

# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

## Office

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Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Mrs. Eddie MacDonald, Pastoral Minister [eddiemacd2@gmail.com](mailto: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



# ADVENT

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## A Word From Our Pastor:

**A**s we celebrate the last Sunday of Advent this year, we are introduced to two fathers in our readings. King Ahaz was the 11<sup>th</sup> King of Judah. He was, frankly, a terrible King whose rule led to the eventual downfall of Judah. Ahaz abandoned the faith of his people for political motives. To earn allies, he set up worship of gods of other countries in the Temple and throughout Judah.

In our reading this Sunday, Isaiah, sent by God, went to save Ahaz. Isaiah offered Ahaz the opportunity to ask for anything he wanted. Ahaz decided not to trust in the faithfulness of God, but rather he faked humble piety. Even with his lack of faithfulness, God still gave Ahaz a sign. The sign that God gave was that the monarchy would continue, and that Ahaz would be given an heir. Hezekiah would be the heir and he would initiate religious reforms, but it was too late, and the kingdom was lost.

The other father we experience today is Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, who was the opposite of Ahaz. According to the Gospel of today, Joseph was a righteous man, meaning that he observed God's laws. He was also a man of great compassion. Though the woman he was to marry was pregnant, he wished her no harm. The law stipulated that Mary should have been stoned to death, but Joseph had worked out a way to divorce her quietly in order to avoid gossip, and which would allow Mary to marry the father of her child and thus save her life.

While this tells us much about Joseph, it also tells us that through a dream, Joseph enjoyed Divine communication with God. There will be a Child, and this Child will be the Heir to David's throne. The name will be an announcement of hope. God will be with Joseph in his decision to take Mary as his wife and further, the name will also be a sign of hope for everyone. God will be there for all.

Joseph connects us, on this Sunday, to the real humanness of the birth of Jesus. Though Joseph knew absolutely nothing of what lay ahead of him, by accepting a pregnant spouse, he bravely acted contrary to the socially acceptable idea of divorce.

On this last Sunday of Advent, we must recognize the actions of Joseph. He was a religious man, proud of his faith and loyal to his God. He worked hard to provide for a wife and his Son. This should give us strength and hope to say yes to God in our lives.

*Fr. Mark*

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## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Off to one side sits a group of shepherds. They sit silently on the floor, perhaps perplexed, perhaps in awe, no doubt in amazement. Their night watch had been interrupted by an explosion of light from heaven and a symphony of angels. God goes to those who have time to hear Him—and so on this cloudless night He went to simple shepherds."

-Max Lucado

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## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Judy Landry, Nicole McInnis,  
Bev Boisvenue***

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**Bulletins** are available online at:

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

**Fourth Sunday of Advent** - Any time is a good time to invite family, friends, and neighbours to attend Mass. Especially so during the beautiful Christmas season. What better gift can we give a loved one who is away from the Church than a warm invitation to Come Home for Christmas? Whether they have been away for a short time or a long time, we want all Catholics to know that they are warmly welcomed back to our Parish community. Please consider extending this invitation to loved ones, neighbours, and colleagues – for more information, visit <http://hamiltondiocese.com>

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**RESTART: Refresh, Renew Revive** – A gathering for separated and divorced individuals offering learning, support and fun! These get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people on their journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. **Held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month**, you can join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. No registration required. For ZOOM link contact Sarah at [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com), or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

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**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** - As we move toward the end of the year, take some time as a couple to reflect on your last twelve months together. Ask yourselves what you did well and what you might do better, both for each other and for your marriage. Check in to see if you spent enough time together, if you remembered to compliment each other, showed gratitude for the gifts your spouse brings to your life and whether you felt joy often. If your relationship needs strengthening, commit to finding the help you need to make it strong; if you feel good after your assessment, celebrate your love, and thank God for his never-ending support. From: Family Ministry Office.

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DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 19 – December 25)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:00 p.m.	Robert Rowe	CWL
Wed 9:00 a.m.	Grace Mendes	Raul and Cecilia Mendes
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Edward Deevy	LaSelva Family
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Marjorie Hutchison	Raats Family
Sat. 4:00 p.m.	First Mass of Christmas	
7:00 p.m.	Christmas Mass	
<b>Midnight</b> 12:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass	
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Mass	
11:30 a.m.	Christmas Mass	



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](mailto:cwl@lartist.com)  
 K of C: Marc MacDonald: [grand.knight.8050@gmail.com](mailto: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:

***O'Meara, Oke, Osman,  
 Paisley, Palmateer, Pereira***

**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. All donations received **in the collection by December 31<sup>st</sup>** will be included in 2022 receipts. Tax receipts are issued for annual donations of \$25.00 or more.

2023 envelopes are available for pickup in the hall.

**MEETINGS**

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

*We await with joyful hope,  
 the coming of Our Lord!*



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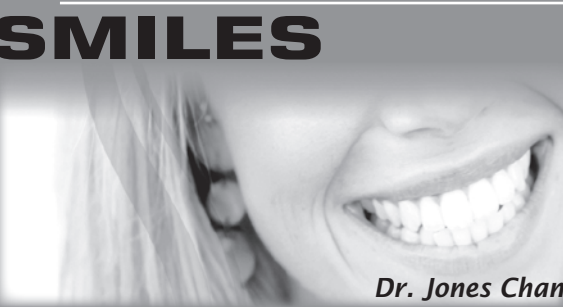
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 Marc MacDonald, Grand Knight  
 Decio Ramalho  
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**Catholic Women's League**



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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