

**March 13, 2021**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Our Lenten Journey with the Lord continues – may it be a time of true METANOIA – a true Conversion as we Journey with Christ.

**We continue to be in the RED zone. This allows our parish to be open safely at a 30% capacity. You are able to attend Mass daily if you wish. Please note that your presence at the weekend Mass will fulfil your desire to praise God for the week, the weekday Masses would be in addition to our weekend worship.**

**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](http://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca)). Our weekend Masses are Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am and 12:30pm.**

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

Please also note that, at the request of the Bishop, 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. Next Friday – March 19<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of St. Joseph. As we continue the daily novena and call upon the intercession of St. Joseph may we grow in holiness and in our relationship with God. I encourage all parishioners to attend the Mass either at 9:00am or at 7:00pm. Note there is also Stations of the Cross just before Mass at 6:30pm. I have included the prayer to St. Joseph that we are using – please pray this prayer as a family at home.

### **Novena Prayer**

**Good Saint Joseph, ever watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ, keep us free from the blight of error and corruption, and be our ally in the conflict with the powers of darkness. As of old you rescued the child Jesus from the plots of Herod, so now defend the universal Church from all harm. Keep us one and all under your continual protection, so that by your help and example, we may lead a holy life, die a happy death, and come to possess eternal life in heaven. Amen.**

**2. Our Parish Lenten Reconciliation Evening will take place on Tuesday March 23 at 7:00pm here at St. Joseph.** I will have priests brought in from across the Diocese who speak a variety of languages. Please mark this date on your calendars and make confession a priority before Easter. We are reminded of the church's rule of an "Easter duty" that all Catholics are required by Canon law to go to confession **at least** once a year. Come drink from the fountain of God's Mercy! Jesus, I trust in You!

3. This weekend brings our fourth week of METANOIA to a close. Let us continue to reflect upon the amazing mercy of God – and the power of the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus that has freed us from sin.

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. Beginning on Sunday, I invite you to begin watching the 5<sup>th</sup> video entitled "Jesus Prays."

#### **METANOIA SESSION #4 Discussion Questions – Sin and Mercy**

Questions to ponder...

#### **METANOIA Discussion Questions Session #4 – Sin and Mercy**

1. Does my sin define who I am? Do I believe that God defines me by my sin?
2. When betrayed by someone that I love, and called to forgive them, how does that make me feel? Do I have strong desire to forgive? Does my love for God and the other person, help me to work through the anger against them? What is the motivation for me to forgive? Am I motivated to forgive?
3. Have we ever felt like the prodigal son / daughter? Have we ever felt God's loving embrace? How did we respond to that embrace – did I accept / reject it? Am I willing to take the risk to return to Him?
4. Have you ever had an awareness of your sin that moved you to tears?
5. Do I hold judgements or prejudices against others? Has God revealed them to me in a time of great humility?
6. When is the last time I have gone to confession to receive God's mercy and love? Do I feel that I am good enough – not needing the sacrament of healing?
7. Can I believe that Jesus will not push me away? Do I recognize the need for repentance in my life?
8. Some say, "Why are Catholics so obsessed with sin?" Do I worry about the sin in my life, do I actively work at removing sin from my life? Do I "write off" my sin as "not a big deal?"
9. When is the last time I looked at the crucifix and realize that Jesus died on the cross to redeem me, save me?
10. Do I realize / recognize the effects of my sin before God....others.... the world?
11. Do I take my relationship seriously with God and how we approach or deal with sin?

12. Do I believe that the Lord's love and mercy is greater than any sin I have committed? Jesus came to free me from my sin.....am I willing to participate in the freeing of self from sin?

13. Can I recognize the presence of the Jesus in the midst of the wounds of life?

14. Do I spend time focusing on the great mercy of God?

God bless you all as we continue our Lenten journey together.

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](http://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](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.**

3. The devotion of the 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 Mary's Eyes. Mass will follow the Stations at 7:00pm.

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

5. I continue to remind all families with young children of the 4 videos I have produced 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. Construction continues for the new parish digital sign in front of the church. You will note the old sign has already been removed. For now, it is a bit of an 'eye sore'....but will be completed soon. I cannot wait for you all to see it!

**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.

**The “Share Love Share Lent” collection is next week.** Please indicate “Share Lent” when completing an e-transfer to the parish ([myparishgift@gmail.com](mailto:myparishgift@gmail.com)). If desired, you may use the Share Lent envelope in the Sunday Offering Envelopes box and drop your contribution off at the church. Alternatively, donate directly to Development and Peace at <https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/sharelove>

If you missed seeing the “Share Love Share Lent” video, here is the link <https://youtu.be/xkylFzbJibM>

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.

Thank you for your generosity! From the Parish Development & Peace committee

## **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. As Easter approaches in the coming months, parishioners and friends of St. Joseph are encouraged to donate funds in remembrance of our loved ones who have died. These funds will be used to decorate the Church for the Easter Season. The loved one’s names will be placed in the Book of Life and prayed for at all Masses through the Easter Season. Please email the names to the parish [sjrc.grimsby@cogeco.net](mailto:sjrc.grimsby@cogeco.net) and send an e-transfer to the parish – Memo line EASTER FLOWERS or fill out the attached form and drop it off in the collection or parish office mailbox with your donation. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

2. Thank you for all who supported the St. Joseph Parish Catholic Women’s League pizza sale. Orders are to be picked up from 2:30pm-4:00pm.

3. **The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their next bottle drive fundraiser.** These funds collected will be put towards the Heating and Air Conditioning Units for the Church. The bottle drive will be held on **Saturday March 20, 2021 from 9:00am to 4:00pm.** Thank you for your support in this venture.

4. 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. We are approaching the end of the pilgrimage and thank you for your prayers.

5. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> ALPHA series is in its final weeks. Please continue to pray for Jody and all parishioners who are participating in it. We look forward to our upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> ALPHA series and I remind all parishioners, that the goal is for every parishioner of St. Joseph to participate in this spiritually enriching program to deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

6. 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.

7. 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 \$47,180 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.

8. 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. **Please contact the parish office if you are shifting from the paper envelope to e-giving only. We can cancel your box order for 2022 and save on the purchase of envelopes, in addition to being more environmentally friendly. Thank you!**

9. 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.

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

11. 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)

12. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday March 16 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 3-5. 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

13. 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

14. 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