

# 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



*prepare the way...*

**ADVENT**

**A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:**

**W**ith Christmas less than a week away, the days of Advent anticipation are almost over. On this Fourth Sunday of Advent, the Scripture readings are alive with excitement about the Saviour who is coming very soon.

The visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth is more than a happy exchange of support between the women sharing the joys of childbearing. It is a story of faith as well as friendship and human love. Elizabeth clearly recognizes that Mary is carrying Jesus the image of the unseen God when she says: "Why should I be honoured with a visit from the Mother of My Lord?" What a warm welcome the unborn Christ Child received at Elizabeth's home in contrast to the weak welcome He would receive in Bethlehem when there was no room for them in the inn.

Both Mary and Elizabeth can teach us lessons on this Sunday. Mary was a relatively insignificant person. She was a young girl from a small village. Her responses to both the Angel Gabriel and to Elizabeth let us know that even Mary considered herself insignificant. This by no means meant that Mary suffered from 'poor self esteem' She was simply humbled knowing that she was from a poor family in a poor village. This should remind us that being from insignificant families in insignificant places does not make us insignificant. We need to see that the idea of significance does not come from places or families. Our significance comes from God. All human life is significant. This was the message of God's choice to become human and enter our world.

Elizabeth gives us the lesson of what we can do for those who are alone or feel abandoned or suffer at this time of year. Elizabeth made clear that she recognized that her young cousin from a small village was significant.

The Gospel of this Sunday contains in a capsule, the whole Gospel message. Elizabeth's acclamation of faith tells us who Jesus is. The reaction of the not yet born John the Baptist becomes another statement of faith in the importance of Jesus. Elizabeth herself stepped aside to point to the significance of Mary and especially the Child she carried.

As we approach the Incarnation, we need to see that to expectant women can always teach us to "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Saviour Jesus Christ".

*Fr. Mark*

**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

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

This week please pray especially for:

***Rhonda Chartrand, David Champagne,  
Cheryl Longstaff***

**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:

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

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

Book for Christmas Mass via our website:

[www.stjosephprayforus.ca](http://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 23<sup>th</sup> to January 4<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and to prepare year-end reporting. All donations received **in the collection by December 31<sup>st</sup>** will be included in 2021 receipts. Tax receipts are issued for annual donations of \$25.00 or more.

**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.

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 20 – December 26)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:00 p.m.	Jean Marcoux	Garry and Peggy DeBruyn
Wed 9:00 a.m.	<i>Intentions of Mike Kwiatkowski</i>	Kwiatkowski Family
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Helen Klemencic	Estate of Helen Klemencic
Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m. Midnight		
Christmas Day 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.		
Sun. 8:30 a.m.	Pro populo	
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Pro populo	
Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Wilfred and Marguerite Duval	Yvonne Caswell



	Lector	Music	Usher
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	4:00 p.m. <i>Gita</i>	<i>Leah</i>	<i>Eddie</i>
	6:00 p.m. <i>Catherine</i>	<i>Leah</i>	<i>Eddie</i>
	8:00 p.m. <i>Jay</i>	<i>Simona</i>	
	Midnight <i>Kazi</i>	<i>Choir</i>	<i>Eddie</i>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	10:00 a.m. <i>Chris</i>	<i>Leslie</i>	<i>Decio</i>
	11:30 a.m. <i>Lar</i>	<i>Christie</i>	<i>Dorota</i>
<b>Boxing Day</b>	8:30 a.m. <i>Jay</i>	<i>Leah</i>	<i>Kathleen</i>
	10:00 a.m. <i>Lar</i>	<i>Christie</i>	<i>Decio</i>
	11:30 a.m. <i>Penny</i>	<i>Leslie</i>	<i>Eddie</i>



This week we pray especially for the following families:

**Bell, Bhikha, Biernacki,  
Blanchet-Haffey, Bonello, Borkowski**

**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!



**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

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






**Knights of Columbus**  
 St. Joseph's Council #8050  
 Sean Saunders, 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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