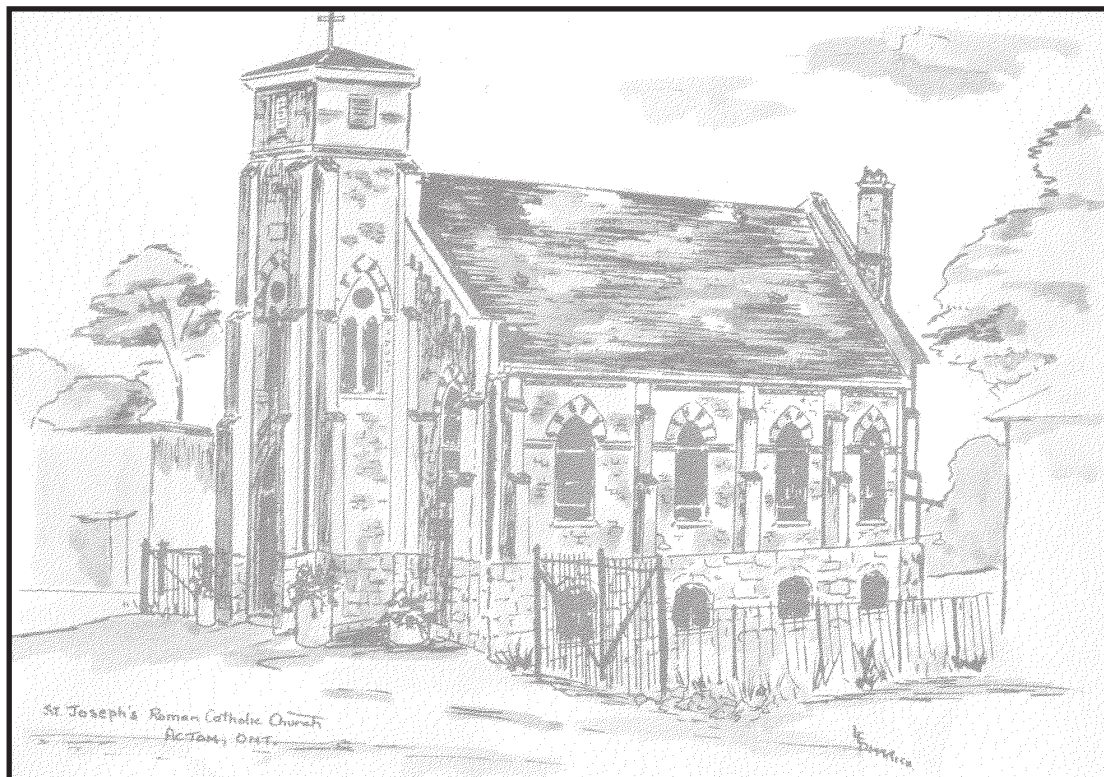


St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

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:

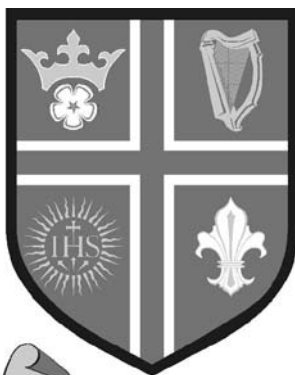
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am
11:00 am

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:

We are now in the shortest period of the year regarding darkness and light. It is enjoyable to drive around and see the Christmas lights which people have put up. I was reading a story this week where a teacher asked her students why it got dark so early at this time of the year. One of the students responded quickly, "so the Christmas decorations on people's houses look prettier on our way home!"

This a cute story, but we are reminded that Christ has come and will come again. The light is here, and we should rejoice. This Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday which teaches us that the Lord is near and that we should rejoice at His coming.

If we need an example of the light of Christ, we just need to look at a Feast Day that we celebrate this upcoming week: St Lucy (December 13). This saint is often depicted in Christmas art and on Christmas cards. Lucy is seen as a girl wearing a white dress with a sash of crimson and a crown of branches set with lighted candles on her head. Her name comes from the Latin word for light.

We don't know much about Lucy. She is one of the Martyrs mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I). However, beyond that there is not much information about her. Lucy's association with light comes because she certainly had the light of faith. She clearly saw Jesus as the Messiah, and she understood that her faith in Jesus would sustain her even through death. The candles shown on her head in art remind us of the light of faith and how it can lead us through everything.

Regarding the Gospel of this weekend, many of those who went into the desert to see and hear John the Baptist had their eyes opened. They were so taken up with the message of the coming of the Messiah, they instinctively knew that somehow, they should be living differently than they had been living. It was a moment for them when the light went on.

On this Gaudete Sunday, we are reminded that the Light is near, and we should be rejoicing that Christ is present. St. Paul said it best in our second reading, that we are called to discover the goodness that exists around us and to enjoy the Light that reveals its beauty. Let us rejoice!

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey but only the beginning - not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last."

— Frederick Buechner, *The Magnificent Defeat*

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Ian Munday, Helen Fowler,
Mary Albert***

Bulletins are available online at:

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

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas Mass times are unchanged from last year. We are restricted to 50% capacity, under mask mandate and following physical distancing protocols. Seating will be assigned by ushers to make best use of space. Following guidelines from the Diocese and in line with current public health rules, we require booking for all Masses. Mass will also be streamed. Masses will be celebrated as follows:

Christmas Eve:	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Day:	10:00 a.m.
	6:00 p.m.		11:30 a.m.
	8:00 p.m.		
	Midnight		

Confessions: Saturday Dec 18th 3:30-4:30 p.m.
 Tuesday Dec 21st 6:00-6:45 p.m.
 Thursday Dec 23rd 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Book for Christmas Mass via our website:

www.stjosephprayforus.ca or book via the Parish office at: 519-853-0784. Make sure to specify the number of people in your booking.

Collection Envelopes – New envelopes are being prepared for 2022 some number assignments may change. **It is important that 2022 envelopes are not used before January** in order that funds are correctly credited to your profile and tax receipts are accurate.

Office Closure – The office will be closed from December 23th to January 4th for Christmas and to prepare year-end reporting. All donations received **in the collection by December 31st** will be included in 2021 receipts. Tax receipts will be issued for annual donations totaling \$25.00 or more.

The 2021 – 2023 Synod of Bishops brings an invitation from Pope Francis to embark on a journey together. How can you get involved? Offer your thoughts on how we can deepen our communion in the Lord and how all members of the Church can participate more fully in its mission. Visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/synod/#about>

DECEMBER 12, 2021

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 13 – December 19)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:00 p.m.	Jean Marcoux	CWL
Wed *	No Mass Today	
Thurs. * 9:00 a.m.	<i>Intentions of Marjorie Hutchison</i>	Hutchison Family
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Tony and Mary Gorjup	Gorjup Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Teresa Bottero	Bottero Family
Sun. 8:30 a.m.	Cassie and Emily Raats	Raats Family
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Pro populo	
Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Pro populo	

*please note change to daily Mass schedule



Only Lectors are serving until further notice. There may be a Sunday which has no Lector assigned. If you are a Lector and can fill in, it would be most appreciated.

Sat. 5:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m.



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: cwl@lartist.com
K of C: Sean Saunders: grand.knight.8050@gmail.com

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Father Mark arranges all Baptisms and Marriages personally, by appointment. Please see Father after Mass to set a time for an interview. Marriages must be arranged one year in advance. Completion of a marriage preparation course is required. Application forms may be obtained from Father Mark.



This week we pray especially for the following families:

Anderson, Arbic, Arseneault, Baginski, Banks, Beaton

CWL Request for Christmas Cookie Tins - The ladies of CWL will be selling Christmas cookies as a fundraiser. If you have tins you can spare, please drop them off in the basement. Many thanks!


Snuggle Up to Christmas - There are many needy people in our town. This Christmas, we would like to give each of them a new warm blanket to snuggle up in. Let's make Christmas warm for everyone in Acton. Please drop off your donation of a new blanket on the CWL table downstairs. Thank you for your kindness!

Vocations

Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? Contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton (905-528-7988).

Email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/






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



Manulife Securities
Daniel Varanelli, CFP, CGA
 Certified Financial Planner
 273 Queen St. 519-853-4855
 daniel.varanelli@manulifesecurities.ca

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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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