

January 2, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Merry Christmas once again! The Lord is born to us! All of heaven and earth rejoice! Happy New Year to you all. May the Lord bless you all abundantly in 2021.

Kindly remember the Christmas Season ends January 10th with the Baptism of the Lord.

As issued in my last updated dated Dec 26 – the government has mandated a 28-day lockdown for our area. This means that now we can only have TEN people in the Church at any time (priest plus NINE parishioners).

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 4 – Jan 11 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. This will be a great opportunity to really enter the Octave of Christmas and enjoy the entire Christmas Season – which extends to January 10th this year!

Please note that the office will be **CLOSED** to the public during this 28-day period. Phones will be answered when possible. Please also note that there is to be no parish meetings here on the campus during the lockdown.

Other important updates:

1. Note that confessions will continue to be heard on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room.

2. Once again, a reminder that 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.

3. 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 in the new year. Samantha Pellegrino, our parish Catechist will be leading these sessions with the youth of our parish.

4. 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 20th running 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!

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. Thank you in advance to those families who continue to sustain our parish through their contributions.

6. 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 \$19,035 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.

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. 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.

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 January 5 at 7:00pm**. We will be finishing the study of the Book of the prophet Amos, Obadiah and Jonah. 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.

O COME LET US ADORE HIM!

God bless,
Fr. Rico