

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.

SECRETARY: Mrs. Lori Cipparrone

CUSTODIAN:

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.
Fri 9:00 a.m. - noon

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 normally celebrated on the 1st Sunday of the month at 1:00pm (max. four families). They are also normally celebrated on the third Saturday of the month at the 5pm mass and/or the third Sunday at the 11am Mass (one family per Mass only). Baptisms are not done during Lent. Parents are required to attend a Baptismal Prep class. For more information, please contact Fr. Robert to set up a meeting.

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



Have you read any good books or seen any great plays? I would like to share with you some quotes from one of my favourite books (and stage play for that matter), the classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

Atticus Finch, who is a lawyer and single father says to his inquiring daughter Jean Louise, affectionately known as Scout, who is the narrator of the story, "The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is a person's conscience." He adds, "You never really know a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb inside of his skin and walk around in it."

Today is *The World Day of the Poor*. "We remember those who suffer and struggle to make ends meet." (Christl Dabu – Sunday Missal 2023-2024) Pope Francis reminds us that *The World Day of the Poor*. "Is a pastoral opportunity not to be underestimated, for it challenges every believer to listen to the prayer of the poor, becoming aware of their presence and needs. It is an opportune occasion to implement initiatives that concretely help the poor and to recognize and support the many volunteers who dedicate themselves passionately to those most in need... The poor still have much to teach us because in a culture that has placed wealth at the forefront and often sacrifices the dignity of people on the altar of material goods, they swim against the tide, highlighting that what is essential for life is something else entirely." (*Message of his Holiness Pope Francis for the Eight World Day of the Poor*.)

Returning to the classic novel. I leave you with the special words of Miss Maudie Atkinson, an elderly spinster, who shares: "Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it is a sin to kill a mockingbird."

Again, Pope Francis reminds us: "We are called in every circumstance to be *friends of the poor*, following in the footsteps of Jesus who always began by showing solidarity when dealing with the least among us." Let us do the same!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "When you say, 'I'm sorry,' look the person in the eye. When you say, 'I love you,' mean it." ~ Author Unknown



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 faith family.

Prayer Intentions

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

7:00pm **Larry Cyr**

Intentions of Zofia Kacprzak

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

8:30am **Alf Fischer – Robin Rogers**

Thursday, November 21, 2024

8:30am **Al Fischer – Elaine Taylor**

Friday, November 22, 2024

8:30am **Intentions of Donald and Melanie Trump**

Saturday, November 23, 2024

5:00pm **Brad Landoni – St. Joseph School Staff & Students**

Larry Cyr & Deceased members of the Kowalchuk Family

Tony O'Neill - Marilyn & Denise Quigley & Family

Alf Fischer – Lena & Tom Nudds

Sunday, November 24, 2024

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

11:00am **Brad Landoni – Grace Robinson**

Parish Offerings for November 9 & 10, 2024

Regular Collection	\$ 2,810.85
Building Fund	\$ 670.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 10.00

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - November 17, 2024

If we dare to trust God with our lives, great things happen. Give God your total self for, when the end of times comes, the wise and those who work for justice will shine forever. Dedicate your life to furthering the reign of God. If you feel God may be calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon in His Church, call **Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, at 905-528-7988.email vocations@hamiltondocese.com**

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL:

Timmy didn't want to put his money in the offering plate Sunday morning, so his mother decided to use some hurried creative reasoning with him. "You don't want that money, honey," she whispered in his ear. "Quick! Drop it in the plate. It's tainted!" Horrified, the little boy obeyed. After a few seconds he whispered, "But, mommy, why was the money tainted? Was it dirty?" "Oh, no dear," she replied. "It's not really dirty. It just 'taint yours, and it 'taint mine," she replied. "It's God's."



Second Annual Gators Give

St. Joseph School Parent Council is once again holding their ***Gators Give Shop & Social*** event to help families of their school community this Christmas. Parents, grandparents, staff, members of St. Joseph Parish and community are asked to donate new or gently used toys from November 24 to December 4. All donations can be dropped off at the school or the church. Parents will then be invited to shop for Christmas gifts on December 5 & 6 for their children at no cost to them. The support this event provides families for Christmas is a blessing! Please consider helping a young family by making a donation. Thank you in advance for your support!

Prepare: An Advent Reflection With Cardinal Thomas Collins

Please join us at **St. Mary Immaculate Church, Elora** for an afternoon of preparation and reflection including prayer, music, reflection and a talk by special guest, Thomas Cardinal Collins. Mark your calendars now for the First Sunday of Advent, **December 1st at 2:00 p.m.** Free will offering. Sponsored by: St. Mary's CWL and Knights of Columbus St. Mary and St. Joseph.

Advent Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 1 at 4:00pm

The weeks before Christmas are usually a hurried time of shopping, preparations, and card writing. For Christians, however, these weeks should be marked by prayerful preparation for the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity. You are welcome to begin Advent this year with an ***Advent Service of Lessons and Carols***, at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. This service will be a reflection on the Season of Advent through Scripture and Music, following a format that has been used for almost a century at St. John's College, Cambridge. This year's service will begin at 4:00pm on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2024. Please come and bring a friend!

Novena for The

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Once again, this year a Novena (*nine days*) of Masses leading to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph. Novena Masses will be held at 7:30 each morning from November 30 to December 8, and will include the Novena Prayers, and a reflection on Our Lady in the life of Christ, and the life of the Church. On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, December 9 this year, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration at the Basilica following Morning Prayer at 8:30am, until Vespers and Benediction at 6:15pm. The Solemn Mass of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at 7:00pm. As the Diocese's Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Plenary Indulgence is granted, under the usual conditions, for any of the faithful who make a pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Called to Witness & Proclaim: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family

On October 9th, 2024, the Episcopal Commission for Evangelization and Catechesis of the English Sector of Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) released a beautiful document titled, *Called to Witness and Proclaim: A Pastoral Letter on Evangelization and Catechesis in the Family*. The letter, which is a beautiful message to families, can be found by looking on the left hand side of the diocesan website under Departments and Programs in the Family Ministry Office section and then look under parenting and grandparenting. (hamiltondiocese.com)

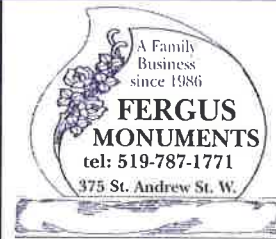
Upcoming Parish Events

November 24	CWL General Meeting, 12pm
November 26	Knights of Columbus General Meeting
November 27	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 4pm
December 1	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
December 3	CWL Christmas Dinner (Fergus & Elora). Mass at 5pm, Dinner at 6pm Tickets are \$30 each.
December 7	First Confession 11am to 12pm
December 11	Caressant Care Mass 10:30am

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St. Joseph's Parish Catholic Women's League News

November 2024

The Catholic Women's League of Canada calls its members to grow in faith, and to witness to the love of God through ministry and service.

You can contact St. Joseph's CWL President at sbeatty14@gmail.com

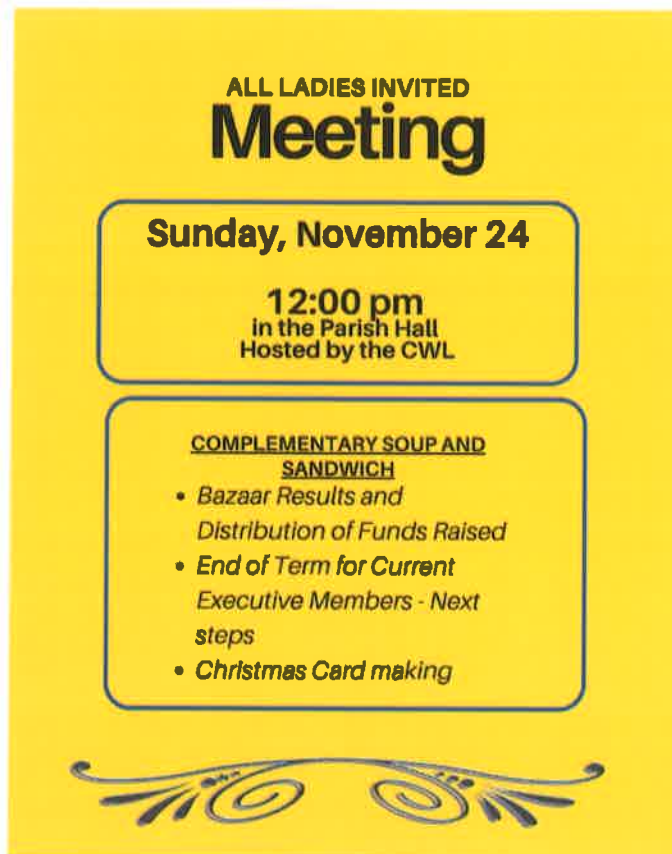
The first Sunday of Advent is December 1. The Advent season reminds us about the importance of Christ in our lives and prepares us to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas. The first Sunday, lighting of the first candle signals that Jesus is coming; the second Sunday, the candle is lit to celebrate faith - that Mary and Joseph undertook the journey to Bethlehem; the third Sunday, the candle is to celebrate joy - to remember Mary as the Mother of Jesus; the fourth Sunday, the candle symbolizes peace as the message from the angels is "peace on earth and goodwill towards men"

Heavenly Father, Give me the strength to have the same trust in You that Mary had, as she awaited the birth of Jesus.



2024 St. Joseph's Parish Annual Bazaar

Thank-you to everyone who volunteered and participated in the St. Joseph's Parish Annual Bazaar this year! It was a great success because of your support! Please join us at our CWL gathering on Sunday, November 24th at 12:00 in the Parish Hall for more details about the funds raised!



A MESSAGE FROM THE ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH CWL PRESIDENT

St. Joseph's Parish CWL Council - Next Steps

Our current CWL executive is nearing the end of their term. As the president for the last two years, it has been my honour and pleasure working with the executive members to generate ideas, share information and make group decisions to plan activities for our members, especially during the 100th anniversary of the CWL at St. Joseph's Parish!

In January a new council will be elected and will continue the task of carrying forward the rich tradition of the Catholic Women's League at St. Joseph's Parish. It is exciting to reflect on the work we've accomplished over the past two years, especially the milestones we celebrated as part of our centennial anniversary. Together, we've strengthened our sense of community, supported important initiatives, and worked to make a meaningful impact both within the parish and beyond.

As we prepare for the transition to the new executive, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each member of the current executive for their dedication, time, and contributions. Their commitment has been invaluable. I encourage all members to consider how they might contribute in the coming year, whether through leadership roles

or supporting the ongoing projects of the CWL. There is much to look forward to as we enter this new chapter of our parish life together.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sue Beatty
President, St. Joseph's Parish CWL

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

During the month of November and December we will be asking ladies to consider joining the CWL at St. Joseph's Parish and to also consider a leadership role. Here is a brief outline of the roles available on the executive council.

President

- The president presides over meetings, including executive meetings and general membership meetings. They ensure meetings are orderly, productive, and focused on the CWL's mission.
- The president plays a role in overseeing the planning and execution of CWL events, activities, and initiatives, such as fundraisers, social gatherings, retreats, and community service projects goals.

Secretary

- The secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of executive meetings, general membership meetings, and any special meetings. These minutes must accurately reflect the discussions, decisions made, and any follow-up actions required.
- After the meetings, the secretary distributes the minutes to all council members, ensuring that everyone is informed of the outcomes and any important follow-up tasks.

The Treasurer

- The treasurer helps prepare the annual budget for the parish council, working closely with other council members to assess income and expenses for the upcoming year.
- They regularly monitor the financial situation, providing reports to the council on income, expenditures, and any other financial matters.
- The treasurer keeps accurate records of all financial transactions, including receipts, payments, donations, and other financial activities. These records must be kept up to date and secure.

The Vice President

- In many cases, the vice president will take on specific tasks or oversee particular areas of the council's work, such as membership, programs, or outreach, helping to share the overall leadership load.
- If the president is absent, ill, or otherwise unavailable, the vice president assumes the president's duties, chairing meetings, making decisions, and representing the council as needed.

The Faith Chairperson

- The Faith Chairperson works to deepen the faith of CWL members through prayer, education, and spiritual activities. This can include organizing retreats, reflection days, prayer services, or study groups.
- The Faith Chairperson ensures that the CWL's work aligns with Catholic teachings. They may provide resources for members to learn more about Catholic theology, social justice issues, and the role of women in the Church.

The Service Chairperson

- The Service Chairperson plays a vital role in organizing and overseeing charitable and community-oriented activities.
- They plan and coordinate projects that serve the needs of the parish and the broader community. This could include organizing food drives, supporting shelters, helping at soup kitchens, or providing aid to the sick, elderly, or less fortunate.

The Social Justice Chairperson

- The Social Justice Chairperson informs council members and parishioners about social justice issues, including poverty, human trafficking, environmental stewardship, Indigenous rights, mental health, and more. This often involves organizing educational sessions, distributing informational materials, or inviting guest speakers.

You may wish to become a committee member to one of the three chairpersons. This is not an elected position but a very important role.

- Committee members work closely with their chairperson, helping plan, organize, and execute activities. They may assist with event logistics, communication, or gathering resources for initiatives.

A NOMINATION FORM is included in this newsletter. Any member may submit a nomination form. A member may be nominated for more than one office. All nomination forms must be signed and returned by **December 15, 2024**. Nomination forms can be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Church office or in the collection basket.

A list of all active members eligible for positions on the CWL Board, outlining all previous positions they have held will be available at the meeting on November 24th in the Parish Hall at 12pm.



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Tuesday, December 3, 2024
5:00 Mass followed by dinner at 6:30

\$30 per person

Catered Turkey Dinner
The meal includes: apple or tomato juice, salad, turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, two kinds of vegetables, roll, dessert, tea/coffee

St. Joseph's Parish Hall

Tickets will be on sale from November 2-24 after Masses.

