

February 19, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

My continued prayers and support to each of you. As we now enter into the Holy Season of Lent – may it be a time of true METANOIA – a true Conversion as we Journey with Christ.

Niagara unfortunately 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.

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 you are welcome to sign up for ONE Mass for the entire week from Feb 22-March 1 inclusive.**

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](https://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. This weekend brings our first week of METANOIA to a close. As continue to reflect upon the question Jesus asks his first disciples “Who do you say that I am?” Jesus gazes upon us and asks us the same question.... What is our response??

I hosted the first two discussion sessions on Monday and Thursday for Video #1 and they were well received. I look forward to tomorrow’s session live at 11:30am.

Once again, I am inviting you all 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. Here are the first week reflection questions.....

METANOIA - Session #1 - Who do you say that I am?"

Questions to ponder...

1. How do you think the world would answer this question today?
2. Who is Jesus for me?
3. Who is Jesus? (who He really is)
4. Are there any projections that I place on God from my life experience? (i.e. genie, difficult father, vengeful God)
5. Have I ever heard Jesus speak to me and say "That's not the kind of God I am." (perhaps in a retreat or powerful experience)
6. Do I truly believe that God is for us? (supporter, encourager, on my side)
7. Have I ever been invited to SURRENDER to the Lord? Establishing a true, intimate and deep relationship with Him? Am I willing to do so this Lent?
8. Who is Jesus? ....reveal to me Lord who You are....

Gentle reminder, 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.).

**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.**

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 26 @ 6:30pm.

5. I am so pleased to have produced four videos 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.

## **6. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign**

The 2021 D&P Caritas Canada Share Lent campaign began on February 17<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday. The theme this year is “Share Love Share Lent.” During Lent, we will be sharing the stories of a few of the people who are victims of humanitarian crises worldwide. We will learn about how Development and Peace’s partner organizations have helped to support and advocate for those who are in need. We will also let you know how you can help. As Pope Francis said in his Encyclical letter titled Fratelli Tutti, “a worldwide tragedy like the Covid-19 pandemic momentarily revived the sense that we are a global community, all in the same boat, where one person’s problems are the problems of all. Once more we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together”.

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](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html)

Please consider supporting the Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign as we share our resources with those most in need in our world.

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES

1. 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 3:15-4:30pm. Register to receive the zoom link and you can register by going to the Youth Ministry page ([www.stjosephsgrimsby.ca/youth](http://www.stjosephsgrimsby.ca/youth)) on the parish website.

2. 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 7:00pm on Thursday **February 25th** with parents and participants invited to attend together in an interactive night. Then, the program will officially launch on **Monday March 1st** from 4:00-5:30pm 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 Youth Ministry page website.

## 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. **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@cogeco.net](mailto:sjrc.grimsby@cogeco.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.

2. 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/>

3. Please continue to 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.

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

5. 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.

6. 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 \$36,655 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](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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

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

10. 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)

11. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday February 23 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Book of Malachi Chapters 1-3 and the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 1-4. 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

12. 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

13. 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