

**May 14, 2021**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

As we continue this special Easter Season, and celebrate the great Feast of the Ascension this weekend, may the Joy of the Risen Christ be with each of you.

**We remain OPEN at a TEN people limit inside at any Mass – meaning 9 parishioners and the priest. The stay-at-home order has been extended until at least June 2.**

**Parishioners are invited to attend ONE Mass for the week (May 18 - May 24). Please do NOT sign up for multiple Masses. I want to maximize the number of people attending Mass each week. Note that any Mass you attend for the week will count as worship of God. Recall also that Bishop Bergie has dispensed all of us from attending Mass (announced March 2020).**

Anyone wishing to attend Mass must do so through our parish website ([www.stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://www.stjosephgrimsby.ca)). Only parishioners of St. Joseph Grimsby may attend Mass under this restriction. Thank you for your assistance and understanding.

**The Mass Schedule for NEXT WEEKEND only (May 22/23) at St. Joseph is as follows (due to the funeral May 22 @ 11:00am):**

**Saturday 9:00am/ 10:00am / 12:30pm / 1:30pm / 2:30pm / 4:00 pm / 5:00pm / 6:00pm**  
**Sunday 8:30am / 9:30am / 10:30am / 12:30pm / 4:30pm / 5:30pm / 6:30pm**

**Monday 9:00am**

**Tuesday 9:00am**

**Wednesday 9:00am / 6:30pm**

**Thursday 9:00am**

**Friday 9:00am**

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. I pray that each of us are heeding the request of Pope Francis, that all Catholics pray the rosary daily for the end of the Pandemic. Please join me in praying this powerful devotion and invoking the Intercession of our Blessed Mother to bring healing and health to all.

2. Please note that the parish office will be closed on Monday May 24<sup>th</sup> for the Victoria Day holiday.

3. Once the government lockdown ends, I look forward to announcing rescheduled dates for 1<sup>st</sup> Communion. I am hesitant to announce any dates at this time since an extension could cancel the dates again. I appreciate everyone's patience at this time.

3. Thank you for all who supported the Knights of Columbus Wine Bottle sale – pick up will take place next Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 2-3:30pm and it will be curbside pickup (just like we did for the Pizza Sales orders).

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 the month of May.

5. Please find the attached Financial Statement for the parish for the year of 2020. See my notes below regarding the financial position of our parish during the pandemic. I thank those who continue to support the parish regardless of situation – with their time, talent, and treasure. May the Lord reward you for giving to the Lord who blesses us abundantly.

6. Please note that I have been approached by a property company across the street that needs to have their parking lot paved. We are in the process of determining if they will be using our lot for the next 1-2 weeks and giving the parish a daily donation. In case you see a bunch of cars here in our parking lot for the next two weeks, be aware that we are adhering to the ten person limit in the Church and this is the reason for the extra cars during the day / evening.

### **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. 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.

2. 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 \$60,715 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.

3. Confessions will be heard on May 15 from 3-4:00pm in the St. Nicholas Room.

4. 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)

5. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday May 18 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Gospel of Matthew Chapter 10-11. 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=TnFENVhveEF5VktKem1NMDVMldzQT09>

Meeting ID: 827 6321 5683

Password: GodTalk

**6. I have just renewed the parish subscription for all families to use the FORMED.org platform which produces many amazing Catholic resources to enhance your faith.** This parish subscription makes it free to all parishioners to use. 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

7. 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.

### **Fr. Rico's Notes regarding the 2020 Parish Financial Statement**

Normally, I give this presentation from the pulpit, however this year I will give it in print form to reach more of an audience, given our 10 person Mass limit.

Firstly, let us thank God for the gift to worship Him weekly in this beautiful community we call home. Each day is a gift from God – and we must always be grateful to Him. The Lord blesses us abundantly and calls us to faithful stewardship.

Thank you to all those who continue to support the mission of St. Joseph's Parish. There are many faithful parishioners who have not forgotten their parish during this time. Thank you to those who continue to give to God with a cheerful heart. I am often humbled by those who give so generously, not only of their finances, but more importantly of their time and talents too. I could not lead our amazing parish without you the faithful people. Along with our strong Parish Team – we do our best to meet your spiritual and pastoral needs. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your love, care and passion for Jesus Christ and the desire to do your part to live out the Gospel message and bring God to the people of Grimsby and abroad.

What a joy to be with you – even during this time of pandemic. Our faith brings us together and thankfully in person (though in small numbers) along with the gift of technology, we are still able to gather as the Communion of Saints. God is so good!

I wish to present our status from a financial position. The presentation of this statement was delayed by the finalizing of the new digital sign in front of the church (a 2020 expense/project) and the delayed billing of the parking lot improvements. Thank you for your patience.

As I have brought to our attention, our overall giving from St. Joseph's parishioners is down significantly. Weekly giving is down over 50-60% each week from parishioners currently. On one level, this could be expected since attendance is also down, however there are many ways in which all parishioners can continue their giving – even while worshipping at home.

When you examine the Financial Statement – it may appear that the parish is doing great – however the numbers are misleading. Because of my commitment to a strong online presence, our parish continues to be gifted by many people from outside of our parish community by gracious financial giving. I remind all 3,000 families that make up our parish – that the ongoing care and growth of our parish and its programs / needs is a shared responsibility by all who call this church home.

While I understand that some parishioners have been affected by the COVID-19 situation in an economic way, many of our people have not. For those who have lost their jobs or suffered a significant reduction in salary – let it be clear that this appeal is not targeting them. For some finances have never been tighter and I continue to lift you all in prayer. My own brother Anthony is an entrepreneur in Toronto and has been forced to remain closed by government mandate since November. I am appealing to those whose income has not been affected negatively by the pandemic and for those whose businesses / personal situations have flourished at this time. One of our most significant needs is of course to pay for the cost of the new HVAC system. As you are aware, we are currently at 50% of our overall goal.

I challenge each of us, to look at our household income and truly determine if we are giving back to God as He calls us to. The concept of tithing – giving one tenth of one's earnings to God – is both biblical and part of our Catholic tradition. I wonder if each of us gives serious attention to what is given to God each week. If one's family is not currently tithing – I encourage you to begin by giving 1% of your household income to the church. Think of the possibilities in our parish if we all gave more – of our time, talent, and treasure.

As a parish, we will begin a capital appeal campaign which will likely be released late summer / early Fall. This campaign will give helpful tools to know what true stewardship is and help families get a sense of what they could be giving to truly enhance the kingdom here at St. Joseph. This appeal will be made to all families within our parish.

For now, see these bullet points to help you understand 2020 and its needs.

- Sunday collections were up from last year again due to the generosity of people across Canada, the USA and overseas in addition to those parishioners who continue to be faithful to looking after the parish needs

- fundraising activities are down due to the restrictions of the pandemic – this will continue for 2021

- Sacramental Fees & Parish Resources – shows some of the monies received for the celebration of the sacraments, parish resources and other evangelization efforts of the parish

- Bulletin Advertising – zero this year, since we have not printed bulletins outside of Christmas / Easter – thereby I have not billed our local businesses. We want to continue to shop local and support our businesses. This decision was supported by the Pastoral Team and Finance Council

- Technology Fund – these funds will be used for the permanent purchase of cameras and sound system to livestream Masses and liturgical celebrations

- HVAC donations – note this was as of Dec 2020 – we are now at \$60,000 – again 50% of our goal.

On the Expense side of things – I, along with the Pastoral Team have worked diligently. to keep expenses as low as possible while still operating our parish as needed to meet the needs of the people of God.

- Major repairs – the HVAC system along with other minor repairs

- New digital sign - \$25,000 came from a Memorial Fund contribution (Hilbert Family) and \$9,000 was fundraised through our Purse Bingo efforts – so little cost to the parish

- The Diocesan Collections are also broken down for you and as you can see, they are all down – reflective of the decreased giving by the parishioners of the parish.

Thank you for your generosity over the past year. May the Lord continue to guide and shape us as we continue to walk in His way.

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