

St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

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Feast of the Holy Family

A Word From Our Pastor:

With this being the most unusual Christmas that any of us have experienced, the importance of the Feast of the Holy Family takes on greater significance as we celebrate it this weekend.

The word 'Holy' is important here because it shows what this family was all about. We cannot give Jesus all credit for this. The holiness of this family came from Joseph and Mary's response to God. They made their faith, their religion, and their religious practices their highest priority. The Gospel of Luke takes great pains to point out that Jesus came from a family that valued its faith, and thus by implication, it valued itself and its relationship with God.

Jesus was not just a product of nature. Who He was as a man was very much a result of nurture as well, a result of the environment His parents created in their home. He had to learn to crawl, walk and talk. He had to learn who God was and how to pray. He had to learn the scriptures and learn to love the Law of God.

We are called to imitate these actions as well within our own families. No family is perfect, the Holy family had their struggles as well; fleeing to Egypt, Jesus being lost in the Temple, still their focus was on God. The purpose of this Feast is to show the importance and sacredness of the family as the basic unit of Church life.

Our families today have much to learn from the Holy Family. We may never think that our families are Holy, but they can be if we choose to attach ourselves to Christ and the faith and religious practices with which He has blessed us.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Let us put ourselves into His hands, and not be startled though He leads us by a strange way, a *mirabilis via*, as the Church speaks. Let us be sure He will lead us right, that He will bring us to that which is, not indeed what we think best, nor what is best for another, but what is best for us."
- Saint John Henry Newman

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

All those who are ill in our Parish

Bulletins are available online at:

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

MASS DURING LOCKDOWN:

As we re-enter lockdown, we hope to stream Mass on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. Information will be found on our Facebook page and website: stjosephprayforus.com Currently arranged Mass Intentions will be postponed until we can celebrate Mass together again in person.

To assist you as you celebrate the birth of our Lord, register with **FORMED.org**. There is a wealth of content to enhance your faith through these difficult days. A truly informative and peace-filled journey awaits.

From the Parish Office: The office will be closed through lockdown as we work remotely again. Messages and emails will be monitored.

Anniversary Mass 2021 – The Anniversary Mass scheduled for June of 2021 has been cancelled due to restrictions and concerns around COVID-19. We invite you to register your 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60 plus years Anniversary starting in January on the Diocesan website. We will send you the certificate you would have received from Bishop Crosby at the Mass.

Thankyou! We wish to thank everyone who helped in ways big and small to make our Christmas celebrations joyful. We thank our Parishioners for their generosity and patience when things have been challenging and look forward to a healthy and happy New Year.

Catechetical Correspondence Courses - Programs available for children from Kindergarten through to High School not currently receiving religious instruction. Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation for children not in Catholic Schools also available. Families work through the programs at home. Contact Monica in the Catechesis Office at 905-528-7988, ext. 2238 or check out our website at www.hamiltondiocese.com and click on the Catechesis Office for more information, printable registration forms or to register online.



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:

All families struggling through lockdown and especially Parishioners who are alone.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH - At the heart of every person is a desire to be known and loved for who they are. We fall in love with someone, then spend extraordinary energy and time on learning about the person. Once we marry, we may forget to keep 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. Spend some time asking about likes and dislikes, what bothers your spouse, 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!



An excerpt from the 2019 Christmas homily of Pope Francis which resonates on the Feast of the Holy Family:

"A charming legend relates that at the birth of Jesus the shepherds hurried to the stable with different gifts. Each brought what he had; some brought the fruits of their labour, others some precious item. But as they were all presenting their gifts, there was one shepherd who had nothing to give. He was extremely poor; he had no gift to present. As the others were competing to offer their gifts, he stood apart, embarrassed. At a certain point, Saint Joseph and Our Lady found it hard to receive all those gifts, especially Mary, who had to hold the baby. Seeing the shepherd with empty hands, she asked him to draw near, and she put the baby Jesus in his arms. That shepherd, in accepting him, became aware of having received what he did not deserve, of holding in his arms the greatest gift of all time. He looked at his hands, those hands that seemed to him always empty. They had become the cradle of God. He felt himself loved and, overcoming his embarrassment, began to show Jesus to the others, for he could not keep for himself the Gift of gifts. ... Dear brother, dear sister, if your hands seem empty, if you think your heart is poor in love, this night is for you. The grace of God has appeared, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you!"



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

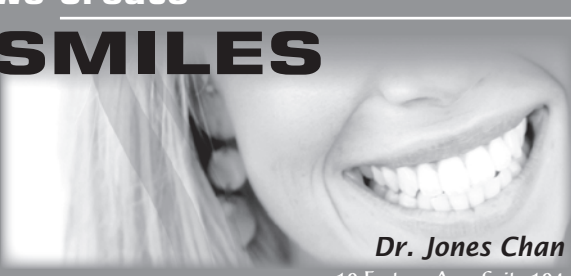


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Catholic Women's League
of St. Joseph's invites the ladies of the Parish to our regular meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

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