

March 19, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

VIVA SAN GIUSEPPE! Happy Feast of St. Joseph! What a glorious day God has given us to ask St. Joseph's intercession to help us in our path to holiness.

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). 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) and the Parish YouTube channel (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. Once again, this is the St. Joseph prayer we have used through the Novena and will continue to use at all Masses. I encourage each of you to use this prayer at home with your families as well.

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 TEN priests brought in from across the Diocese who speak a variety of languages – including English, Spanish, Polish, Italian, and

French. Please mark this date on your calendars and make confession a priority before Easter. **I have worked extremely hard at recruiting TEN priests to hear your confession – please try to come March 23rd. This will be the last main time for reconciliation before Easter besides the Saturday afternoon time slots.** 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. Our Holy Week and Easter schedule is as follows. Please note that ALL parishioners must sign up AHEAD of time. We remain at a 30% percent capacity. Please use the parish website to register. Once Masses are at capacity, unfortunately, we will not be able to accept walk-ins.

Palm / Passion Sunday March 27/28

-Saturday 5:00pm

-Sunday 8:30am / 10:30am / 12:30pm

Holy Monday March 29

-Mass – 9:00am

-Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Holy Tuesday March 30

-Mass – 9:00am

-Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Holy Wednesday March 31

-Mass – 9:00am

-Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper – April 1

-Mass – 7:00pm

-Altar or repose set up in the Church – adoration until 12:00 midnight

Good Friday – April 2

-Young Children / Family Good Friday Service (not geared for adults, rather for young children and families only) 10:30am

-Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion (all are welcome) – 12:30pm

-Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion (all are welcome) – 3:00pm

-Stations of the Cross – Mary's Way – 7:00pm

Holy Saturday – April 3

-Blessing of Easter baskets / foods – 11:30am

-Easter Vigil Mass – 8:30pm

Easter Sunday – April 4

-Masses 8:30am / 10:30am / 12:30pm / 2:30pm

NOTE – Again ALL parishioners must sign up for Masses online, there will be binder with paper signups at the door.

4. This weekend brings our fifth week of METANOIA to a close. Let us continue to reflect upon the importance of prayer and daily, ongoing conversation with God.

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 5th video entitled “Jesus Prays.”

Questions to Ponder....

METANOIA SESSION #5 Discussion Questions – Jesus Prays

1. What is prayer? How do I define prayer or know prayer to be?
2. Why do I think Jesus prayed?
3. Is prayer important to me? Why or why not? What does prayer look like for me? It is Mass, grace before meals, before bed, daily devotions... or not existent? Do I only pray when I need something from God?
4. Is it reasonable to expect priests to be available for my needs 24 hours a day? Is it reasonable to expect my parish priest to pray for me & my fellow parishioners each day? Is it reasonable therefore that I should pray for myself, my spouse, my family each day?
5. Am I feeling moved by the Holy Spirit to pray more? Do I just “put in my time” with God, or actively enjoy spending time with Him?
6. Am I willing to spend less idle time on things like watching TV., scrolling on social media, or other things and actively set a daily prayer time with God each day?
7. What is my life centered on? Where do my priorities lie? Each person has been gifted 24 hours each day to do whatever he or she thinks is important... how do I spend my 24 hours?
8. If I am married and realize that if I do not spend time with my spouse at all – it will likely lead to a strained relationship or lack of intimacy.... can I transmit that feeling to my relationship with God? If not married, can I connect my social circles, relationship with my family, close friends and see it in the same way?
9. Do I honestly long to learn how to pray? Spending more time? Learning new techniques? Developing a stronger prayer life in general?
10. What are the things I use to help set up a prayerful behaviour or ritual in my life? Do I use devotionals – candles, rosaries, scriptures, catechism, spiritual books, and religious images?
11. Do I spend time sitting in the church alone with God during the day, Eucharistic adoration, prayer room in my house, etc.?
12. As the Father reveals his pleasure in Jesus Christ “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” can I see myself as a beloved son/daughter to whom God is also well pleased? Do I want to grow in my intimacy with God so that I learn to please him more?
13. If I claim that God is a priority in my life, and yet I do not make time for Him each day, am I truly willing to make Him a priority beginning today (March 2021) in this Journey of Lent?

14. If I believe that prayer was important to Jesus daily.... am I willing to commit myself to continue/begin to pray daily as well?

May God continue to bless you all!

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) 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.

5. 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 the Scriptural Way of the Cross. Mass will follow the Stations at 7:00pm.

6. The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their bottle drive fundraiser tomorrow. These funds collected will be put towards the Heating and Air Conditioning Units for the Church. The bottle drive will take place from **9:00am to 4:00pm in the parking lot.** Thank you for your support in this venture.

7. 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.

8. Construction continues for the new parish digital sign are at its final stages. I am hoping to have the new sign installed this week as the concrete hardens.... **STAY TUNED!**

9. Unfortunately the front doors of the church are old are not functioning properly anymore (able to lock and unlock) please use the side doors as indicated on the signs while I work

to likely have to replace them (original doors, installed in 1995). Sorry for the inconvenience.

10. 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 THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE BE GENEROUS with your offerings. Please indicate “Share Lent” when completing an e-transfer to the parish (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

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 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. It was a huge success and a lot of fun as well. I wish to thank those members of the Catholic Women’s League - especially Mary Hendriks, Tracy Piggott,

Lee Crampton, Joanne Vander Laan and the rest of the Executive for their hard work in executing this project. I know I had fun as a runner and catching up with many of you who were picking up your orders. 168 customers collectively purchased 318 bundles of pizza. \$2,000 was raised for the Heating and Air Conditioning fund and an additional \$500 will be donated to the Grimsby Life Centre and other local charities. Thanks to all and we hope you enjoyed the pizza! (YUM!)

3. Please pray for our 8 elect – who continue through the RCIA program and will be receiving the 3 scrutinies at the 10:30am Mass this weekend. They are preparing for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and eucharist as they become full members of the Church. Please keep them in your prayers as they Journey with the Lord Jesus!

4. Please continue to pray for all our pilgrims (including myself) who have taken Jody Robertson, our Evangelization Minister's suggestion to begin the St. Francis Way pilgrimage. We are now doubling our pilgrimage from 503km to 1006km and continue our pilgrimage with the Lord. Thank you for your prayers.

5. Our 2nd 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 3rd ALPHA series in September, 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. 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 \$48,065 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.

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 – 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

12. Note there is NO God Talk on March 23 due to the parish Reconciliation Service. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday March 30 at 7:00pm.** We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 5-7. 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
- 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