

January 15, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

My continued prayers and support to each of you.

As we pray for an end to the spread of the virus and commit to being more diligent in limiting our movement, please keep in mind that Church is definitely essential. We are permitted under law to continue with Mass in person with limits of TEN people in the Church at any time.

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). **Please also note that if you sign up for a Mass, please attend that Mass – otherwise a spot for another parishioner could have opened up. Once again, I am asking that parishioners sign up for ONLY ONE Mass from the entire period of Jan 18 – Jan 25** to allow all parishioners to come and receive Jesus in Holy Communion and pray at Mass. **If all of the times fill up, then more Masses may be added – check back on a regular basis for availability.** Thank you for your openness to the process.

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).

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.

Other important updates:

1. Thank you for your prayers and support over the loss of my dear Nonna – Cristina Arcaro. I will have the privilege of celebrating her funeral Mass at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Niagara Falls tomorrow at 11:00am. Many parishioners have called to ask if they can join in the funeral Mass – which will be livestreamed. If you wish to pray at the Mass, here is the following link. Please note, it will NOT be streamed from the St.

Joseph Parish Facebook page – you need to use this link from St. Thomas More instead:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mv68QPqQPX0&feature=youtu.be>

On behalf of my family, we thank you for your prayers, love, and kind words.
Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May Nonna rest in peace. Amen,

2. Bishop Bergie has asked that I, as Diocesan Vocations Director, would be willing to provide a rectory billet for one of our seminarians here at St. Joseph since St. Peter's Seminary is currently closed due to the pandemic. Of course, I have agreed. Yohander Sanchez will be moving into our parish beginning Wednesday January 20th and will be staying here in the rectory for the near future. He is a fine man and I think you will all enjoy his presence in the parish. He will be continuing his studies online and will be joining us for Mass. Please introduce yourself and make him feel welcome while he continues his studies for the priesthood for our great Diocese. Welcome and God bless Yohander!

3. We will host another ST. JOSEPH PARISH SUPERBOWL SQUARES fundraiser to support our youth of the parish who will participate in the World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023. The Superbowl takes place on Sunday February 7th. Squares can be purchased for \$25 a square. There are 100 squares. Squares can be purchased with the priest when you attend Mass over the weekend, through emailing the parish office at sjrc.grimsby@cogeco.net or by calling the parish office 905-945-2661. Payments can be made in an envelope at Mass, or through e-transfer to myparishgift@gmail.com but please state on the memo line must read **SUPERBOWL** (so we do not think it is your regular parish offering for the week).

SUPERBOWL SQUARES rules are as follows.

THE NUMBERS FOR THE FOOTBALL SQUARES WILL BE SELECTED WHEN THE GRID IS FILLED.

How it works:

Once all the squares have been selected, we will randomly pick numbers from 0-9 for each team in the Super Bowl, and assign that number to a particular row or column. These numbers represent the last number in the score of each team. We are still awaiting the two teams that will be in the Superbowl this year (hopefully the Buffalo Bills are one of those teams!

☺ This yea. If the score is AFC Team 17 – NFC Team 14, then the winning square is the one with an AFC Team number of 7, and an NFC Team number of 4.

There are 100 squares. Each square cost \$25. The total prize will be \$2,500 once all squares are sold. Since this is a Fund Raiser, 50% of the proceeds will go to the World Youth Day Fundraiser Project, and the other 50% will be distributed among the Users with the Winning Square.

To win – you do not need to know anything about football at all – it is all luck of the draw. Once the grid is filled and all 100 squares are purchased – the draw will be taken.

The winning squares correspond to the score of the game at the end of the 1st quarter, halftime, 3rd quarter and then the final score. The neighbouring squares (above, below, left, and right) will also give a cash prize as well.

Winners will be as follows.

End of 1st quarter – winning square \$75 (neighbouring squares win \$25 each)

Halftime – winning square \$100 (neighbouring squares win \$50 each)

End of 3rd quarter – winning square \$75 (neighbouring squares win \$25 each)

Final Score – winning square \$300 (neighbouring squares win \$75 each)

Do not miss your chance to participate in this fun activity which also funds a great cause!

4. Jody Robertson, our Evangelization Minister, will be organizing a fun and spiritual pilgrimage experience which we can do from our homes and neighbourhoods called the St. Francis Way! The St Francis Way takes you 503 km through an ancient Roman road from Florence to the Vatican, following in the footsteps of Saint Francis across the peaceful Italian countryside. Join us as we embark on a virtual journey to retrace his steps.

Register as a team (4), whole family or individually (will be assigned a team) and start on your way. Check-in weekly and update your distance travelled so that we can share with fellow participants and watch as you progress closer to Rome. While we cannot all gather to walk together, this is a great opportunity to stay fit and socially engage while being socially distanced. Upon registration you will receive complete details regarding how the walk will go. Join fellow parishioners in this fun adventure as we explore the life of a Saint by foot! For more information, see the parish website and find the poster attached here. To register contact the parish office.

5. Our parish Children's Liturgy & Little Spirits has gone digital. Check out the parish website or the parish YouTube channel for the links to videos to enhance faith at home for our young children.

6. If your son or daughter attends Public or Private school and is in need of receiving the Sacraments this year, please contact the parish office. Classes will begin next week. Samantha Pellegrino, our parish Catechist will be leading these sessions with the youth of our parish.

7. Join our SECOND ALPHA session beginning Wednesday January 20th and will run through March 31st. To register visit the parish website – click on “Get Involved” and scroll to the bottom. Join us for ALPHA – it is a game changer!

8. 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.

9. 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 \$30,920 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.

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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

13. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday January 19 at 7:00pm**. We will be finishing the study of the Book of Micah Chapter 7, the Book of Nahum, and Habakkuk Chapters 1-3. 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

14. 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

15. 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