

February 27, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

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

We have officially been moved into the RED zone. This is definitely an answer to prayer. **Masses will now be held at a 30% capacity** and no longer need to restrict attendance to TEN people. **You are now free to attend Mass daily if you wish. For contact tracing, I kindly remind everyone that for you to attend Mass, you MUST still sign up using the parish website please.** (www.stjosephgrimsby.ca).

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 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 second week of METANOIA to a close. As continue to reflect upon the question asked by the rich young man to Jesus - “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus is clear in his expectations of the man...and us as well. What is our response??

I remind you 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.

METANOIA SESSION #2 Discussion Questions – What must I do to inherit eternal life?

Questions to ponder...

1. What is my understanding of eternity? Do I genuinely believe as Jesus says, that there is life after life?
2. Heaven, hell and purgatory are real places. How often do I think of eternity and my place in these permanent (heaven/hell) or temporary (purgatory) places?
3. How am I doing in regard to following the Commandments? Which are the ones that I find to be most difficult to follow or adhere to? Looking to my past, which are the ones I used to struggle with, but by God's grace and the sacraments, especially that of Reconciliation and Eucharist, I have been blessed by God to overcome?
4. Do we hold the notion that "I'm a good person, therefore I deserve heaven." Is this true? Am I the one who gets to judge that – or is God my judge? In life, does oneself dictate to others how they should be respected or seen – as opposed to others who see our character and make their perceptions and judgements from that?
5. Dave mentioned "it is not what you have done for the person you are following...rather it is time spent with the person you are following." How much time do I spend with Jesus? Is it reserved for Mass once a week? Only when I need something in prayer? When/ if do I really spend QUALITY time with Jesus? Comparing the time spent with Jesus that I do with others, technology, sports, work etc. the amount of time we spend dictates what is most important in our life..... so, based on how we spend our time.... Is God important to me?
6. Am I aware that I am God's child..... Do I really believe this? If so why? If not, why not?
7. Do I just take God on "dates" doing this or that.... Or do I truly spend time TALKING to God as I would the person I love most?
8. What is the thing in my life Lord that I make more important than you? Open my heart to reveal this to me. (power, reputation, what others might think of me, fear, sin, control, my past etc.)
9. What is stopping me from following God and surrendering to His plan for my life? Is it control? What am I afraid of?
10. Do I genuinely believe that Jesus is the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE? Do I therefore want to follow the ONE who calls me to live life abundantly? Am I living an abundant life – what is stopping me/ or pushing me ahead?
11. If Jesus can forgive me of my sins, can I forgive myself?
12. Lord, reveal to me what I am doing that is stopping me from inheriting eternal life..... May the Lord bring us to live life more abundantly? God bless you all...

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

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 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. Stations of the Cross is celebrated in the Church on Fridays at 6:30pm. Join us this coming Friday as we pray the Stations through the eyes of Mary. Mass will follow at 7:00pm.

4. Please pray for the young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. May the Lord free them from sin and grant them the grace of God's mercy.

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. Find attached the letter from Bishop Bergie in regard to our moral responsibility towards answering the question of receiving the COVID vaccine as a Catholic.

7. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign

The 2021 D&P Caritas Canada Share Lent campaign continues here at St. Joseph. What a graced opportunity for us to do our part to assist our brothers and sisters who are most in need throughout the world.

In Latin America, Indigenous communities are putting their lives at risk to protect their territories. They are also contracting COVID-19 and dying at extremely high rates. Without decent healthcare services, clean water, and other basic human rights, they are taking steps to protect their communities. In some regions, including in Brazil and Peru, mining and oil companies have profited from the pandemic lockdowns to increase their extractive activities, which further threaten the health and lives of Indigenous peoples and our planet. Development and Peace has partnered with REPAM, the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network, which is supported by the Latin American Bishops' Conference, to ensure justice for Indigenous communities who are facing both the pandemic and loss of their territory at the same time.

This year, the full D&P Lenten solidarity calendar and its many activities can be found online [here](#). Every week, you are invited to explore an aspect of Development and Peace through prayer, action and fundraising and to participate in a virtual event. A printable mini-calendar is also available.

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

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

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 6th and** may be placed by email 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. 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 1st. What a great way to prepare for Lent as we walk in the footsteps of the humble saint from Assisi.
3. Please continue to pray for those who are participating in our 2nd ALPHA series led by Jody Robertson – Evangelization Minister.
4. 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.
5. 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 \$38,245 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Confessions continue to be heard every Saturday at 3:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room.
9. 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

10. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday March 2 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Book of Malachi Chapters 2-3 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

11. 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

12. 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

