www.formed.org
- Click Sign up
- Click – I belong to a parish or organization.
- Type St Joseph Grimsby – in the “find your parish or organization” box and click on our parish name once it populates.
- Click Next
- Add your name and email address – then click sign up.
- Enjoy FORMED

11. The parish schedule for Mass is posted on the sign-up page on the parish website. Again, the Mass is livestreamed daily along with an opportunity to attend Mass physically for those who have registered.

If you have any pastoral needs, please email, or call the parish.

You remain in my daily prayers – please pray for me and for each other.

St. Joseph – pray for us. Mary, Mother of the Church – pray for us.

God bless, Fr. Rico