

**February 12, 2021**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

My continued prayers and support to each of you.

**With the government announcement this afternoon – Niagara remains in the grey zone. This means that Niagara must remain in the TEN-person limit.** While Hamilton and other areas can reopen at 30% capacity – sadly, we are not.

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 internet. This has been mandated by Bishop Bergie and is for your safety and to protect the pastoral team here. Thank you for respecting that.

It feels like we just completed the Christmas Season – and Wednesday February 17 Lent begins! Let us properly prepare for the Season that calls us to Conversion, Renewal and Repentance for our sins.

I kindly remind everyone that for you to attend Mass, you MUST sign up using the parish website please. ([www.stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca)).

**Please note that as in the past, you are welcome to sign up for ONE Mass for the entire week from Feb 16-Feb 22 inclusive. Ash Wednesday is Wednesday February 17. Fr. Bill and I are offering extra Masses to allow for parishioners who wish to begin their Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday. There will be Tuesday Feb 16th Vigil Masses – where the distribution of Ashes will take place in the EVENING MASSES ONLY (Ashes not given on Feb 16 @ 9am Mass), and many options on Wednesday Feb 17<sup>th</sup> where Mass will be celebrated along with the distribution of Ashes. Ash Wednesday Masses will be livestreamed at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> as well through the Parish Facebook page and then later uploaded to YouTube as well. Please read on for Ash Wednesday protocols as mandated by the Vatican (different from regular tradition).**

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](http://www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby)) and the Parish YouTube channel ([https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX5\\_TJMB7GpOw6M0LV8t9pw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX5_TJMB7GpOw6M0LV8t9pw)).

Parishioners are reminded that you can attend Mass ANYTIME and it will count as your weekend Mass, since Bishop Bergie has given the dispensation of Mass attendance (given March 16, 2020) on the weekend. Once this ban has been lifted, then we look forward to allowing greater numbers of people to attend Mass daily.

Please also note that 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. ASH WEDNESDAY PROTOCOLS**

Once again, Ash Wednesday will take place on Wednesday Feb 17. The Vatican has mandated that the distribution of Ashes this year will look differently than in the past. This is of course to limit person touch and contact. Here is the link as to the instructions from the Vatican - <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2021-01/ash-wednesday-coronavirus-note-distribution-ashes.html>

**This means that there will not be ashes placed on the forehead of the individual.** The priest will say “REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL” once from the altar – to which everyone in the Church will say “AMEN” – then the priest will mask himself, walk to the bottom of the stairs and **sprinkle the ashes on the top of the head, in silence to each of the nine people who have signed up for Mass.**

**There are NO exceptions for this. If you are uncomfortable with this process, you are kindly asked to remain in your pews. Ashes will not be distributed to anyone outside of the given Mass times (no exceptions). Ashes will not be given to parishioners to bring to other family members / parishioners / neighbours etc.**

As mentioned previously, Vigil Masses will be offered in anticipation of Ash Wednesday this year only due to the continued restriction of numbers (limit of ten people). This will be for this year only.

#### **Schedule for Mass and distribution of Ashes**

**Tuesday Feb 16**

**6:00pm / 7:00pm / 8:00pm**

**Wednesday Feb 17**

**9:00am / 10:00am / 11:00am / 12:00pm / 1:00pm / 5:00pm / 6:00pm / 7:00pm / 8:00pm**

**The Feb 17 @ 9:00am and 7:00pm Masses will be livestreamed on the parish Facebook page.**

**Parishioners must register online for attendance at Mass – as you have in the past. I thank you for helping with the process of contact tracing and record keeping. We look forward to the time in which we can refrain from having to participate in this lengthy process. It is important for now to participate in all health protocols.**

1. If you have not already signed up for the parish Lenten 2021 Conversion Program – METANOIA – please do so. Again, I am asking all parishioners of St. Joseph to make this the primary focus of your Lenten 2021 Journey of Conversion with Christ.

Once again, the way I am structuring this program is as such, I am encouraging all parishioners to watch ONE video a week and to take the weekly topic into your prayer life, analyzing your current relationship with God and how it can deepen and grow. This will take us through the entire season of Lent, and then a few weeks into the Easter Season. I am encouraging you to watch ONE episode weekly and allow the Lord to touch your heart in a profound way. You may wish to watch this series as a family, couple or as an individual.

Each parishioner will then have the opportunity to reflect alone, perhaps by journaling or just reflecting all week. Others may wish to watch my focus and reflection questions that I will offer each week. For those who wish to participate or observe a group think, I will be holding 3 livestream sessions each week to allow for dialogue, discussion and asking of questions. These live sessions will take place through the parish Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby](http://www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby)) and will 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.).

**The first live session begins this week – Monday Feb 15, Thursday Feb 18, and Saturday Feb 20.**

**To register, you enroll on [www.wildgoose.tv](http://www.wildgoose.tv) and register with an email address. You do not need to call the parish office, nor email us to enroll you. Please do so yourself.**

I will offer reflection questions, take comments and feelings from those who wish to leave comments in the chat etc. for those who may find it helpful.

As a means of participating as a community – since we cannot have a Lenten Mission as we normally would, I am encouraging parishioners to watch the videos just before one of the live sessions, and then to log in (for those who wish) and receive the reflection questions and/or participate in the dialogue.

Feel free to use any or all the sessions to assist you on your Journey through Metanoia.

For those who wish to watch on their own outside of these times, of course you may do so. Feel free to watch back the Reflection sessions to assist you in your Journey with the Lord as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WAhYLVtiAM>

I am extremely excited about this opportunity of spiritual growth – join me in our journey to METANOIA – true inner conversion!

2. We are reminded of the year long responsibilities of abstaining from meat and for fasting. I have included the canons in Church Law to remind each of us of this important aspect of our faith:

**Can.1251** Abstinence from meat, or from some other food as determined by the Episcopal Conference, is to be observed on all Fridays, unless a solemnity should fall on a Friday. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

**Can.1252** The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their fourteenth year. The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority (age 18 – C.97), until the beginning of their sixtieth year. Pastors of souls and parents are to ensure that even those who by reason of their age are not bound by the law of fasting and abstinence, are taught the true meaning of penance.

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, the products of milk or condiments made of animal fat.

3. Please note that Fridays there will be a 7:00pm Mass throughout the Lenten Season.

**4. Stations of the Cross will not be celebrated in the Church – they will be prayed via livestream on the parish Facebook page – until the Niagara Region has moved from the Grey Zone. Stations of the Cross will be prayed next Friday Feb 19 @ 6:30pm.**

5. Find attached the Lenten letter from Bishop Bergie to the people of the Diocese.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT UPDATES**

6. Alpha Youth, part of our LifeTeen ministry, has just started. All 13–19-year-olds are invited to join whether you are brand new to the idea of a faith life or if you have been a strong catholic your whole life. Our next session is on February 22nd and runs every 2 weeks on Mondays from 3:15-4:30. Register to receive the zoom link and you can register by going to the Youth Ministry page on the parish website.

7. Our middle school youth ministry is finally ready to begin! Any youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us in developing their faith further with a group of friends. We will be hosting a parent information session on Zoom at 7pm on **Tuesday February 23rd with Parents and Participants invited to attend together in an interactive night.** Then, the program will officially launch on **Monday March 1st** from 4-5:30pm and meeting every 2 weeks to fill in the weeks we do not have the senior youth ministry program. Again, registration for both events is through the website.

**8. The St. Joseph Parish Catholic Women's League will be hosting a pizza sale fundraiser to support their local work in the many charities throughout Grimsby and to assist us in reaching our \$120,000 goal to pay for the new HVAC system.** In accordance with COVID guidelines, curbside pick at the church will be available as well as home delivery if you like. Pizzas are 11 inches from Uncle Dad's Pizza (a Grimsby Market vendor in Summer 2020). **You can purchase 4 pizzas for \$30.** There are choices of 4 bundles of pizzas. **Orders must be received by Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> and** may be placed by email [sjrc.grimsby@coqeco.net](mailto:sjrc.grimsby@coqeco.net) or phone to the parish office 905-945-2661. There are order forms in the foyer of the church and available through the parish website and social media accounts. Feel free to take orders from family, friends, and neighbours too. The pizza is delicious and will go to a great cause! Thank you in advance.

9. The Lift Jesus Higher Rally will take place on Saturday February 27. See the website for details on how to register - <https://www.ljhr.ca/>

10. Please pray for all our pilgrims (myself included) who have taken Jody Robertson, our Evangelization Minister's suggestion to begin the St. Francis Way pilgrimage – which began on February 1<sup>st</sup>. What a great way to prepare for Lent as we walk in the footsteps of the humble saint from Assisi.

11. I pray that parents of your young people are taking advantage of the parish Children's Liturgy & Little Spirits digital program. Check out the parish website or the parish YouTube channel for the links to videos to enhance faith at home.

12. Please continue to pray for those who are participating in our 2<sup>nd</sup> ALPHA series led by Jody Robertson – Evangelization Minister.

13. 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.

14. 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 \$36,470 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. Confessions continue to be heard every Saturday at 3:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room.

18. 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)

19. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday February 16 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Book of Zechariah Chapters 5-

12. 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

20. 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

21. 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