

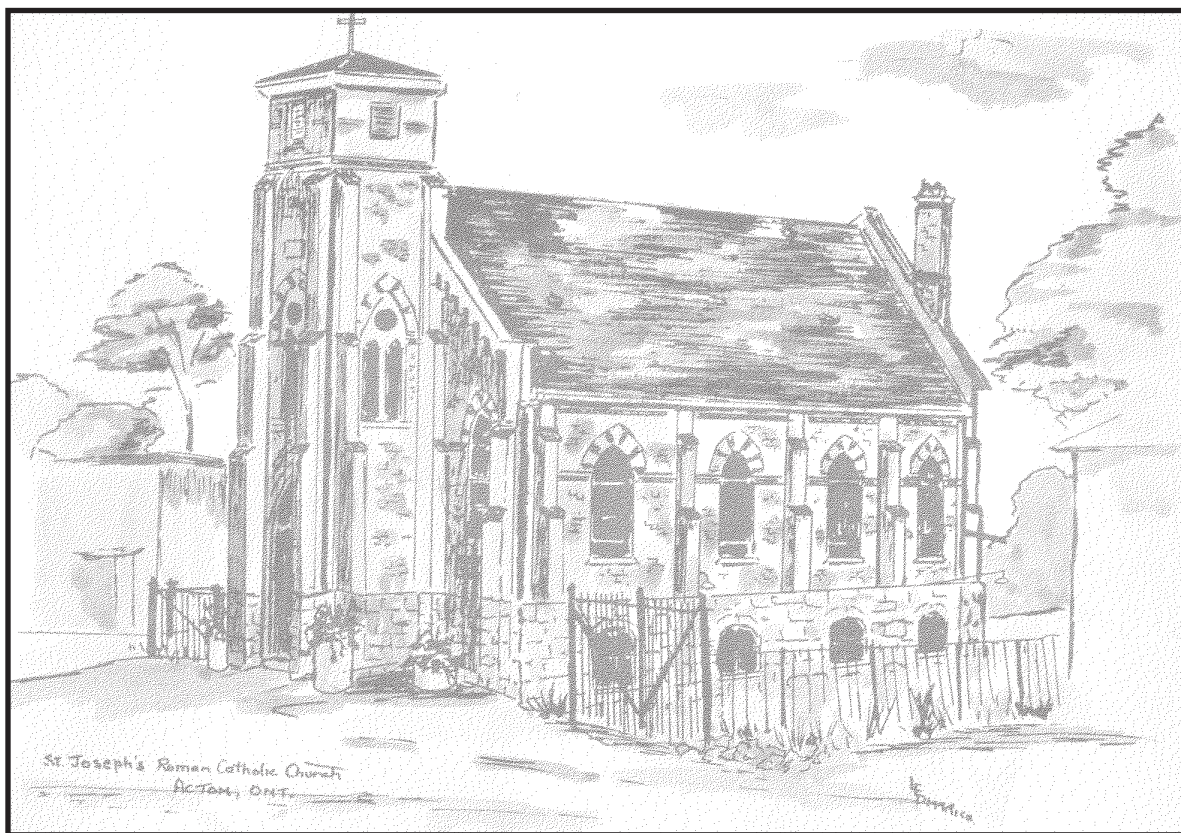
St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

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
Janet Raats, Office Administrator

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

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am
11:00 am

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus
St. Vincent Charities



BAPTISMS:

By arrangement with the pastor.

MARRIAGES:

By arrangement one year in advance.

CONFESSIONS:

Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 pm
or by appointment.

SCHOOLS:

St. Joseph 519-853-3730
Christ the King 905-702-8838

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS

We invite you to register in our parish community
by filling in a blue registration form.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

Traditionally, on the Second Sunday of Advent, we read about John the Baptist proclaiming the coming of Christ in the world.

This Sunday, we read about the appearance of John according to the Gospel of Luke, however; I wish to talk about another figure, who many may not know anything about, during this Season of Advent. I am speaking about St. Nicholas.

Other than the people in the Gospel like John the Baptist and Mary, no other saint is so identified with Christmas as is Saint Nicholas, whose Feast Day was just celebrated on December 6th. If anyone knows anything about St. Nicholas it is usually based on our Christmas figure of Santa Claus as having his origins with 'Good St. Nick'. The name 'Santa Claus is an anglicized version of the Dutch name for St. Nicholas, 'Sinterklaas'.

St. Nicholas was a very real person. He was a Fourth Century bishop, the Bishop of Myra, in modern day Turkey. It was a time of persecution by Roman Emperors. Many legends grew up around him, all based on his practice of charity and care for the poor.

One legend tells of a poor man who had three daughters that he could not marry off because he was too poor to provide a dowry. The legend says that in secret St. Nicholas saw to it that the father received three bags of gold for dowries so each of the daughters could get married. It is said that St. Nicholas, on different nights, threw the bags of gold in the window of the man's house and they landed in the shoes of the children. There was a tradition which followed that gifts of candy and nuts were placed in children's shoes and stockings.

The image of St. Nicholas illustrates for us how to live during this Advent Season. St. Nicholas was a lover of the poor and the patron of children, whose centre of existence was based on imitation Christ. Perhaps better than Santa Claus ever can, St. Nicholas can help us reclaim the true centre of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. Such a focus helps restore balance to the materialistic and stress filled Advent and Christmas Seasons.

Legends develop to tell and teach an important truth. The truthfulness of the details of legends is not important, but the truths the legends pass on are vital. Whether there is factual truth in the legend of St. Nichols, seeing to it that a poor man had money for a dowry for his daughters does not matter; it is a legend

that began in a truth about a love for the poor and about generosity.

We do not want to destroy our Advent and Christmas traditions, but Advent should help us peel away the non-religious aspect of our traditions and help us reclaim what they were originally meant to do, that is teach us about Christ coming into the world.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

"Rejoice and be glad that so great and good a Lord, on coming into the Virgin's womb, willed to appear despised, needy, and poor in this world, so that men who were in dire poverty and suffering great need of heavenly food might be made rich in him."

- St. Clare of Assisi

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

Michael Symboluk, Dennis DeMelo, Coleen Decarlis



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

Any new Parishioners and anyone who may have been missed

The CWL Christmas Dinner (hosted by the Knights) will be on Tuesday, December 10. That day, Mass will be at 6:00 and dinner will begin at 6:30 in the church hall. Tickets will be sold at Masses the weekend of December 7.

MEETINGS

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, Location. Mon. 6:00 p.m. Tops; Tues. 6:30 p.m. CWL Dinner; Wed. 8:00 p.m. Acton Sharing

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.

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 9 – December 15)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues. 6:00 p.m.	Intentions of Living Members of the CWL, Acton	CWL
Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Stan Dyczkowski	Kwiatkowski Family
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Giuseppe and Maria Querques	Querques Family
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Advent intentions of Our Parish	
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Frank Hannah	Geralda Savoie
Sun. 9:00 a.m.	Wilfred and Jo Ann Duval	Their Children
11:00 a.m.	Pro populo	

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.



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
 K of C: Ian Nolan: grand.knight.8050@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas and New Years Day fall on Wednesdays this year, Masses for Christmas Eve and New Years Eve and our regular Sunday Masses will be on the same days. Please note **there is one Mass on Christmas morning.**

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Mass**
 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Mass**
 Midnight **Christmas Mass**

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.

New Years Eve: 5:00 p.m. **New Year**
New Years Day: 9:00 a.m. **New Year**
 11:00 a.m. **New Year**

Reconciliation Times:

December 17 6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
 December 19 6 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
 December 21 3:30 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.
 December 23 6 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Bulletins are available online at:

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



Sat. Dec 14 5 p.m.
 Lector Chris
 Ex. Minister Patricia

Sun. Dec 15 9 a.m. 11 a.m.
 Lector Kazi Lizzie
 Ex. Minister Ann Lorin

CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN: December 12, 2024 (7:00-8:00pm) The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to a live virtual viewing party of "The Shepherd", a special Christmas episode of "The Chosen," reflecting on the birth of Christ through the eyes of a young shepherd. This one hour gathering will include prayer, free streaming of the 20-minute episode, and well wishes for the Advent Season. Gather your friends and family, make the popcorn, and join us for this wonderful opportunity to prepare for the coming of our Savior! Registration is free and can be made here: <https://bit.ly/ChristmaswiththeChosen2024>






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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