

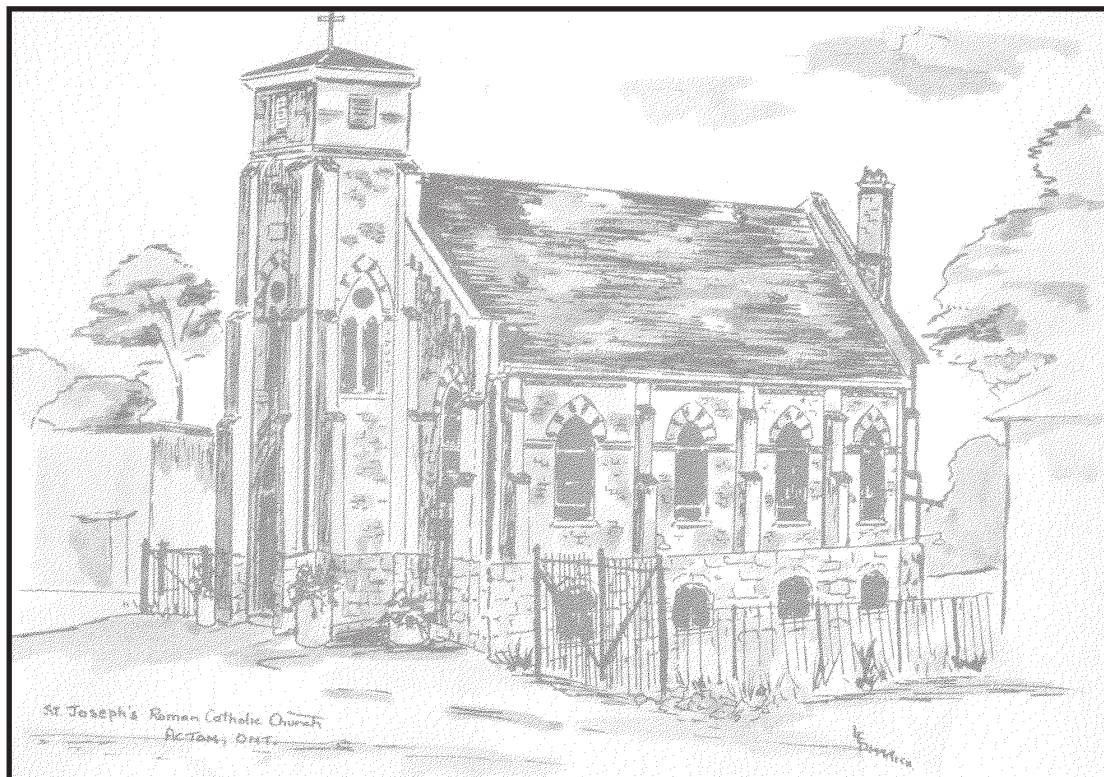
St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

Office

39 John St. S. Acton, ON, L7J 2A8 Tel: 519-853-0784 Fax: 519-853-5941

e-mail: stjoseph.church@bellnet.ca



Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Mrs. Eddie MacDonald, Pastoral Minister eddiemacd2@gmail.com cell 905-873-5774

Janet Raats, Office Administrator

Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

11:00 am

EXPOSITION:

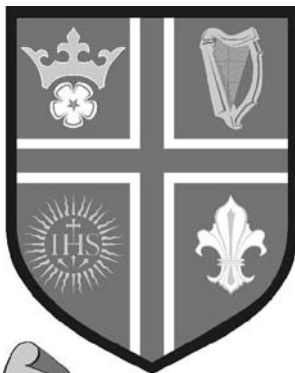
Friday 9:30 am - 10:30 am

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Catholic Women's League

Knights of Columbus

St. Vincent Charities



BAPTISMS:

By arrangement with the pastor.

MARRIAGES:

By arrangement one year in advance.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 pm
or by appointment.

SCHOOLS:

St. Joseph 519-853-3730

Christ the King 905-702-8838

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

We invite you to register in our parish community
by filling in a blue registration form.

A Word From Our Pastor:

There is a cute story which is very appropriate for this Third Sunday of Advent. During a religious education class, a teacher asked the students why there was a rose candle in the Advent wreath, while the others were purple. A little girl put up her hand and asked, "Perhaps Joseph and Mary were hoping that it would be a girl?"

All joking aside: Why is there a rose candle? Many will see Advent as being a time of joy and anticipation at the birth of Our Lord. Years ago this was not the case. Advent was seen as a time of serious preparation. It was not quite as penitential a season as Lent, but going to confession and engaging in serious spiritual preparation was the norm. Christmas decorations did not go up early but rather just a couple of days before Christmas. The first Mass of the Christmas liturgy was celebrated at Midnight and not before. Even the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" comes from the time when Christmas celebrations began on Christmas and continued until the Epiphany and beyond.

The rose candle is a sign that today is Gaudete Sunday, which reminds us that we are halfway through the Season of Advent and that the time of preparations is nearly over. We can allow a little bit of celebration on this Sunday to give us the patience we need to last this through this final period of waiting.

The question which we need to ponder on this day is whether we still need this particular Sunday? Do we need a break from our serious preparations, or do we need a break from our celebrations?

Have we come to this time of Advent where we are tired of the season, and we wish it was already over? Are we already so tired that, when it comes to cutting something out, will we decide to cut a bit of our spiritual preparations? Have our Christmas decorations already been up so long that we cannot wait to take them down? Finally, a question I have struggled with over the years: Has Christmas shopping ceased being fun and become a chore for us? Does the rose candle make sense anymore? If Advent is to be a serious matter for us, then we need to notice that we are people who wait for something. What we wait for is the coming of the reign of Jesus Christ. James speaks of being patient. To make sense of this reading, we must use what is left of Advent to build a sense of anticipation for the coming of the Lord.

For the rest of Advent, we might want to be more observant, as Jesus told the disciples of John. It will allow us to recognize the importance of the rose candle in the Advent wreath.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?"
— Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Danielle Little, Eileen Quackenbush,
Jasmin Lang***

Bulletins are available online at:

<http://www.parishbulletins.com/bulletins/097>

An Update From St. Vincent Charities - This has been another very busy year for St. Vincent Charities. Everyone has been affected by the significant increase in the cost of living this past few months, particularly those on fixed incomes and in low paying jobs. We have seen a significant increase in demand for support as people struggle to find the resources to pay higher costs for groceries, fuel, and housing. All this while still being in a global pandemic. With the generous donations from the parish, we have been able to meet this increase in demand, and with the winter months upon us, we know the needs will not decrease. St. Vincent Charities will continue to provide as much help as possible for the essentials for people in need in our community and your contributions ensure that we can continue this work every month on behalf of our Parish.

And please remember, 100 % of your donations go to help individuals and families in Acton.

As the Christmas season is now upon us, we are continuing our work with the Acton Christmas Hamper Committee to ensure that people in our town receive the support they need for this occasion. We will continue to provide only grocery cards for the food hampers as we have been very fortunate to receive a generous donation from Sobeys's December fundraising drives.

The donation from Sobeys has allowed us to keep up with the year-round needs to help people with life's essentials.

With your financial support, in 2023, St. Vincent Charities and St. Joseph's Parish will continue to provide families in Acton with some relief and hope in the kindness and generosity of others. We all belong to this community and have a responsibility and a desire to see it flourish.

With Thanks and Wishes for a Very Merry and Blessed Christmas and New Year.

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 12 – December 18)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 6:00 p.m.	Fran Marcoux	CWL
Wed 9:00 a.m.	<i>Intentions of Czeslawa Hercyk</i>	Kwiatkowski Family
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Helen and Dusan Klemencic	Estate of Helen Klemencic
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Rezi Zitnik	Kosir Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Abel Castellinho	Castellinho Family
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Cassie and Emily Raats	Raats Family
11:00 a.m.	Pro populo	



We have returned to our Lector/Extraordinary Minister schedule. Please see Eddie MacDonald if you have any questions or are interested in joining the team.



CONTACT PERSONS for CWL and K of C

Anyone interested in learning more about our parish Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus is invited to call the appropriate contact person:

CWL: Christie deSouza: 519-400-6012 cwl@lartist.com
 K of C: Marc MacDonald: grand.knight.8050@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas Masses will not be reserved this year and no capacity restrictions are in place. The wearing of masks is not currently required but we ask that respect be given to individual choices.

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m.
 7:00 p.m.
 Midnight
Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.
 11:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation –

Saturday December 17 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
 Tuesday December 20 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
 Thursday December 22 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
 Friday December 23 9:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



This week we pray especially for the following families:

***Nelles, Niedzielska, Nieroda,
 Nolan, Nother, O'Dwyer***

From the Parish Office: The office will be closed from December 21 at 12:30 p.m. to January 3 at 9:30 a.m. for Christmas and to prepare for year end. Messages will be monitored.

2023 envelopes are being prepared and will be available for pickup in the hall by December 10.

MEETINGS

Mon. 6:00 p.m. Tops
 Wed. 8:00 p.m. AA

Third Sunday of Advent - We know that at Christmas our hearts will be full – we want our pews to be full also! Throughout Advent, Parishes across the Diocese are being encouraged to invite all the faithful to Come Home for Christmas. We all know people who have fallen away from regular Mass attendance, and Christmas provides a privileged occasion to welcome them home. All parishioners are encouraged to join in this effort to extend a warm invitation to return - for more information, visit <http://hamiltondiocese.com>



THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

Religious Articles and Gifts for all Occasions
 Please call Geralda 905-691-9082




Knights of Columbus
 St. Joseph's Council #8050
 Marc MacDonald, Grand Knight
 Decio Ramalho
519-856-2753



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Catholic Women's League



of St. Joseph's invites the ladies of the Parish to our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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