

**December 5, 2020**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

This week begins the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Advent – what a blessed time we are in.

Once again, I strongly encourage you all back to Mass. Our parish is extremely safe, and it is vital for you to receive a **Sacramental Communion**. Our parish ensures that all parishioners wear masks, sanitize their hands and the pews are wiped down between Masses. If you have returned to work, school, and shopping, I strongly urge you back to Mass.

**The Weekend Masses are – Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm. Daily Masses are held Monday to Saturday at 9:00am. Holy Hour takes place Monday to Thursday at 3:00pm, Fridays at 12:00pm, Saturdays at 9:30am.**

The Sunday Mass will continue to be live streamed for parishioners at 10:30am for those who are sick, homebound and for those who do not feel ready to leave their homes yet.

Other important updates:

1. I'd like to remind everyone that if you are sick or have come into contact with anyone who might feel they have COVID symptoms of any kind, please do NOT come to Church. I encourage you to get a COVID test and until you get a negative result – please stay home and do not place yourself, among others. This is especially true of those who are living with those who are showing COVID symptoms – this virus is very contagious – kindly do not expose the parish, and others to the potential of spread.

2. Along with our regular confession schedule on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Room, we will be hosting the **St. Joseph Parish Advent night of Reconciliation on Tuesday December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.** Priests will be available to hear confessions in a variety of languages. Please avail yourself to the healing sacrament of God's mercy so that this Christmas, we can truly offer Jesus what He truly longs for – the gift of a pure and holy soul.

3. **Christmas Masses will need to proceed differently than we are used to. Everyone who wishes to attend a Christmas Mass – MUST REGISTER – through the parish website [www.stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca).** The platform used for registration will be "Eventbrite." Our Youth & Social Ministry Minister, Andrew Natale has worked hard to set up the template on the website. You will be receiving post cards in your mailbox this week with the Christmas Schedule and the link to log in and register. For those who do not feel comfortable using technology – you may register by **walking into the parish office to register and a member of the Pastoral Team will enter the site and register for you. Note that written nor email requests will be processed.** Those who do not register will be unable to enter the church due to the current 30% capacity restrictions

and health regulations will be followed. Please register quickly to avoid disappointment. Thank you.

4. **December 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception** – in addition to the Mass in the morning at 9:00am, I will also be having **Mass in the evening at 6:30pm**. Let us ask our Blessed Mother to help us grow in holiness.

5. **I still need 5 more volunteers** to take turns to shovel the walkways and clear snow and sprinkle salt around the main doors of the church throughout the winter season (excludes the parking lot). This is particularly important and not a very intense project. The parish has a snow blower as well as shovels to assist in this task. There will be a rotation either one volunteer for each day of the week, or a one-week rotation for seven weeks. I need assistance to ensure that all parishioners and guests are safe as they approach our beloved church. Please contact the parish office to volunteer.

6. Our first ALPHA session has completed with great success! I would like to thank Jody, our Evangelization Minister as well as Andrew, our Youth Minister – and the other Alpha small group leaders for a very spiritually enriching and powerful experience.

If you did not participate in this first ALPHA session - we invite you for the next Catholic ALPHA weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> running through March 31<sup>st</sup>. To register visit the parish website – click on “Get Involved” and scroll to the bottom. Join us for ALPHA – it is a game changer!

7. Andrew our Youth Minister is inviting the ***Youth of our Parish to an Unleashed Youth Adult Faith Series beginning on December 15<sup>th</sup>***. All young people of the parish are invited (help me encourage them) and can register through the parish website.

8. The next parish Paint Night will be on Friday December 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm. Register through the parish website or call the parish office.

9. 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](mailto:myparishgift@gmail.com). Thank you in advance to those families who continue to sustain our parish through their contributions.

10. You will notice that heat has returned to our parish as we installed the new Heating and Air Conditioning units this week (with final tweaks to take place this week). **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 \$5,600 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](mailto: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.

11. 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.

12. Thank you for your prayers – the 2 Confirmations celebrated today on December 5<sup>th</sup> were certainly filled with God’s grace. Special thanks to Bishop Bergie for leading us in prayer and invoking the Holy Spirit upon our young people. Come Holy Spirit!

13. The Knights of Columbus are continuing to accept winter coats to share with those most in need. If you would like to donate some coats, please leave them at the parish office or in the boxes found in the foyer of the Church.

14. The parish website continues to help so many – visit [www.stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX5_TJMB7GpOw6M0LV8t9pw)

15. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday December 15 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying Joel Chapters 1-4 and Amos Chapter 1. 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

16. Baptisms continue to be celebrated. If you wish to have your son or daughter baptized, please contact the parish office.

17. 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](http://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

18. The local funeral home – Stonehouse Whitcomb is having their Christmas Memorial Service ceremony on Sunday December 13 @ 4:00pm. To register visit their website [www.smithsfh.com](http://www.smithsfh.com) or contact the funeral home directly.

19. This is the St. Joseph Schedule for the week ahead. Note that Daily Masses again can be attended in person as well as the Daily Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and private prayer) and will also continue to be streamed LIVE along with a daily holy hour (except for Sundays)

#### **Saturday Dec 5**

##### **Mass – 8:30am (note Mass time)**

Confirmation Mass – Bishop Bergie 10:00am (private due to COVID restrictions)

Confirmation Mass – Bishop Bergie 2:00pm (private due to COVID restrictions)

Confessions – St. Nicholas Room – 3:45pm to 4:30pm (due to Confirmation)

##### **Mass – 5:00pm in Church**

#### **Sunday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Masses in Church – 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm**

**(Live Stream Mass – 10:30am)**

#### **Monday Dec 7 – Feast of St. Ambrose**

Mass – 9:00am

Holy Hour – 3:00pm

**Tuesday Dec 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

Mass – 9:00am

Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Mass – 6:30pm

**Wednesday Dec 9**

Mass – 9:00am

Holy Hour (Worship Wednesday) - 3:00pm

**Thursday Dec 10 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier**

Mass – 9:00am

Holy Hour – 3:00pm

**Friday Dec 11**

Mass - 9:00am

Holy Hour – 12:00pm

**Saturday Dec 12 – Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Mass – 9:00am

Holy Hour – 9:30-10:30am

Confessions – St. Nicholas Room – 3:00pm to 4:00pm

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.

COME LORD JESUS!

God bless, Fr. Rico