

November 28, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

Happy New Year! This weekend, we begin our new Liturgical Year and I pray that you are all doing well. Be assured of my ongoing prayers and support.

Once again, I strongly encourage you all back to Mass. Our parish is extremely safe, and it is vital for you to receive a **Sacramental Communion**. Our parish ensures that all parishioners wear masks, sanitize their hands and the pews are wiped down between Masses. If you have returned to work, school, and shopping, I strongly urge you back to Mass.

The Weekend Masses are – Saturday 5:00pm, Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm. Daily Masses are held Monday to Saturday at 9:00am. Holy Hour takes place Monday to Thursday at 3:00pm, Fridays at 12:00pm, Saturdays at 9:30am.

The Sunday Mass will continue to be live streamed for parishioners at 10:30am for those who are sick, homebound and for those who do not feel ready to leave their homes yet.

Other important updates:

1. This weekend begins the Holy Season of Advent. Holy Mother Church gives us this special season to focus on two things – the coming of Jesus again, and thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus – our Emmanuel, Messiah and Lord. Use this blessed time to properly prepare your heard for the coming of the Lord. Jesus is the LIGHT, HOPE and LOVE we long for. We will find it no where else. Let us pray each day (and throughout the day) COME LORD JESUS!

2. Along with our regular confession schedule on Saturday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the St. Nicholas Room, we will be hosting the **St. Joseph Parish Advent night of Reconciliation on Tuesday December 15 @ 7:00 p.m.** Priests will be available to hear confessions in a variety of languages. Please avail yourself to the healing sacrament of God's mercy so that this Christmas, we can truly offer Jesus what He truly longs for – the gift of a pure and holy soul.

3. **Christmas Masses will need to proceed differently than we are used to. Everyone who wishes to attend a Christmas Mass – MUST REGISTER – through the parish website www.stjosephgrimsby.ca.** The platform used for registration will be "Eventbrite." Our Youth & Social Ministry Minister, Andrew Natale has worked hard to set up the template on the website. You will be receiving post cards in your mailbox this week with the Christmas Schedule and the link to log in and register. For those who do not feel comfortable using technology – you may register by **walking into the parish office to register and a member of the Pastoral Team will enter the site and register for you. Note that written nor email requests will be processed.** Those who do not

register will be unable to enter the church due to the current 30% capacity restrictions and health regulations will be followed. Please register quickly to avoid disappointment. Thank you.

4. **I need 7 volunteers** to take turns to shovel the walkways and clear snow and sprinkle salt around the main doors of the church throughout the winter season (excludes the parking lot). This is particularly important and not a very intense project. The parish has a snow blower as well as shovels to assist in this task. There will be a rotation either one volunteer for each day of the week, or a one-week rotation for seven weeks. I need assistance to ensure that all parishioners and guests are safe as they approach our beloved church. Please contact the parish office to volunteer.

5. Thank you to all who supported my mother Carmelina last weekend in the Open House Jewellery and Framed Art Sale. If you missed it and would still like to purchase items – kindly contact her at carmelinapassero@gmail.com. Over \$1,200 was raised to support Mother Lucy Magumba and the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa. Thank you for your generous support – these funds will do wonders to assist them in building the kingdom of God.

6. Thank you to all who purchased poinsettias from our St. Joseph Catholic Women's League plant sale. Enjoy these beautiful plants and know that the funds will go to support the charitable work of the League here in the parish and our local community. Women of the parish – if you are not yet a member, contact the parish office to register. I strongly suggest that all women of the parish become members of the CWL to enhance your faith on a spiritual level and participate in the active living of the Gospel message.

7. Please continue to remember the parish regarding financial giving. While I have worked hard to keep expenses as low as possible since March – we rely on your generosity to keep our parish going. Please continue your weekly giving. **For those who have not been back to Mass since March – I am asking that you give your regular offerings from March until now to catch up your regular giving.** 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 sustain our parish through their contributions.

8. You will notice that heat has returned to our parish as we installed the new Heating and Air Conditioning units this week (with final tweaks to take place this week). **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 over \$2,100 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.

9. 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.

10. The Knights of Columbus are continuing to accept winter coats to share with those most in need. If you would like to donate some coats, please leave them at the parish office or in the boxes found in the foyer of the Church.

11. Confessions continue to be heard on Saturdays in the St. Nicholas Room from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. (*please note the schedule only for December 5th due to Confirmation Mass will be 3:45pm to 4:30pm*).

12. 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

13. The parish Bible Study – God Talk - continues with its **next session on Tuesday December 1 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying Hosea Chapters 8-14 and Joel Chapters 1-3. 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

14. Baptisms continue to be celebrated. If you wish to have your son or daughter baptized, please contact the parish office.

15. Please continue to pray for our young people preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Sacrament will be celebrated next Saturday December 5th for the young people of our parish, now studying at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary, formerly of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic. There will be two Confirmation celebrations with Bishop Bergie – one at 10:00am and the second at 2:00pm. Please join in prayer participating in the digital livestream since numbers need to be limited due to COVID. Come Holy Spirit! **As a result, the daily Mass on December 5 will be at 8:30am and confessions will be bumped to 3:45-4:30pm on December 5th only.**

16. 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

17. The local funeral home – Stonehouse Whitcomb is having their Christmas Memorial Service ceremony on Sunday December 13 @ 4:00pm. To register visit their website www.smithsfh.com or contact the funeral home directly.

18. This is the St. Joseph Schedule for the week ahead. Note that Daily Masses again can be attended in person as well as the Daily Holy Hour (Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet and private prayer) and will also continue to be streamed LIVE along with a daily holy hour (except for Sundays)

Saturday Nov 28

Mass – 9:00am (Live stream)

Holy Hour – 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Confessions – 3:00-4:00pm in St. Nicholas Room

Mass – 5:00pm in Church

Sunday Nov 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent

**Masses in Church – 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm and 6:30pm
(Live Stream Mass – 10:30am)**

Monday Nov 30 – Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle

Mass – 9:00am
(No Holy Hour today)

Tuesday Dec 1

Mass – 9:00am
Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Wednesday Dec 2

Mass – 9:00am
Holy Hour (Worship Wednesday) - 3:00pm

Thursday Dec 3 – Feast of St. Francis Xavier

Mass – 9:00am
Holy Hour – 3:00pm

Friday Dec 4 – Feast of St. John Damascene

Mass - 9:00am
Holy Hour – 12:00pm

Saturday Dec 5

Mass – 8:30am (note Mass time)

Confirmation Mass – Bishop Bergie 10:00am (private due to COVID restrictions)
Confirmation Mass – Bishop Bergie 2:00pm (private due to COVID restrictions)
Confessions – St. Nicholas Room – 3:45pm to 4:30pm (due to Confirmation)

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.

COME LORD JESUS!

God bless, Fr. Rico