

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



On the third Sunday of Advent, the common theme of the today's scripture readings is one of joy and encouragement. This Sunday is called '*Gaudete Sunday*' because the Mass for today (in its original Latin text), begins with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper*" — "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" To remind ourselves that we are preparing for the very joyful occasion of the birth of Jesus, we light the rose candle, and the priest often wears rose vestments. The readings urge us to make the preparations required of us as we await the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and lives. Holy Scripture reminds us that the coming of Jesus, past, present, and future, is the reason for our rejoicing.

We need to bear witness to the Light of Christ. Our mission as brothers and sisters of Jesus and members of the Church is to reflect the Light of Christ to others, just as the moon reflects the light of the sun. It is especially important during the Advent season that we reflect the sharing love of Jesus and God's unconditional forgiveness. There are too many people who live in darkness and poverty, and who lack real freedom because of their evil addictions and bad choices. There are others who are deafened and blinded by the cheap attractions of the world. Many others feel lonely, unwanted, rejected, and marginalized. Let us bring the true Light of Christ to illumine the lives of all these brothers and sisters during this Advent season through our sharing love, overflowing mercy, unconditional forgiveness, and humble service. We will be able to accomplish this witnessing mission of radiating the Light of Christ only by repenting of our sins, asking God's pardon every day and renewing our lives by our daily prayers, by frequenting the Sacrament of Reconciliation, by attending and taking part in the Eucharistic celebration, by reading the Bible in a meditative, prayerful fashion and by performing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy where we see these are needed. Let us be reflective moons of God the Son, just as the moon reflects the light of the earthly sun.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Joy adapts and changes, but it always endures." ~ Pope Francis

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"



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 19, 2023

7:00pm **Jacob Cornelisse** – Elaine Taylor
Deceased parents of Michael & Julie Reidy –
The Reidy Family

7:30-8:30pm **Confession**

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

8:30am **Pierre Ouellette** – Elaine Taylor

9:00-10:00am **Confessions**

Thursday, December 21, 2023

8:30am **Barbara Buczek & Cynthia Monkhouse** – Ted,
Marlene & Chester Buczek

Friday, December 22, 2023

8:30am **Bob Landoni** – Laurie Landoni
Intentions of Laura Downham – Mo & John
Rutherford

9:20am **St. Joseph School Advent Mass**

Saturday, December 23, 2023

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

5:00pm **Antonio and Antonio Jr. Tixieira** – Jack & Maria
Nunes

Don Wellstead – Terri Wellstead

Sunday, December 24, 2023

9:00am **Intentions of the Parish**

11:00am **Peter Rooyakkers** – Diane Rooyakker & Family
Stafford Sheehy – Jim & Peggy Sheehy

Parish Offerings

Your contributions for December 9 & 10, 2023:

Regular Offerings	\$2,245.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 45.00
Christmas Floral Tributes	\$ 350.00
Building Fund	\$ 270.00

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17, 2023

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.
email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



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**Christmas Midnight Mass at
The Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King**

The traditional Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI and will be livestreamed on their [YouTube channel](#).

A Christmas Message from Michael House

Michael House has issued, for the first time, a simple, short and celebratory message on Christmas Joy. Click this link to see their message:

<https://youtu.be/pHX4mfki4Wc>



Join the Choir 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!

Christmas Floral Tributes

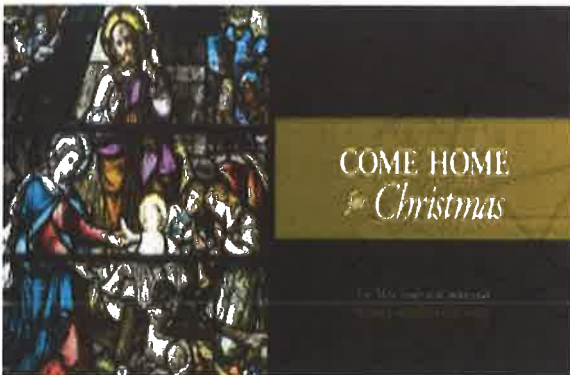
Order forms for Christmas Floral Tributes to honour our deceased loved ones can be found in the Narthex. Order forms are due back by **Friday, December 22nd**.

**St. Joseph Catholic Women's League
Newsletter**

Enclosed with this week's bulletin you will find a copy of the CWL Newsletter. Please have a look!

Baby Blankets/Afgan

There are a few beautiful cozy items from the bazaar, available for sale, in the office entrance shelving display.



Confirmation Parent and Candidate Meeting

Grade seven students and their parents are asked to attend an important meeting on January 18, 2024 in St. Joseph Church at 7pm. Please mark this date in your calendars as it you will be getting.

Grief Relief

A 6-week program using Dr. Bill Webster's grief material, this program is intended to help you to understand your grief and provides practical tips for helping you through. In Hamilton, this program is offered twice a year, in the Spring and Fall and all are welcome to attend. Programs are provided by trained facilitators. Wednesday January 17, 2024 - February 21, 2024 from 1:30-3pm. Where: Chancery Office (700 King St. West Hamilton) OR join us on zoom. If you are joining by zoom please contact the office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 so we can send you the link each week.

FORMED

During your Advent preparations, be sure to take some time to visit Formed.org for some excellent resources including "Advent" with Dr. Tim Gray, and several videos for children.



Prayer For Advent

I pray for focus today, dear God, because during Advent, my mind and attention tend to wander. There are so many distractions, many of them well-meaning. But nothing gives my heart rest like resting in You. I pray that keep You at the focus of my day today, because I know the peace that only You offer. Amen.

Upcoming Parish Events

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

See What?!



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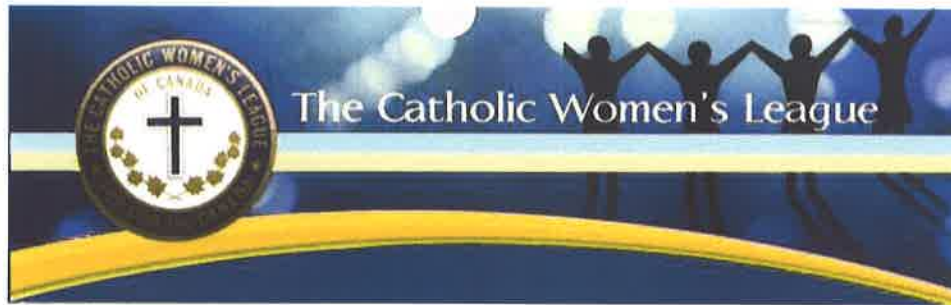


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St. Joseph Parish, Fergus Catholic Women's League

THANK-YOU

Thank-you to everyone who donated items and gift cards to our Tree of Hope! Your generosity will make a difference in someone's life this Christmas! Thank-you also to Omar at Swiss Chalet/Harvey's for his generosity in providing complimentary meals to sponsored families in our school community.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN OUR LEAGUE

In January, we begin a new year and set new goals. We are looking for new members!! Please join us as we plan for the year ahead. It will be a very special year as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the CWL at St. Joseph's Parish!

MEETING TIME CHANGE

Please note that for January and February, we will be changing our meeting day and time to after the 11:00 Sunday Masses. Our next gathering will be on **Sunday, January 21 at 12:00**. A light lunch will be provided. All ladies are welcome.

MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE

Our CWL membership fees (\$38) are due on **January 1, 2024**. Please use the envelope found in your envelope box or use any envelope marked with your name, phone number and "CWL Membership". Place it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Church office. If you encounter difficulty covering the cost of the membership, please let Sue know at sbeatty14@gmail.com

Your Support Makes Our Work Possible



Proceeds from your 2023 Bazaar funded a Portable Hand-Held SpO₂ Monitor for Complex Continuing Care (similar to the one pictured). This monitor measures patient's parts per million (ppm) and % oxygen (\$3,000).



Thank you for your generous support from last year's Bazaar, which also raised \$3,000 to fund vital equipment and technological tools. Your support allows us to continue to treat our patients, close to home.



Labour & Delivery Nurses pictured with an Infant Warming Cot. It was funded by gifts like your \$3,000 donation in 2022 & enhances care for our tiniest patients.



Many of the items on the Capital List for 2023-24 are also for our Surgical Services Department and will benefit our **nearly 4,000** surgical patients.



Our Complex Continuing Care Unit Staff are thankful for your generous support of this new item, to help them better treat their patients at the bedside during extended hospital stays.



Catholic Women's League of Canada - St. Joseph's Parish, Fergus is currently listed at the **\$10,000-24,999 Level**, thanks to your generous continued support since your first gift in 2005.