

April 16, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Happy Easter! Christ is truly Risen! 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!

As many of you have likely heard, today the government of Ontario announced that effective Monday April 19 – churches are only allowed to have TEN people inside at any Mass – meaning 9 parishioners and the priest. After consulting with Fr. Bill – I have decided to move us back to the schedule we adopted in January during the last TEN-person restriction. Sacramental Communion is ESSENTIAL – which is why Fr. Bill and I are working so hard to bring each of you to the altar to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

Note that Masses this weekend (April 17/18) remain the same (Sat 5pm, Sun 8:30am/10:30am/12:30pm) at a 15% capacity.

Parishioners are invited to attend ONE Mass for the week (April 19-April 25). Please do NOT sign up for multiple Masses. I want to maximize the number of people attending Mass each week. Note that any Mass you attend for the week will count as worship of God. Recall also that Bishop Bergie has dispensed all of us from attending Mass on the weekend (announced March 2020).

Anyone wishing to attend Mass must do so through our parish website (www.stjosephgrimsby.ca). Only parishioners of St. Joseph Grimsby may attend Mass under this restriction. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

Effective Monday April 19 – the Mass schedule at St. Joseph will be as follows:

**Saturday 9:00am/ 10:00am / 11:00am / 12:00pm / 1:00pm / 4:00 pm / 5:00pm / 6:00pm
Sunday 8:30am / 9:30am / 10:30am / 12:30pm / 4:30pm / 5:30pm / 6:30pm**

Monday 9:00am

Tuesday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am / 6:30pm

Thursday 9:00am

Friday 9:00am

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. This weekend brings our ninth week of METANOIA to a close. We have been reflecting on “This teaching is hard.”

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 10th video entitled “Do you love me?”

Questions to Ponder....

METANOIA Discussion Session #9 – This teaching is hard.

1. Do I have selective hearing – only wanting to hear things that appeal to me, or do I long to hear truth? (In relationships, dialogue, health, life, world). Am I one that deals with confrontation well or do I run from it?
2. The truth can be difficult to hear at times.... Am I open to hearing it? What is God saying to me that is true that perhaps I am reluctant or stubborn to address?
3. What is a teaching(s) of the Lord that I find difficult? Am I continuing to wrestle with it, or do I just push it away as irrelevant, outdated or not applicable to me/ my life?
4. Even as God’s teachings are difficult – if Jesus is willing to let some people walk away from Him, rather than ‘water-down’ or change His teachings – what does that say to me?
5. Do I, like Amber prefer a ‘happily ever after’ relationship with God – or am I looking for a real one that conforms itself to a “pick up your daily cross and follow me” approach?
6. Do I live with God on a merit-based level – or do I understand that there is nothing that I can do to make God love me more/less?
7. Teaching on forgiveness – “how often should I forgive..... 70x7 times.” How do I deal with this?
8. Who is the Holy Spirit asking me to forgive? Can I do as Fr. Dave suggests and ask the question as I sit in a church in prayer and begin to write these people’s names down in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?
9. Am I living intentionally on the road that leads to life?
10. The world says ‘do whatever you want’ – however Jesus asks us to “renounce yourself” – am I willing to do this?

11. St. John Paul II said in his writing Mission of the Redeemer – “Conversion is accepting a personal decision of the saving sovereignty of Christ and become His disciple,” how do I feel about this?
12. Matthew 5:44-45 – “love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you.” How do I deal with this? Who are the enemies in my life? Am I praying for them?
13. How do I deal with the concept of obedience? Do I rather do what I want? Obedience is easy when you love someone.... Do I love God enough to obey Him and realize He wants what is best for me?
14. Mary’s last words in the scriptures – from the Wedding of Cana are – “do whatever He tells you.” How do I deal with the teachings of Jesus – will I listen to Mary, or focus on my own thing instead?
15. Am I going to do what I want to do, or am I going to do what the Lord is calling me to do? Thereby also what the Church is asking of me to do?
16. Brian says, “If we want to know ourselves, let’s consult the Creator.” Do I do this?
17. Jesus wrestled with the Father’s plans for Him, but always conformed... “Not my will, but Your will be done.” Can I apply this to myself?
18. What is God asking me to do right now that I am wrestling with? What are the teachings of Jesus that I know I must follow, but for a variety of reasons, I push away or pretend to ignore? God bless you.

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 7:30pm / 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.).

2. 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 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 supporting the parish and the Knights of Columbus.

3. 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.

4. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign

Thank you for sharing love this Lenten season!

The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign called you to share love, and you opened your hearts.

Our parish has collected monies as well as many have given online directly. Stay tuned for an updated amount in the coming weeks.

This money will help sustain programs and projects that serve some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in the Global South!

Thank you for your generosity. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation at devp.org/lent.

5. Thanks be to God! Our 4 Confirmation liturgies were spirit-filled and beautiful. I thank Bishop Bergie for invoking the Holy Spirit upon our young people. Thanks to Tracy and Andrew for helping to make these liturgies special and meaningful.

6. Sunday April 18 @ 3pm – the students of St. Joseph Catholic will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please pray for them as they are blessed by God. After this weekend, unfortunately – I must reschedule the remaining four 1st Communion Masses due to our limit of TEN people in the Church at any time. Parents of our 1st Communion students, please see my email to assist you in making subsequent arrangements. 1st Communion Masses will take place when we are able to hold them.

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 \$54,070 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.
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 17 from 3-4:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room.
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 20 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 7-8. 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

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