

March 6, 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 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 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. This weekend brings our third week of METANOIA to a close. Let us continue to reflect upon the statement of Jesus..... “If you want to be my disciple, let one deny themselves, take up their daily cross and follow me.”

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.

METANOIA SESSION #3 Discussion Questions – Death and Life

Questions to ponder...

1. Am I going to truly follow Jesus? Am I willing to give Jesus the control in my life?
2. What does self denial mean for me?
3. Does self denial go beyond food?
4. Padre Pio said, "the battle of the spiritual life, is learning to die to self." How am I doing in regard to this battle?
5. Is fasting important to me? What is God calling me to fast from?
6. What does Jesus' call of denying oneself look like for me?
7. St. Anthony of the Desert says "if you want to follow Jesus, learn to control your stomach.... and your tongue." How am I doing on both matters?
8. There is a relationship between denying oneself, taking up one's cross and following Jesus. What does that look like for me?
9. What are the crosses in my life right now? How am I dealing with them? Do I ask God for help? The help of others?
10. Do I have "backpack envy"? Do I compare my life to others and long for/ desire for their lives / material items instead?
11. What are the things I am suffering with. Can I connect my suffering to that of Jesus for the redemption of the world? Can I see my suffering as redemptive?
12. What relationship does God have to tragedies in my life? Can I come to understand what surrendering to God's will look like for me?
13. Do I mean the words, "not my will, but Your will be done Lord"?
14. If we want to follow Him, we must decide - am I willing to deny myself and pick up my daily cross and follow Jesus - can I make this choice? If so, how? If not, why not?

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.

2. 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 way of St. Alphonsus. Mass will follow the Stations at 7:00pm.

3. Please pray for the young people who will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this week. May the Lord free them from sin and grant them the grace of God's mercy.

4. 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.

5. Find attached the letter from Bishop Bergie in regard to the response to the COVID virus. Let us continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for those who are sick and for all medical professionals.

6. Construction for the installation of the new parish digital sign in front of the church will begin on Monday morning. Please be extra careful to avoid the construction workers and vehicles as you enter the church property this week. The sign should be fully installed and functional by mid March.

7. Thank you to all who helped me to make the funeral visitations and Mass for Peter Reilly flow nicely. I believe it was a worthy tribute to a special man who has served the Grimsby and Burlington communities with great love. Please continue to keep his four children – Shaughn, Kyra, Quinn, and Kael, along with Peter's parents, siblings and also Laura Reilly in your prayers. May Peter rest in peace in the arms of the God whom he loved so much.

8. 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.

In Colombia, Development and Peace's partner, the Antioquia Peasants' Association works with young people from peasant communities who have endured over 50 years of war and violence. To foster a culture of peace, they provide multimedia training to young people, helping them promote their culture and biodiversity. One of the trainees, a young man named Fabio, said, "The training encouraged us to stay in our community and to identify with it. It was a great experience because we developed a sense of belonging by

telling our story and acting for the good of our community. This is why we continue and stay here.”

This year, the full D&P Lenten solidarity calendar and its many activities can be found online [here](#). Every week, you are invited to explore an aspect of Development and Peace through prayer, action and fundraising and to participate in a virtual event. A printable mini calendar is also available.

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.

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. The St. Joseph Parish Catholic Women’s League pizza sale deadline is today. Any orders past 9:00pm tonight will not be accepted due to the restrictions from the supplier. Thank you to all who participated in this fundraiser for our Heating and Air Conditioning system in the parish.

2. 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.

3. 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.

3. Our 2nd ALPHA series has concluded with the retreat day today. Thanks to Jody and all parishioners who participated. We look forward to our upcoming 3rd 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 \$38,585 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

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

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 March 9 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapters 2-4. 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.

God bless,
Fr. Rico