

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



On this weekend of **peace**, as we continue to celebrate this grace filled season of Advent, may it be for us a time of hope and of great expectation. May the sacredness of Advent keep us sane in a world that has run amuck regarding buying and spending and futile attempts to get status by what we purchase, have or do.

Many years ago, I saw a church sign that invited us to do three things this Advent: RETELL, RECLAIM and REFORM. Let us retell the pre-Christmas and Christmas story, especially to our loved ones and to ourselves. Let us reclaim this Good News story and its graces of hope, **peace**, joy and love, especially for our loved ones and for ourselves. And let us reform—that is 'decide to' and 'actually live' our lives as the story invites us to do.

A thirteenth century hymn that we all know so well reads:

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Until the Son of God appears.
And ransom captive Israel,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Shall come to you, O Israel.

As we attempt to come closer to our God, let us also return to our historical roots in the Bible and truly become instruments of **peace**. May our prayer this second week of Advent be, "Lord, fill us with **peace**." Let the great **Adventure** continue.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding." ~ Albert Einstein

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: The goldfish died after living in a bowl that was in the family room for several years. The first time the babysitter came over after the fish died, she immediately noticed the empty bowl. "Where's Goldie?" she asked. Without hesitating, the family's three-year-old shot back, "Oh, he's swimming with God in heaven!"



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

Monday, December 9, 2024

7:00pm **Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

5:00pm **Intentions of Mario & Carol Lopes – Don & Barbara Cassidy
Jude Winterbottom – A Friend
Deceased Parents of Michael & Julie Reidy
– The Reidy Family
Special Intentions**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

8:30am **Jim Holland – Mary Epoch**
10:30am **Caressant Care Mass**

Thursday, December 12, 2024

8:30am **Zofia Kacprzak – Mary Epoch**

Friday, December 13, 2024

8:30am **Jim Holland**
9:15am **St. Joseph School Mass
Allan Boyd and
Jon Goralewski – St. Joseph School Staff
and Students**

Saturday, December 14, 2024

3:30-4:30 **Extended Confession Time**
5:00pm **Eileen Tonin – Joanne & Wayne England
Brad Landoni – Mary Waterman
Steven Keating – Joanne & Wayne England**

Sunday, December 15, 2024

9:00am **Intentions of Thomas Clerkin**
11:00am **Intentions of the Parish**

Parish Offerings for December 1, 2024

Regular Collection	\$ 1,902.25
Building Fund	\$ 315.00

Second Sunday of Advent - December 8, 2024

Could God be calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, or sister to help our world of today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

**Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

You are invited to join Fr. Robert on Monday,
December 9th at 7:00pm for Mass on the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception. Everyone one is welcome.



Bambinelli Sunday – December 14 & 15, 2024

Inserted in this weekend’s bulletin you will find information regarding Bambinelli Sunday which takes place on Gaudette Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. Families are encouraged to bring their Baby Jesus figure to Mass and have it blessed. Please see the enclosed for more information.



Christmas Floral Tributes

During the holidays, often our thoughts turn to those loved ones that we have lost. If you would like to honour their memory you can contribute a donation in their name through a Christmas Floral Tribute. Enclosed in this week’s bulletin you will find the request form – you can return in the collection baskets or drop off at the Church. Please be sure to return your request by the weekend of December 21 & 22. All names will be placed on the Altar and remembered at each Mass over Christmas.

Critical Mass Experience

Join Critical Mass for a one-of-a-kind Christmas show! Experience an interactive, multi-media extravaganza that’s sure to fill you with holiday cheer. From festive tunes to dazzling visuals, this show will be the perfect way to kick off your holiday season! Showtime: 7:30 PM December 17th at St. Joseph in Fergus. Tickets: Only \$10. A portion of the proceeds will support the parish and the incredible work of www.Chalice.ca



Tree of Hope

This Advent season, please consider choosing a tag from the tree in the narthex to support members of the St. Joseph’s School community, Portage or Elora House. Place the tag and the gift card of your choice, in an envelope and place in the box at the tree by December 15! Thank you for your support.

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples – December 12, 2024

Included with this bulletin, please find information on the upcoming National Day of Prayer including a beautiful prayer and information on how you can participate in a Webinar where Indigenous leaders in Catholic Education will lead this reflection.

**CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHOSEN:
December 12, 2024 (7:00-8:00pm)**

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites you to a live virtual viewing party of “The Shepherd”, a special Christmas episode of “*The Chosen*,” reflecting on the birth of Christ through the eyes of a young shepherd. This one hour gathering will include prayer, free streaming of the 20-minute episode, and well wishes for the Advent Season. Gather your friends and family, make the popcorn, and join us for this wonderful opportunity to prepare for the coming of our Savior! Registration is free and can be made here:

<https://bit.ly/ChristmaswiththeChosen2024>

Upcoming Parish Events

December 11	Caressant Care Mass 10:30am
December 14	Knights of Columbus Cor Gathering 10am, Marian Room
December 14 & 15	Bambinelli Sunday. Bring your Baby Jesus figure from your nativity scene to any Mass to be blessed
December 14 & 15	Handmade Religious Items from the Holy Land for sale after each Mass
December 17	Extra Confessions 6-645pm
December 17	Critical Mass Extravaganza 7:30pm
December 18	Extra Confessions 9-10am
December 19	Extra Confessions 9-10am
December 20	St. Joseph School Paraliturgy for Advent 9:15am
December 21	Extra Confessions 3:30-4:00pm
December 22	Extra Confessions Noon – 1:00pm

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

12 December 2024

To mark the National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council (CCIC) recalls the profound sorrow expressed by Pope Francis, during his Penitential Pilgrimage to Canada in July 2022, for the catastrophic effects of the residential school system on Indigenous communities, as well as the journey of reconciliation and healing we have embarked upon together. Two years later, the Pope's words still compel us to recognize this painful legacy and walk alongside the Indigenous Peoples in a spirit of repentance, solidarity, and hope.

We contemplate the Holy Father's words: "The Church is the house where we conciliate anew, where we meet to start over and to grow together". This vision of the Church as a "living body of reconciliation" has guided us in our ongoing commitment to justice and healing. In this spirit, we reaffirm our pledge to work for healing and reconciliation, and to reflect on our efforts since the Holy Father's visit to Canada in 2022.

Together we pray:

*O God, Creator and Father of all,
with humility and hope, we, your children, acknowledge the relationship in You
of all living things.
For this we thank You and praise You.*

*We call on You, Great Mystery, our God who comes to us
in Jesus Christ, Your Son
- our Lord, teacher, prophet and brother -
to open our minds and hearts as we continue to walk the difficult,
yet critical journey of reconciliation and healing.*

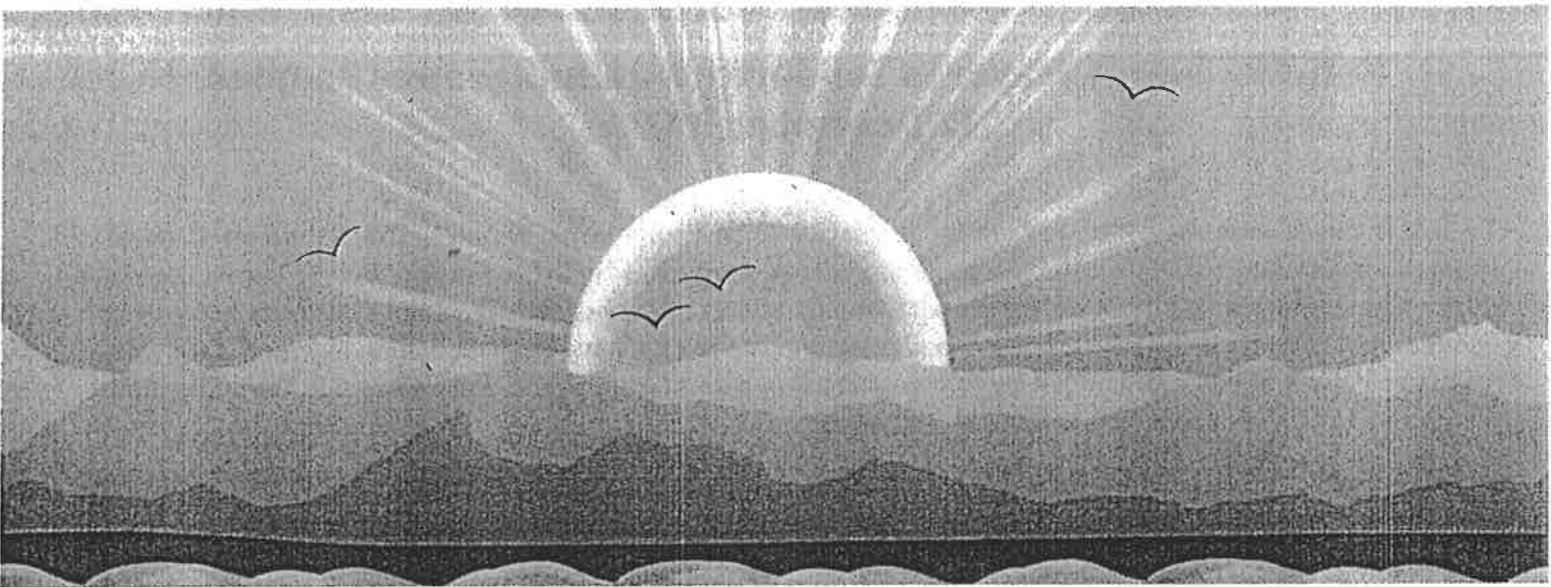
*In our world of such blessed diversity,
we see so many struggles and obstacles to oneness and unity.*

*We implore You to heal our brokenness and division. Show us in Jesus the way to
unity among the multiplicity of Your peoples in our world.*

*We also pray that You will guide and lead us in the Truth,
and show us how to be a people who walk with You. May we be a people
of Respect, Humility, Courage, Honesty, and Compassion
- as we find Your Wisdom on the Spirit-led journey that supports deep healing and fosters
renewed relationships.*

Lord, make us channels of Your Peace, Hope, and Love!

+Amen



SIGNS OF HOPE AND HOPE FOR SIGNS

Since 2002, the Canadian Catholic Bishops have called for a National Day for Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples on December 12th

Let us gather to listen to voices from within the Catholic Education Community in Ontario that will help us to reflect on solidarity in this Jubilee Year of Hope called for by Pope Francis.



WEBINAR

Thursday, December 12, 2024

National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples

4:00 P.M.

We are blessed to have Indigenous leaders in Catholic Education lead us in this reflection:

* Sharon Giroux is a member of M'Chigeeng First Nation. She resides in Chatham-Kent and is a member of the Marten clan. She is the Vice President of Equity for OECTA Provincial

* Tesa Fiddler is Anishinaabe/Anishinew from Kitchinuhmaykoosib Inninuwug. She is the Coordinator of Indigenous Education at Thunder Bay Catholic DSB and is currently on secondment as an Education Officer at the Ministry of Education.

* Bailey Clyne is Indigenous Student Trustee for the Dufferin Peel Catholic District school board and Vice Chair of the Indigenous Student Trustees Council with OSTA-AECO (Ontario Student Trustees Association)



REGISTER AT: <https://bit.ly/4eFW4hl>



Bambinelli Sunday December 14 & 15, 2024

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 14 & 15 at all Masses. 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.

St. Joseph Church
760 St. David St. N.
Fergus, ON N1M 2K9
519-843-2006

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.

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

Env. # _____



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