

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



The central theme of today's readings is the warning of Jesus to us to be alert, watchful, and prepared because the Second Coming of Jesus, coinciding with the end of the world, can occur at any moment. People, in general, used to have a paranoid fear about the end of the world. They expected it in A.D. 204, 999 and 2000. The title of a best-seller published in 1988 was *101 Reasons Why Christ Returns in 1988*. A very popular film released in 1999 about the Second Coming of Jesus was *Omega Code*, and another film released in 2005 was *Left Behind*.

The Church invites us on this first Sunday of Advent to prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus: first, by properly preparing for the upcoming Christmas season, by truly celebrating the fond memory of the first coming of Jesus some 2000+ years ago; second, by experiencing the daily advent or coming of Jesus in our lives through the Mass, in the Holy Bible and in the worshipping community; and third, by preparing for the Second Coming of Jesus which, for us, will happen at the unknown moment of our death and/or at the end of the world.

We should live, in **hope**, in the living presence of Jesus every day waiting for his Second Coming. The early Christians experienced it, and that is why the mutual greeting among Christians was not 'Hi!' or 'Good Morning!' but the Aramaic, '*Maranatha*' which means "Come, Lord Jesus." This greeting acknowledged that Jesus is present in each of them and is about to return. May Jesus bless us, fill our hearts with **hope** and keep us ever prepared for his second coming, every day but especially during this Advent season.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "May Advent be a time of **hope** [as] we go to encounter the Lord who comes to encounter us." ~ Pope Francis

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: While a man had gone out driving to do some Christmas shopping, his wife had been listening to the radio, when she heard the announcer say, "Be very careful and watch when driving on highway 6 today, there is a motorist driving the wrong way!" His wife got hold of him on the cell phone to warn him, and his reply was, "You tell me, there are hundreds of them here!" Are we going the wrong way in the 'Christmas' rush? Have forgotten Advent?



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 5, 2023 *SPECIAL TIME*

5:00pm **Deceased CWL Members and Deceased Spiritual Advisers**

Dina Janssen – Gord & Barbara VanderVoort

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

8:30am **Intentions of the Nunes Family** – Maria Nunes

Thursday, December 7, 2023

8:30am **Ron Cuddie** – Mary Epoch

Intentions of Tina LaSalle – Dolores Schmidt

Friday, December 8, 2023

8:30am **Intentions of Heather & Scott Cannon** – Tove Schmidt

9:20 **St. Joseph School Liturgy of the Word for Advent**

Saturday, December 9, 2023

5:00pm **Joan Schumacher** – Cam Schumacher

Michael Dignard – The Simms Family

Dina Janssen – Mary Epoch

Intentions of Fr. Bob Bulbrook – Dolores Schmidt

Sunday, December 10, 2023

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

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

Parish Offerings

Your contributions for November 26, 2023:

Regular Offerings	\$1,813.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 20.00
Building Fund	\$1,190.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$1,170.56

First Sunday of Advent - December 3, 2023

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, **contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.**



**Saturday, December 23rd:**

Regular Sunday Mass at 5pm

Sunday, December 24th:

Regular Sunday Masses 9am & 11am

Christmas Eve Masses 5pm and 8pm

Monday, December 25th:

Christmas Day Masses – Midnight and 10am

Sunday, December 31st:

Regular Sunday Masses at 9am and 11am

New Year's Eve Mass 5pm

Monday, January 1st:

New Year's Day Mass 10am

Extra Confession Times During Advent

As a part of our Advent preparations, we are all encouraged to go to Confession and Fr. Robert has added the following addition times for Confession during Advent:

Tuesday, December 19 7:30 – 8:30pm

Wednesday, December 20 9:00 – 10:00am

Thursday, December 21 9:00 – 10:00am

The regular Confession times on Fridays and Saturdays will also be available.

Vocations Mass and Young Adults Night – January 5th – Hamilton

The Serra Club of Hamilton invites all parishioners to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Rd W, Hamilton, ON L9C 2V2). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact:

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Handcrafted Religious Items from the Holy Land

The main income for the Christian community of Bethlehem-The Birth Place of Jesus-is selling their handcrafted olive wood religious items to the pilgrims who visit the area. The past few years have been extremely hard for the community as a result of declining tourism. Some Christians responded by fleeing the Holy Land, and the absence of a living Christian community is very dangerous for the Holy Sites such as the Church of The Nativity. On **December,9th & 10th**, we will be having some of their beautiful art held for sale in this parish after all Masses.

Christmas Floral Tributes

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

The Tree of Hope

St. Joseph's CWL are once again collecting items for 'The Tree of Hope' for this Christmas. Items collected will be going to parish families in need as well as Elora House. Each tag on the tree will be a request for a particular item. If you take a tag, please bring back your item/items clearly marked and place them under the tree on or before the weekend of December 16-17. Thank you, in advance, for your generosity.

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

Upcoming Parish Events

December 5	Mass at 5pm, CWL Christmas Dinner with Elora at 6pm
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

Christmas Floral Tributes



At this very special time of the year, our thoughts often turn to those who are no longer with us. Since we would like to include them in our Christmas celebrations, we at St. Joseph Parish would like to offer the opportunity to honour their memory through CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTES.

Should you wish to have flowers placed in the Church in memory of your loved ones, please fill out the form below and return it to the Church office or drop in the collection basket during weekend Masses. All requests must be received by December 22nd.

Over Christmas, the name of your deceased loved ones will be placed on the Altar and remembered at each Mass offered at St. Joseph Church.

This Christmas Floral Tribute in
Loving Memory of:

Through the Kindness of

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