

St. Joseph's Parish

760 St. David Street North, Fergus, Ontario N1M 2K9
Tel: 519-843-2006 Email: stjosephfergus@hamiltondiocese.com
Web Page: www.stjosephfergus.org



PASTOR: Fr. Robert Héту, P.P.

DEACON: Rev. Mr. Trevor Klein

SECRETARY: Mrs. Lori Cipparrone

CUSTODIAN: Mr. Kevin Shea

SACRISTANS: Brigitte Quinke & Catherine Cyr.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Parish Secretary will be available
Mon - Thurs 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fridays from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS

All week 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. in the chapel all day

PASTORAL CARE FOR THE SICK

If you know of a parishioner sick at home or in hospital, please contact the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m. Please speak with with Deacon Trevor Klein after Sunday Masses before setting date for Baptism. There are no baptisms during Lent.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

We encourage everyone who regularly attends St. Joseph's to become a registered member. Please fill out a registration form found at the main door and deposit it in the collection basket.

Sunday offering envelopes are available on request.

Please inform the parish office of any changes of address or telephone number.

PRIESTHOOD/RELIGIOUS LIFE

If you think God may be calling you to the vocation of Priesthood or Religious Life, please feel free to speak with Fr. Robert Héту or contact our Diocesan Vocation Director at 1-905-528-7988.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

The Diocese of Hamilton requires one year notice before a marriage date can be set. A Marriage Preparation Weekend is also required.

From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Robert Héту



Homecoming is the central theme of the scripture readings for the Second Sunday of Advent. All three readings focus on the absolute necessity of our getting ready for the 'Homecoming' of Jesus into our hearts and lives by true repentance, reparation, prayer, and the renewal of our lives. They also remind us that 'the past' or the first coming of Jesus some 2000 plus years ago, 'the present' or daily coming of Jesus into our lives, and 'the future' or Second Coming of Jesus are actually the fulfillment of God's saving plan for us, from all eternity.

The Gospel tells us, through John the Baptist, how we should prepare to receive Jesus our Saviour's 'coming home' into our lives during the Advent season. We should prepare to receive the peace of Jesus by repentance and the renewal of life. John preached that the appropriate behaviour for those preparing "*the way of the Lord*" was to be baptized as they confessed their sins.

We need to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus. We are invited by the Church to prepare for Christmas by repenting of our sins and renewing our lives so that Jesus may be reborn in us and give us the gift of peace. Let us ask with 18th-century English poet Alexander Pope the challenging question, "What do I profit, if Jesus is born in thousands of cribs all over the world unless he is born in my heart and in my life?"

John the Baptist invites us to turn this Advent season into a real spiritual 'homecoming' by making the necessary preparations for the arrival of the Saviour and his entrance into our lives. In the words of St. Peter from our second reading, "*Beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace.*" Lord, enkindle in us peace.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Be poor among the poor. We need to include the excluded and preach **peace.**" ~ Pope Francis

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: Parents examining their child's mid-term report card: "Johnny, at least, with these grades, we know you couldn't possibly be cheating."



Welcome to St. Joseph's Parish
We extend a warm welcome to all.
We pray that you feel at home.
Please introduce yourself and
Consider becoming a member
of our Family of Faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday December 12, 2023

7:00pm **Jacob Cornelisse** – Mary Epoch
Raffaella Nacchia – The Richard Family
Intentions of Chester Buczek - Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

8:30am **Jacob Cornelisse** – Grace Robinson
Madeline Dodds – Mary Epoch

2:00pm **Caressant Care Mass**

Thursday, December 14, 2023

8:30am **Nancy Haid** – Mary Epoch
Intentions of Chester Buczek – Mac & Gail Brown

Friday, December 15, 2023

8:30am **Fred and Arlene Blackmore** – Tove Schmidt
9:20am **St. Joseph School Liturgy of the Word for Advent**

Saturday, December 16, 2023

3:30-4:30pm **Expanded Confession Time**

5:00pm **Joan Schumacher** – Cam Schumacher
Michael Dignard – The Simms Family
Dina Janssen – Mary Epoch
Intentions of Fr. Bob Bulbrook – Dolores Schmidt

Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:00am **Cynthia Monkhouse** – Ted, Marlene & Chester Buczek

11:00am **Intentions of the Parish**

Parish Offerings

Your contributions for December 2 & 3, 2023:

| | |
|--------------------|------------|
| Regular Offerings | \$1,730.00 |
| Christmas Offering | \$ 90.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 126.40 |

Second Sunday of Advent - December 10, 2023

John the Baptist is sent by God to prepare the way for His Son. In our present time God sends priests, religious and deacons to prepare the people to receive His Son. If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, call **Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.**



Join Us for Christmas Carols

If you are planning to attend Midnight Mass this Christmas, the Choir would like to extend an invitation to join them for Christmas carols beginning at 11:30pm. Help us ring in the birth of Baby Jesus!



Last Knights' Charity Breakfast of 2023!

Join the Knights of Columbus **this Sunday** after both Masses for the last breakfast of the year. Take a bit of time out of the Christmas hustle and bustle to have breakfast and enjoy some fellowship with parishioners!

St. Joseph's Parish Catholic Women's League - Donations for 2023

A cheque for \$3000 was recently presented to Groves Memorial Hospital to fund a portable hand-held SpO2 monitor for the complex continuing care unit. Other organizations and people that have received cash donations from the CWL this year included Michael House, St. Joseph's Parish Building Fund, St. Joseph's School. A Ukrainian family and Portage Rehabilitation Centre for Youth. Cash donations totaled \$5,911.24 in 2023. The Catholic Women's League is grateful for the support of parishioners and members! Together, we can make a difference! It is a great time to join our league as we begin to plan for 2024 and our 100th Anniversary of the St. Joseph's Parish Catholic Women's League!

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Potluck Christmas lunch for men & women 55+ December 14 at 12:00 in the Parish Hall. Soup and a bun will be provided by the CWL. You may wish to bring a small sweet or savoury dish to share. RSVP to Barbara at 519-843-2088.

Church Keys

If you have borrowed keys for the Church, please return them to the Church Office as soon as possible.

REMINDER

Minister of the Word Workshop

A reminder to all Ministers of the Word that our Mandate Workshop is taking place on December 16th in the Parish hall. Lunch will be provided. Check in starts at 9:30am and the workshop will run until 3pm. Space to join is still available if you would like to attend. Just contact the office and let us know.

This weekend come see Handcrafted Religious Items from the Holy Land

On **December 9th & 10th**, we will be displaying some of the beautiful art created by Christians in the Holy Land. Be sure to stop by the tables and take a look at the wonderful items available.

Christmas Floral Tributes

Order forms for Christmas Floral Tributes to honour our deceased loved ones can be found in the Narthex. Order forms are due back by **Friday, December 22nd**.

The Tree of Hope

Just a reminder that all tags and gifts must be returned to the Church by **December 17th**. All gifts are to be delivered to families on **December 18th**. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

REMINDER!!

Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed both the people and their Baby Jesus figurine from their family nativity set in St. Peter's Square. The blessing takes place on Gaudette Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. Our parish will celebrate Bambinelli Sunday on **December 16 & 17** at all the Mass. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figure from your home to Mass that day to be blessed. After the blessing we suggest you take your "bambinelli" home and place it in a gift box, wrap it, and open it on Christmas day and place your Baby Jesus figure in the crib.

Upcoming Parish Events

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| December 9 | Religious Articles from the Holy Land after all Masses |
| December 10 | Knights of Columbus Charity Breakfast |
| December 13 | John Miller & Friends Concert 7pm |
| December 14 | 55+ Christmas Potluck Lunch Noon |
| December 16 | Minister of the Word Formation Workshop 9:30am to 3:00pm |
| December 16&17 | Bambinelli Sunday at all Masses |
| December 16&17 | ALL DONATIONS FOR THE TREE OF HOPE MUST BE RETURNED |
| December 24 | Sunday Masses as usual, + Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm and 8pm |
| December 25 | Christmas Day Masses at 12:00am and 10:00 am |
| December 31 | Regular Sunday Masses + New Year's Eve Mass at 5pm |
| Dec. 26 – 29, inc. | No weekday Masses |
| January 1, 2024 | New Year's Day Mass – 10am |
| January 2, 2024 | No weekday Mass |

Sew What?!



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