

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 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



*Oh Come
Let us Adore Him*

A Word From Our Pastor:

A Merry Christmas to all of you and to your families. It is a joy to be your parish priest and to serve all of you.

With joyful thoughts in our minds as we celebrate Christmas with the birth of Our Lord, it is a good time to ponder and remember Christmases when we were younger. All of us have special memories of that special gift, or the Christmas dinners we shared with loved ones. Perhaps some of us had Christmas traditions within our families. A tradition I remember fondly of growing up in my family, is that I would always attend with my father the 7 a.m. Christmas Mass in the parish I grew up in. My father always volunteered to usher this Mass and I would get up at 5 a.m. to open presents and then get ready for Mass. What I always remember is how dark it was outside when we arrived for the Mass, but when we left it was light outside. Perhaps this was my first introduction to the words from Isaiah in one of the readings of Christmas: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them the light has shone."

These words still give us hope to this day. Many of us can still remember a surprise gift received or someone else received and the joy that it brought. The biggest surprise for us at this moment should be the present of a baby called Messiah and Lord. How could a King be born to an itinerant couple, a Child whose first companions in life were shepherds, the lowest esteemed of labourers? This is the surprise we call Christmas.

Why a baby? A baby presents no threat to us. A baby represents only promise and possibilities. A baby lets us imagine wonderful futures. It is very easy to meet God in the form of a baby. Meeting God in the form of an adult, however, is not so easy.

The baby Jesus represents innocence and peace to us. How can we feel threatened in any way, shape, or form? The adult Jesus, however, can represent a threat. To follow Him we must reform our lives. We must change. Perhaps this is why we have a tendency to remember our Christmases of childhood. They are from a time when we did not have responsibilities. Now we have grown up and God now calls us to responsibility.

The reality is that, if we desire to meet God in our prayer and in our worship, we will be changed. The surprise which is given to us is that we will be changed into that which we should have been all along, and this will bring peace.

Once again, Merry Christmas to you and your families as we celebrate the birth of Our Saviour. Also, a blessed New Year to all.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Once in our world, a Stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

- C.S. Lewis "The Last Battle"

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Austin Hunak, Helen Fowler,
David Champagne***

Bulletins are available online at:

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

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, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

STRUGGLING AFTER AN ABORTION? Your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is available to help – you can heal from the pain. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings on an individual basis, with a trained counsellor, to find hope and healing. **Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.** Your call is important to us.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS IS BACK! Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2023? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available in early January at www.hamiltondiocese.com

ReSTART: Moving Forward – This is a new and updated 10-week program offering support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The program runs from Tuesdays, March 21st to May 23rd. The sessions take place from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join our zoom classroom. The cost is \$25 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com or register on line at ReSTART Program: Support for Separated and Divorced - Diocese of Hamilton (hamiltondiocese.com).

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 26 – January 1)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues No Mass		
Wed No Mass		
Thurs. No Mass		
Fri. No Mass		
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Parishioners who are ill.</i>	
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	<i>New Year's Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
11:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>	



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@artist.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.

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.

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



This week we pray especially for the following families:

Podsada, Pratt, Previte, Quackenbush, Querques,

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 31st** 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.

*Today is Born Our Saviour,
 Christ the Lord!*





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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