

April 10, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Happy Easter! We continue to celebrate the Risen Christ! The Season of Easter is indeed 50 days and so let us rejoice and celebrate the Joy of Jesus!

We continue to be OPEN at this time at a 15% capacity of our church. Please continue to register through our parish website (www.stjosephgrimsby.ca). Our weekend Masses are Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm.

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.

Mass will continue to be livestreamed on Sundays at 10:30am and daily from Monday to Saturday at 9:00am through the Parish Facebook Account (www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby) and the Parish YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX5_TJMB7GpOw6M0LV8t9pw).

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. Tomorrow is a very special Feast of the Church – **Divine Mercy Sunday**. There are special graces that Jesus gives to those who celebrate this day as we enter into the Mercy of God. My homily this weekend will certainly illustrate the greatness of God's mercy and the need for us to be reconciled to God.

We will have our Annual Divine Mercy celebration here at St. Joseph at 2:30pm on April 11. Fr. Stanley Ksciuk – Pastor of St. Elizabeth in Wainfleet will lead us in a special homily as I lead our Holy Hour. Nancy Bodsworth, Catholic Recording artist will lead us in song. There will be 4 priests to hear confessions. Please register through the parish website.

For those who do not feel comfortable leaving your home – note that this will be livestreamed. You may also wish to read this link below.

<https://www.churchpop.com/2020/04/17/how-to-gain-a-plenary-indulgence-this-divine-mercy-sunday-even-in-quarantine/>

2. This weekend brings our eighth week of METANOIA to a close. We have been reflecting on the powerful name of Jesus and his power over the evil one.

I remind you to watch the video at least once during the week and perhaps continue to reflect upon the questions that I have outlined below if you find them helpful for you.

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 9th video entitled "This teaching is hard."

Questions to Ponder....

METANOIA Discussion Session #8 – Jesus' Power Over the Evil One

1. Have you ever done something you didn't think of all the way through? What was that thing? How often were those times? What might the consequences be as a result?
2. Do I take temptation seriously? Do I take the devil / evil one seriously? Do I think of him as meaningless, a made-up person, no threat to me?
3. How often have I encountered the evil one? In a similar desert experience or perhaps in another type of situation? How did I overcome temptation? Did I overcome it? What happened?
4. How often have I bought into the Prince of lies? Do I believe at times that I'm not loved by God, others, not good enough, not worthy etc.?
5. What are the temptations that affect me most in my life currently? How does the devil tempt me? What are the weaknesses in my life that the devil likes to attack?
6. The devil's biggest weapon is discouragement – am I currently discouraged?
7. Can I remain calm / patient in the face of temptation, like Jesus does?
8. Do I recognize the power in the name of Jesus? Do I use the name of Jesus to command power over the devil or any temptation I face? (In the name of Jesus, be gone Satan!)
9. Do I look at the crucifix and see the power of Jesus over temptation? Do I find hope in this sign of God's love for me?
10. Am I aware of the spiritual battle between the power of darkness and God's light? How often do I recognize the spiritual warfare going on in my life? Conscience versus impulse.... Do I choose to be right, rather than do right?
11. What are my current temptations? Do I call on the power of God to overcome them?
12. When finding it difficult to know what is right and wrong..... can I reflect upon the question – is this the way that God would speak to me?
13. What weapon do I use when being tempted? Do I look to within or do I often turn to the power of prayer?
14. What are some of the lies that the devil convinces me of? Why am I listening to these lies? Can I rather focus on Jesus who is the TRUTH? Jesus says I am loved always, can I believe this?
15. What are the ways I feel alone or isolated from God? Do I often place myself distant from God, do things I normally wouldn't do and therefore feel remorse or regret as a result?
16. Mother Iliana said – "the devil is very afraid of the Lord..... let's not be frightened by one who is frightened." How does this make you feel?
17. Why might I be afraid even though Jesus calls me not to be afraid?
18. Do I believe that through baptism, eucharist and the other sacraments, that Christ lives in me?
19. Do I turn to God's word in temptation?

20. What are the sins of the world I might struggle with? What are the sins of the flesh that I struggle with? Do I actively close the doors of my life to the evil one to tempt me?

21. Do I truly believe that the tomb is empty... that Jesus has risen and conquered death and sin? What does this mean for me? Does it bring me hope and joy?

May God bless you all.

Gentle reminder, for those who wish to participate or observe a group think, I continue to 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.**

**This week the times of the livestream will be
Monday 12:30pm / Thursday 2:00pm (due to Confirmation Liturgy in the evening /
Saturday 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.).

3. The Knights of Columbus will be holding a Wine Bottle sale in a partnership with Fielding Estate Winery to support the Parish Heating and Air Conditioning Campaign as well as their other local charitable events.

The fundraising event will run from today April 10 until Saturday May 8th. Orders MUST be submitted by Saturday May 8th.

Select your wine and quantity from the order form attached to this message. Ask your friends and family to join you and place their order together. This is a great gift idea for Mother's Day, preparing in advance for the BBQ season or treating yourself.

To place an order – please email the parish office at sjrc.grimsby@cogeco.net or contact the parish office 905-945-2661.

Methods of payments:

- Etransfer: myparishgift@gmail.com memo line "WINE"
- Cheque payable to St. Joseph's Parish memo line "WINE" and bring to the office
- Pay cash and make arrangements with the parish office 905-945-2661

**Wine pick up is Sat, May 15th 2:00pm - 3:30pm St. Joseph church parking lot.
Thank you for support the parish and the Knights of Columbus.**

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. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign

This will be the last weekend for our Development and Peace Share Lent collection. Please be generous as we care for our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Thank you in advance.

6. Pray for our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this week (April 6,7 & 8) with beautiful liturgies led by Bishop Bergie. We look forward to our last group of confirmandi who will receive the Holy Spirit on Thursday evening. Please note that these liturgies are only open to the candidates and their parents due to our restriction with numbers. They will be live-streamed through the parish website. Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers.

7. 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 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.

2. 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 \$53,900 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 e-transfer (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.

3. 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!**

4. 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.

5. Confessions will be heard on April 10 from 3-4:00pm. Confessions will also be available tomorrow April 11 during the Divine Mercy celebration.

6. 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

7. 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=TnFENVhveEF5VktKem1NMDVMdldzQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6321 5683

Password: GodTalk

8. 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

9. 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