

# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

## Office

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Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Janet Raats, Office Administrator

Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



## *Feast of the Holy Family*

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**A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:**

**T**his bulletin blurb was prepared before Christmas day, but I wish to at this moment to pray that all of you had a blessed Christmas with your loved ones.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family which the Church always does on the Sunday between Christmas and New Year's Day. However, I wish instead to speak about the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, which we celebrate on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The New Year of 2025 takes on greater significance for us as Catholics, for Pope Francis has declared this year to be a Jubilee year throughout the whole Church. Every 25 years, the Church calls upon its faithful to take the opportunity to offer up prayers in a special way throughout the entire year. Pope Francis has declared this year to be The Year of Hope, which is something the world and the Church needs especially now.

With the theme of hope in mind the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, gives a wonderful opportunity to seek out hope as we begin the new year. Luke in his Gospel of this day captures the hope that a mother has for the life of her child. In one of the most poignant verses of the Scriptures, Luke writes: "Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart." when the shepherds had come to see her and the infant Jesus. Every parent knows well the depth of meaning and experience revealed in this simple, beautiful sentence.

We must never lose sight of Mary, the mother, a mother like all mothers. When we read of Mary in the Gospels, we must remember that they were written with the grace of hindsight. Mary knew no more about whom her Son would turn out to be than any other mother. Still, she placed her trust and hope in a way which revealed God's hand at work.

Her prayerful hindsight taught her much, but what of our prayerful hindsight as we begin a new year? What have we learned in our reflection on the year just ended? Can we, like Mary, look back and retell the story of the past year of our lives in such a way that it is revealing of God's hand at work? This is something that we should be pondering as we begin this new year.

Mary did not tell the shepherds who her Son was. They told her. They came with a message that Mary pondered in her heart. A new year demands that we look for the shepherds in our lives. God has

worked in our lives for an entire year. What has he done? How have we grown? How are we better?

Mary had the gift of shepherds who helped tell her something of whom her Son would be. She treasured the information and reflected on it in her heart. After the shepherds had left, Mary and Joseph were still poor and still in a stable with their child laid in a manger. Despite all this, their attitudes were lifted, and they were capable of living in their humble, troubled circumstances with joy.

We must do the same. If January 2 is to be different from December 31, we must listen to the shepherds that God's angels have sent to us. Our lives might be humble and difficult, but Mary teaches us that our circumstances do not have to exclude joy.

Once again, Blessed New Year to all of you and your families.

*Fr. Mark*

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**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:**

"Jesus wanted to belong to a family who experienced these hardships, so that no one would feel excluded from the loving closeness of God. The flight into Egypt caused by Herod's threat shows us that God is present where man is in danger, where man is suffering, where he is fleeing, where he experiences rejection and abandonment; but God is also present where man dreams, where he hopes to return in freedom to his homeland and plans and chooses life for his family and dignity for himself and his loved ones."

-Pope Francis  
(2013 celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family)

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**PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:**

This week please pray especially for:

***Fran Marcoux, Pat South,  
Joe Humenyk***



This week we pray especially for the following families of our parish:

***Bartczak, Baxter, Beaton,  
Bell, Bhikha, Biernacki***

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**Bulletins** are available online at:

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

DECEMBER 29, 2024

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 30 – January 5)	REQUESTED BY:
<b>New Years Eve 5:00 p.m.</b>	<i>Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
<b>New Years Day 9:00 a.m.</b> <b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<i>Intentions of Pope Francis</i>	
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Joan Isky	Mary Smith
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	<i>In Thanksgiving for the Kwiatkowski Family</i>	Kwiatkowski Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Salvatore Pupo	Ray and Rena Arbic
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Manuel Pereira	Pereira Family
11:00 a.m.	Pro populo	



**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: Ian Nolan: [grand.knight.8050@gmail.com](mailto:grand.knight.8050@gmail.com)

**MEETINGS**

Mon. 6:00 p.m. Tops  
 Tues. 7:30 p.m.  
 Wed. 8:00 p.m. Acton Sharing



**Sat. Jan 4 5 p.m.**  
 Lector Maria  
 Ex. Minister Patricia

**Sun. Jan 5 9 a.m. 11 a.m.**  
 Lector Ann Gita  
 Ex. Minister Kazi Lar

**Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony**

Father Mark arranges 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. Applications may be obtained from Father Mark.

**Winter Weather Conditions:**

During inclement weather, we remind Parishioners to be cautious when coming to Mass and be prepared to stay home if conditions are treacherous. We wish all our Parishioners to be safe both on the roads and on the sidewalks this Winter.

Thank you to St. Joseph CWL for a very generous donation of \$1000 to the Parish to help fund the repairs to our organ. It has been in need of repair since at least 2019 and we are blessed to have it back in order and sounding beautiful.

The Parish Office will be closed from 12:30 p.m. December 20 to 9:30 a.m. January 3 to prepare for year-end reporting and to celebrate Christmas. Messages and emails will be monitored. All donations received in the collection by December 31<sup>st</sup> will be included in 2024 receipts. Tax receipts will be issued for annual minimum donations of \$25.00.

**2025 Envelopes are now available. Numbers remain the same as last year.**





**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph's Council #8050  
Ian Nolan, 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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Location Manager  
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