

January 29, 2021

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph,

My continued prayers and support to each of you.

As we pray for an end to the spread of the virus and commit to being more diligent in limiting our movement, please keep in mind that Church is definitely essential. We are permitted under law to continue with Mass in person with limits of TEN people in the Church at any time.

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 internet. This has been mandated by Bishop Bergie and is for your safety and to protect the pastoral team here. Thank you for respecting that.

I kindly remind everyone that for you to attend Mass, you **MUST** sign up using the parish website please. (www.stjosephgrimsby.ca). **Please also note that if you sign up for a Mass, please attend that Mass – otherwise a spot for another parishioner could have opened up. Once again, I am asking that parishioners sign up for ONLY ONE Mass from the entire period of Feb 2 – Feb 8** to allow all parishioners to come and receive Jesus in Holy Communion and pray at Mass. **If all of the times fill up, then more Masses may be added – check back on a regular basis for availability.** Thank you for your openness to the process.

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).

Parishioners are reminded that you can attend Mass ANYTIME and it will count as your weekend Mass, since Bishop Bergie has given the dispensation of Mass attendance (given March 16, 2020) on the weekend. Once this ban has been lifted, then we look forward to allowing greater numbers of people to attend Mass daily.

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.

Other important updates:

1. Thank you to all who supported our SuperBowl Squares fundraiser to support the Youth of the Parish for World Youth Day. The squares are now sold out. Anyone who purchased a square has received an email with the spreadsheet. If you have not received the email, kindly contact the parish office on Monday. Only those who have purchased squares will receive the spreadsheet. Good luck to you all!

2. This Lent, I am encouraging all parishioners take Lent 2021 seriously. This Lent, the Lord gives us an amazing opportunity to enter into the desert with Him and grow spiritually. The deepening our relationship with the Lord is especially critical in our desire to become holy. Each year, I look for effective sacramentals, tools or resources to assist you in your relationship with God in prayer. I have been introduced to a beautiful program that has really made me deepen and long for a closer relationship with God – and I think this program is fantastic for each of you! Instead of giving up chocolate, television, social media and the like this year – I am suggesting that all parishioners use the following tool as their preparation through Lent 2021. Have the tools we have used in the past, really changed us? Made us holy? Deepened our relationship with God? Or is it just tradition, ritual and the like? If we continue to do the same things.... How can the Holy Spirit truly move our hearts?

I am presenting an opportunity for all parishioners to get involved and participate in a new program put out by the Franciscan priests who run Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio – **on a faith series through Lent called METANOIA – which translated means, ‘conversion.’** This program is free to use for all parishioners who register with an email address. There are 10 – thirty-minute videos which are nothing short of spectacular, that encourage a sense of who God is and our longing to deepen our relationship with Him. I cannot support this program enough – and while many of you may have used other methods of preparation through Lent, I am encouraging all parishioners to participate in this program and not use continue to use the same methods or resources during Lent that you have used in the past. Lent is a time of renewal – it requires change. This series is not meant to be watched as a ‘binge’ watch (one episode after another) rather to be reflected upon, pondered and prayed over.

Below is the trailer for the series that I will be showing at Masses this weekend – to entice you all to participate.

The way I am structuring this program is as such, I am encouraging all parishioners to watch ONE video a week and to take the weekly topic into your prayer life, analyzing your current relationship with God and how it can deepen and grow. This will take us through the entire season of Lent, and then a few weeks into the Easter Season. I am encouraging you to watch ONE episode weekly and allow the Lord to touch your heart in a profound way. You may wish to watch this series as a family, couple or as an individual.

Each parishioner will then have the opportunity to reflect alone, perhaps by journaling or just reflecting all week. Others may wish to watch my focus and reflection questions that I will offer each week. For those who wish to participate or observe a group think, I will be holding 3 livestream sessions each week to allow for dialogue, discussion and asking of questions. These live sessions will take place through the parish Facebook page (www.facebook.com/StJoesGrimsby) and will 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).

I will offer reflection questions, take comments and feelings from those who wish to leave comments in the chat etc. for those who may find it helpful.

As a means of participating as a community – since we cannot have a Lenten Mission as we normally would, I am encouraging parishioners to watch the videos just before one of the live sessions, and then to log in (for those who wish) and receive the reflection questions and/or participate in the dialogue.

Feel free to use any or all of the sessions to assist you on your Journey through Metanoia.

For those who wish to watch on their own outside of these times, of course you may do so. Feel free to watch back the Reflection sessions to assist you in your Journey with the Lord as well.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WAhYLVtiAM>

I am extremely excited about this opportunity of spiritual growth – join me in our journey to METANOIA – true inner conversion!

3. Thank you for all who have welcomed Yohander Sanchez, our resident seminarian to our parish. He is settling in nicely as he continues his studies for the priesthood online. Please continue to pray for Yohander.

4. For those who signed up for our St. Francis Way pilgrimage – Jody has sent an email giving you the information necessary. A friendly reminder, our pilgrimage begins on Monday and we look forward to how the Lord will touch our lives as we journey together, walking the streets of Grimsby – while following in the footsteps of St. Francis. I too am participating and look forward to the spiritual fruits this pilgrimage will bring to our parish. If you would like to still register, contact Jody at the parish office.

5. Again, a reminder that our parish Children's Liturgy & Little Spirits has gone digital. Check out the parish website or the parish YouTube channel for the links to videos to enhance faith at home for our young children.

6. Our SECOND ALPHA session, has begun. Please pray for your fellow parishioners who are growing in faith in the ALPHA series led by Evangelization Minister – Jody Robertson.

7. 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.

8. 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 \$33,795 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 e-transfer (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. Terri Pauco, Diocesan Family and Youth Coordinator, is promoting an upcoming virtual presentation in partnership with the Niagara Catholic District School Board. It is focused on hospitality, inclusion and acceptance.

Topic: Special Education and the Church: How Your Parish Life Can Enhance Your Child’s Well-Being

Date: Wed. Feb. 3, 2021

Time: 7 – 8pm

Virtual Platform: Microsoft Teams

To Register: Email your full name, preferred screen name, email address and phone number to Terri Pauco – familyandyouth@saintcd.com by Monday, February 1, 2021.

Note: The link needed to join will be emailed to you by Jennifer Lanesse from Niagara Catholic on Feb. 3rd.

As our Catholic community works to evangelize, to be missionary, and bring people back to the Church, persons with disabilities and families who care for individuals with special needs must be part of that conversation. How can our parishes make them feel welcome, supported, and an integral part of church? How can our Catholic schools partner with parishes to assist in this goal? I recommend all families with children with special needs to attend this session.

10. 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.

11. 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.

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 February 2 at 7:00pm**. We will be studying the Book of Zephaniah Chapters 1-3, and Haggai Chapters 1-2. 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. 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

15. 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