

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, Administrative Assistant



A Word From Our Pastor:

With the Fourth Sunday of Advent this week, the word surprise can be used to describe the readings. All of us can think of a surprise gift which we have received at Christmas. This gift may not always be something which is neatly gift-wrapped under a Christmas tree. It could be someone coming home at Christmas who you were not expecting. It could be good news regarding a medical situation. It may be something like the announcement of an upcoming birth. Whatever the case may be, we have all been surprised at Christmas.

This leads into the thought that God Himself can give us surprises as well. He gives us such delight by telling us, in splendid ways, that He loves us. When we receive a gift from God, it is the one that calms us. It is the one that swells the heart. God's gift to us is special. It is the gift that tells us not only that we are loved, but it is also the gift that makes it possible for us to love.

There are two individuals in the readings of this week who were given surprises on the part of God. David, in our first reading, showed his gratitude for what God had done for him. God loved David and David returned this love by building a house for a family; this being the House of David. David was surprised at the gift from God.

Mary was in store for a surprise as well. God surprised Mary by asking her to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Mary saying yes to God's surprise allowed the world to be saved by Jesus' birth. The great surprise is that when we give something to God, He will bless our gift and turn it into something greater than we could ever imagine.

As we come to the last week of Advent, we may wish to spend some time recalling the gifts God has given us. They may not have come wrapped in colourful paper and bows and placed under the Christmas tree, but they have come. God's surprise may come in the form of a great king or that of a young peasant girl. God's gifts to us are endless, but whatever they may be, His gifts always surprise and delight. May God bless all of you and your families this Christmas. It may be different this year, but we can still see His love for us and the grace He gives.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."

— C.S.Lewis "Mere Christianity"

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Eileen Quackenbush,
Helen Garrett, Jasmine Lang***

Bulletins are available online at:
<http://www.parishbulletins.com/bulletins/097>

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas Masses have been fully booked as we are restricted to 30% capacity, under mask mandate, and following physical distancing protocols. Seating has been assigned so that we can make best use of the limited space. Midnight Mass will be streamed.

Confessions for Christmas (in the Church)

Tues Dec 22 6:00-6:30 p.m.

To assist you as you prepare for the coming of our Lord, register for daily Advent messages with **FORMED.org**. A truly informative and peace-filled journey awaits.

Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30 p.m. Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on Salt+Light Media and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!

From the Parish Office: The office will be closed from December 23 through January 4, reopening January 5 at 9:30 a.m.

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 21-December 27)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues 7:00 p.m.	<i>Advent Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
Wed 9:00 a.m.	<i>Advent Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
Christmas Day 12:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<i>Christmas Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Georgette Tanney	Tanney Family
Sun. 8:30 a.m.	Pro populo	
Sun. 10:00 a.m.	Pro populo	
Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Wilfred and Jo Ann Duval	Their Children



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



This week we pray especially for the following families:

***Pek, Pereira, Phillips,
Podsada, Pratt, Previte***

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - At the heart of every person is a desire to be known and loved for who we are. We fall in love with someone and then spend extraordinary energy and time on learning about the person. Once we marry, we can forget to keep on discovering who the person we love is becoming – because each of us is always becoming. Time and circumstance constantly change and as a result, the person changes. When the one we love stays interested in who we are, we feel secure, cared-for and loved. So spend some time asking about likes and dislikes, what bothers your spouse and what brings them joy, what is the one thing they would like to do if there were no limitations, what their favourite food is – the possibilities are endless and so is the benefit to your relationship! Make your Christmas gifts this year time and attention!





Knights of Columbus
St. Joseph's Council #8050
Sean Saunders, Grand Knight
705-427-3970

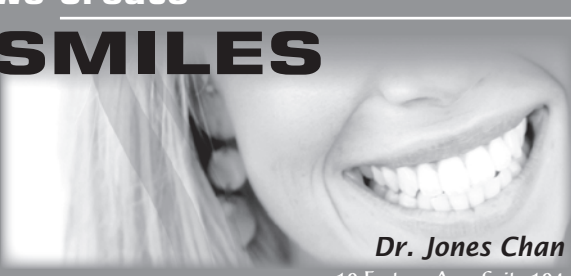


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Catholic Women's League



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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