

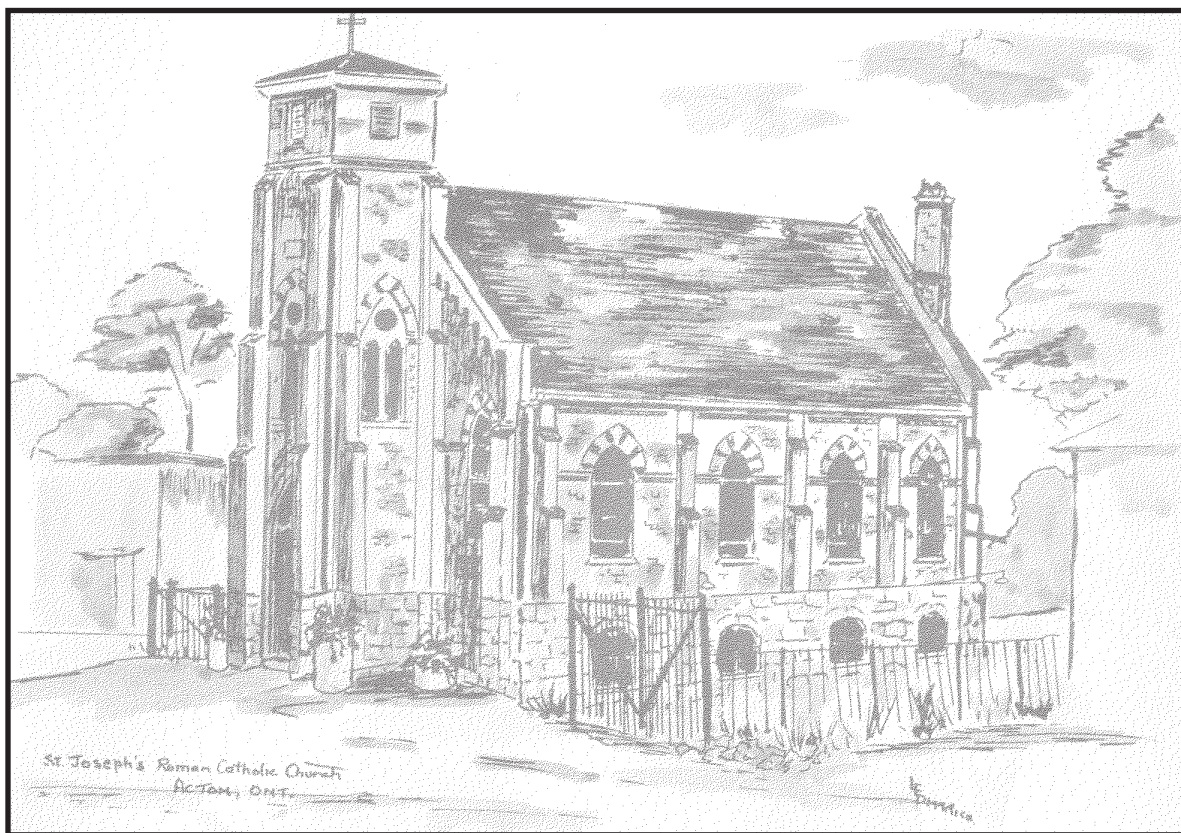
# St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

Office

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e-mail: [stjoseph.church@bellnet.ca](mailto: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.

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## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

**M**any of us will recognize the 'Beatitudes' from the Gospel of Matthew. It is popular with couples at their Marriage ceremonies as the Gospel passage. It is also very popular at funeral masses as well. I once heard a fellow priest say when in doubt "use the Beatitude passage for a Gospel reading at a Mass."

This Sunday, we read the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Luke. There are numerous differences between the two passages. We refer to Matthew's and Luke's versions of the Beatitudes as "The Sermon on the Mount", and yes, that is an accurate title for Matthew, but not for Luke.

Luke presents Jesus "coming down" and standing "on a stretch of level ground". We recall Jesus delivering this to the multitude in Matthew's Gospel. In Luke, however, Jesus speaks only to the disciples. Matthew's version is addressed to the rich and poor alike. Luke's is addressed only to those who would be termed 'rich', not to the poor. These differences are important. They give Luke's version a different meaning than Matthew's.

When we hear the Beatitudes, we think about what a specific group will receive in the future. It is important to note that in Luke's version, the first Beatitude is about what the 'poor' already have: the poor have already received the Kingdom of God. It is not something they will get later. Luke is showing that the world is not a great place for the poor, and Luke truly means the economically poor, not the "poor in spirit" of whom Matthew speaks. If the world is not so easy on the poor, how do they already have it? It doesn't look as though they have the Kingdom.

Luke is not talking about a place nor is he speaking about the poor having all their needs met; he is teaching about a way of living. What Luke is speaking of is a new culture. With Jesus' teaching there is a new 'culture of God' emerging in the world, a culture that stands opposed to the culture of the society in which the early disciples were living and in which we now live.

Matthew's gospel speaks of a transcendent world and how we should live for that world to come. In his Gospel, Luke teaches us to live in the world as it is right now. We live in it by helping build the cultural Kingdom of God.

Luke wrote for a Christian community which attracted many wealthy individuals. For many of these people being 'rich' was viewed as being an outward sign that a person was blessed or favoured by God. Being poor was a sign of being outside of God's family. Luke, using the words of Christ, reverses this notion. It is the poor who have the Kingdom, and they have it now. Luke reminds all of us that we are called to live within God's culture and to help those who are poor and to serve them.

With Lent approaching, we need to see that our reward is not recognition, but rather, it is knowing that we have pleased God by serving others.

*Fr. Mark*

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## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

"You do not need to know precisely what is happening, or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and challenges offered by the present moment, and to embrace them with courage, faith and hope."  
- Thomas Merton

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## PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

***Avelinda Toledo, Cecilia Tracy,  
Marg Davey***



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

***Gallagher, Gallo, Geberlein,  
Giliauskas, Gomes, Gouveia***

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**2025 Envelopes are still available in the hall. Tax Receipts are available at the back of the church, in somewhat alphabetical order.**

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**Bulletins** are available online at:

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

Acton Ministerial association is hosting its annual Lenten Lunches at St. Alban's Church. At 12:00 noon every Wednesday starting Ash Wednesday (March 5th), ending on the Wednesday of Holy Week (April 16th).

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**FEBRUARY 16, 2025**

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (February 17 – February 23)	REQUESTED BY:
Tue. 7:00 p.m.	Living and Deceased Members of the Vrscaj and Mervar Families	Anne Marie Vrscaj
Wed. 9:00 a.m.	Nestor Peczeniuk	Kazi and Zorika
Thurs. 7:00 p.m.	Sick of Our Parish	
Fri. 9:00 a.m.	Grace Mendes	Her parents
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Janine Milton</i>	Geralda Savoie
Sun. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Fran Marcoux Pro populo	Tim and Cathy Coles



**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.	K of C General
Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Acton Sharing



<b>Sat. Feb 22</b>	<b>5 p.m.</b>	
Lector	Chris	
Ex. Minister	Patricia	
<b>Sun. Feb 23</b>	<b>9 a.m.</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
Lector	Jay	Cheryl
Ex. Minister	Kazi	Lorin

**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.

**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.

**Free Community Skate!** Sponsored by the Acton Ministerial Association  
 Sunday, February 23rd. At the Acton arena.  
 Skating 3:00 - 4:20  
 Refreshments 3:30-5:30

**OPENING THE HOLY DOOR: SPRING BOOK CLUB**

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to join us for a four-week virtual book club, exploring the new book by Joan Watson, *"Opening the Holy Door."* Tuesdays from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. **March 18-April 8, 2025.** Together we will reflect on the beautiful images of mercy and hope found on the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, open to pilgrims and visitors throughout the Jubilee Year. Join us for this time of prayer and conversation, drawing into deeper fellowship during this Jubilee of Hope. Registration can be made here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>

**RCIA** As we approach Lent, the Diocese of Hamilton will celebrate the Rite of Election at 1:30 p.m. on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, ON, for all parishes in the Diocese. The Rite of Election closes the catechumenate period and begins the Elect's final spiritual preparation to celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.





**Knights of Columbus**

St. Joseph's Council #8050  
Ian Nolan, 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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