

March 27, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

As we enter the Holiest Week of the year – and contemplate the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation – may it be a week of prayer and deep conversion for each of us.

We continue to be in the RED zone. This allows our parish to be open safely at a 30% capacity. You can 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.

Note for Easter the Mass schedule is DIFFERENT.

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.

St. Joseph 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 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

-Confessions March 27 @ 3:00pm

-Saturday 5:00pm

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

Please note that parishioners will NOT be able to grab palms. ONE palm will be handed to you as you enter the Church. Only those attending Mass will receive a palm and palms will not be distributed for those who are at home. Palms have only been ordered for the number of people who have registered for Mass.

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

-Confessions 9:00am-10:30am

-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 NOT be a binder with paper signups at the door.

3. Feast of the Divine Mercy – Sunday April 11, 2021

As in the past, **our parish will be hosting a Divine Mercy Celebration the Sunday after Easter from 2:30pm until 4:00pm in the Church.** Fr. Stanley Ksciuk – pastor of St. Elizabeth in Wainfleet, will lead us in a Liturgy of the Word and I will lead a Eucharistic Holy Hour as we call on the mercy of God and the special indulgences and promises Jesus gives to those who receive him in Holy Communion, have a true confession, and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet during the hour of mercy (3pm) on this special day. **Priests will be available to hear your confessions as well.** Nancy Bodsworth, Catholic recording artist, will be our guest leader of music ministry and will lead us in song. Please invite your family and friends to this special celebration of God’s mercy. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

4. This weekend brings our sixth week of METANOIA to a close. Let us continue to reflect upon the importance of satisfying our hunger and thirst – by the Eucharist and the Word of God alone.

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 Discussion Session #6 – Hunger and Thirst

1. Have you ever had an experience of hunger / thirst? What was that like for you?
2. Do you identify with the “HANGRY” concept in ourselves or someone we know – whereas we cannot think / move / act until we eat? Thereby affecting how we /they act?
3. Jesus identifies human need in other – hunger of those on the shore.... apostles are quick to dismiss or ignore it. Do I realize the hunger in the people in my life? What am I actively doing to help to satisfy that hunger and point them to the Lord?
4. What am I actively doing to look to satisfy the hunger in my own life? How am I working on my relationship with the Lord?
5. Is my experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist – a profound relationship of unity between myself and the Lord, or is it ritualistic or routine?
6. Am I satisfied where I currently sit with God, or do I have a hunger to learn more about Him? Grow in holiness?
7. Am I just ‘ok’ with being holy SOMETIMES – or is this something I am actively focused on....being holy PERIOD?
8. St. Augustine says, “Our hearts are restless unless they rest in thee O God.” What does this mean for me?
9. St. Augustine says, “I have tasted you and now I hunger, and I thirst for more. You have touched me, and I burn for your peace.” What does this say to you?
10. Maurice shared that he, “feels the presence of the Lord deeper in a Catholic Church versus any other church.” Why do you think that is? Do you feel the same? Why or why not?

11. Have you ever experienced the grace of Eucharistic Adoration – where Jesus in the Eucharist is exposed in the monstrance for a time of adoration or holy hour? If this is a must at ALL youth conferences, what might they experience that I may have/ or have not experienced? Are you aware that there is Eucharistic Adoration here at St. Joseph 6 days a week? The Church is open 12 hours a day for private time with Jesus?

12. The saints had a longing to receive Jesus in the Eucharist – do I have that same longing? Perhaps the Lord is calling me not just to Mass on Sundays – but more frequently during the week. What does receive Jesus in Holy Communion / the Eucharist mean to me?

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.**

Please note that the schedule for this week will be different due to Holy Week – We will have Live Sessions on Monday March 29 @ 12:30pm and Wednesday March 31 @ 6:00pm only (No sessions on Holy Thursday or Holy Saturday).

(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.).

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. Our new parish digital sign is complete! Check out the important daily information you will find on it as you drive past the Lord's house each day! Special thanks to the Pastoral Team who helped me design this sign. May it be a powerful tool of Evangelization and bring Good News to the people of Grimsby.

7. 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.

8. Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign

Thank you for your generosity towards this year's Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign – this collection will remain open for the next 3 weeks. If you have not yet made your contribution, please do so at this time.

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

9. Please read the Bishop’s Easter Message to all parishioners of the Diocese. It is attached to this email.

10. Pray for our young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in the week after Easter. Bishop Bergie will be coming to our parish to confer the Holy Spirit upon our young people in 4 Confirmation liturgies – April 6,7,8 & 15. Please note that these liturgies are only open to the candidates and their parents and siblings. They will be live-streamed through the parish website. This is done to limit the number of people gathering in the Church as per the Bishop’s Diocesan directives. Thank you for your understanding and for your prayers.

11. In the weeks following Divine Mercy Sunday – we will be inviting the young children of our parish who have been preparing to receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Please continue to keep them in your prayers that they may open their hearts to the love of Jesus in the Eucharist.

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. This is your last chance to donate for Easter Flowers on behalf of your loved ones. 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 Knights of Columbus Bottle drive. It was a success and a lot of fun as well. \$1,600.00 was raised and the monies will go towards the Heating and Air Conditioning fund for our parish. Thanks to the brother knights who participated in the event.

3. Please pray for our 7 elect – who are completing their final stages of preparation to receive the Sacraments of baptism. Confirmation and Holy Communion at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers as they Journey with the Lord Jesus!

4. 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.

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. 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 \$51,430 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. **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!**

8. 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.

9. Confessions will be heard on **March 27 @ 3:00-4:00pm and on April 3 from 9:00am – 10:30am. There are no confessions on Holy Saturday in the afternoon.**

10. 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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