

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: Mr. Richard Kocyla

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 Hétu



On this second Sunday of Advent, I share with you this short reflection from Jesuit Father John Dear, S.J. entitled **Blessed Are You**

Blessed are you, who like Mary, say yes to God.

Blessed are you this Advent as you prepare for the coming of Christ.

Blessed are you when you reach out in love for one another, when you love your neighbour in need.

*Blessed are you when you speak words of **peace** to one another.*

Blessed are you when you tell each other the good things God is doing in your lives.

Blessed are you when you welcome Jesus into your lives.

On this Sunday of **Peace**, may we truly be instruments of **peace** for one another. Let us share the Good News that Jesus is coming back to take us to our Heavenly Promised Land. Lord, bless us with **peace**.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "A heart at **peace** gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones." Proverbs 14:30

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: A guy on business went to a local pub for a drink. Outside the bar was a nun holding a tin cup. The nun preached about the evils of alcohol. "Listen Sister, I work hard for my money and sometimes at the end of a long day I like a drink or two. That doesn't make me a bad person. 'Evil' is not inside the glass; it's inside the person. Do you really think that one glass of booze can change you from a devout nun to an evil degenerate?" Yes, but I could be proven wrong!" Sister challenged. So, the nun removed all the change and handed him the tin cup. He went into the bar and said to the bartender, "Two scotch on the rocks, and could you put one of them in this tin cup please." The bartender sighed and said, "Is that darn nun out there again!"



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.

Monday, December 8, 2025

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

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

5:00pm The Deceased members of the Catholic
Womens' League of Canada
All Past and Present Spiritual
Advisors for the CWL

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

8:30am Souls in Purgatory

10:30am Caressant Care Mass

Thursday, December 11, 2025

8:30am Intentions of Cam Schumacher

Friday, December 12, 2025

8:30am Intentions of Leonard Lynch

9:15am St. Joseph School Mass

Saturday, December 13, 2025

5:00pm Eileen Tonin – Wayne & Joanne England
Souls in Purgatory
Marie Forte - Mary Waterman
Robert Landoni – Laurie Landoni

Sunday, December 14, 2025

9:00am Intentions of the Students & Staff of St.
Joseph School – CWL

11:00am Intentions of the Parishioners of St.
Joseph Church

Parish Donations November 29 & 30, 2025

Regular Offerings	\$1,642.80
St. Mary-St. Joseph Cemetery	\$ 5.00
Jubilee Year of Hope	\$1,690.25
Building Fund	\$ 70.00

Second Sunday of Advent - December 7, 2025

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths
straight." Could God be calling you to be a priest,
deacon, brother or sister in order to help our world of
today to truly "prepare the way of the Lord"? If God
is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of
Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.
email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

**Join the Knights of Columbus
This Sunday after both Masses
For their Charity Breakfast**

Mass Changes for this week

Please note there will be a Mass on **Monday December 8th** at 7pm for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. **Tuesday, December 9th**'s Mass time is change to 5pm for that day only for the CWL Dinner.



Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing generally takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass on Saturday, December 13th and Sunday, December 14th as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day and as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

Olive Wood Religious Artifacts from the Holy Land

Bethlehem's Christian community relies on selling handcrafted olive wood religious artifacts to visiting pilgrims, forming its primary income. Declining tourism has hit them hard in recent years, leading some Christians to leave The Holy Land, posing a threat to key sites like the Church of The Nativity. Mark your calendars for **December, 13th & 14th**, we are hosting a sale featuring beautiful artifacts. Your purchase will not only enrich your collection but also contribute to strengthening the Christian presence in The Holy Land.

Blessings,

Jenny - Holy Land Wood Art

Contact: 647-292-4462 or jihanwoodart@hotmail.com.

Christmas & New Year Schedule

In this weekend's bulletin you will find a complete schedule for the Christmas Season. Be sure to take this sheet and put it on your refrigerator for future reference!

Ring in Christmas With Carols & Hymns

Join John Rooyakker and his choir on Christmas Eve at 11:30pm for carols and hymns in anticipating of Midnight Mass. Everyone is welcomed.

Christmas Floral Tributes

If you have lost someone in the past and would like to include them in our Christmas celebrations, we would like to offer the opportunity to honour them through Christmas Floral Tributes. Enclosed in this weekend's bulletin you will find the form to request a floral tribute and envelope for you to complete and return to the church no later than December 21st.

How Can We Live Advent This Year?

Advent invites us to slow down, pray deeply, and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Here are simple ways to live this sacred season:

Pray with Hope – Light your Advent wreath, read Scripture daily, and take time for silence and reflection.

Share Love – Perform small acts of kindness; reach out to someone who is lonely or in need.

Live the Liturgy – Attend Mass faithfully and join in the prayers and readings that mark the Advent journey.

Walk with Mary – Pray the Joyful Mysteries and ask for the grace to say "yes" to God as she did.

Wait with Joy – Keep Advent as a time of hope, not hurry — and let your heart make room for Christ.

Upcoming Parish Events

December 6	Baptismal Preparation Class 9-11am
December 7	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
December 9	CWL Christmas Dinner Mass at 5:00pm, Dinner at 6:00pm
December 10	Caressant Care Mass 10:30am
December 11	Knights of Columbus Exec & General Meeting 7
Dec. 13 & 14	Religious items from the Holy Land on sale after each Mass



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 21st.

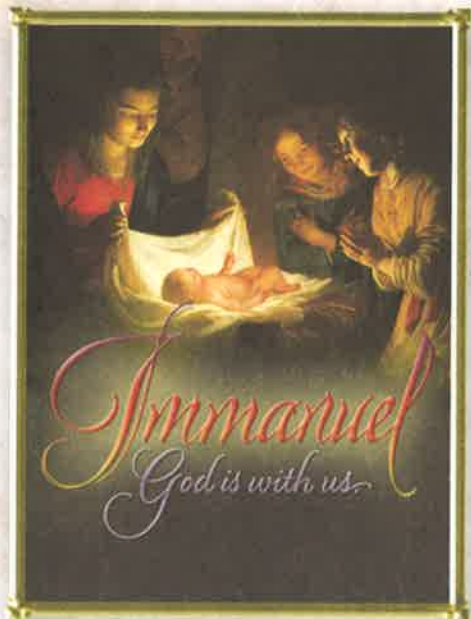
Over Christmas, the name of your deceased loved ones will be place on the Altar and remembered at each Mass offered at St. Joseph Church.

This Christmas Floral Tribute in
Loving Memory of:

Through the Kindness of

Env. # _____





You are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from their sins.
—Matthew 1:21

St. Joseph Parish 2025 Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

5:00pm Mass
8:00pm Mass
11:30pm Christmas Hymns and Carols

Thursday, December 25, 2025

12:00am Midnight Mass
10:00 Mass

Friday, December 26, 2025

No Mass

Tuesday December 30, 2025

No Mass

Wednesday, December 31, 2025

5:00pm Mass

Thursday, January 1, 2026

10:00am Mass

Extra Confession Times

Tuesday, December 16, 6:00-6:45pm
Wednesday, December 17, 9:00-9:30am
Thursday, December 18, 9:00-9:30am
Saturday, December 20, 3:30-4:30pm
Sunday, December 21, Noon-1:00pm
Saturday, December 27, 4:00-4:30pm



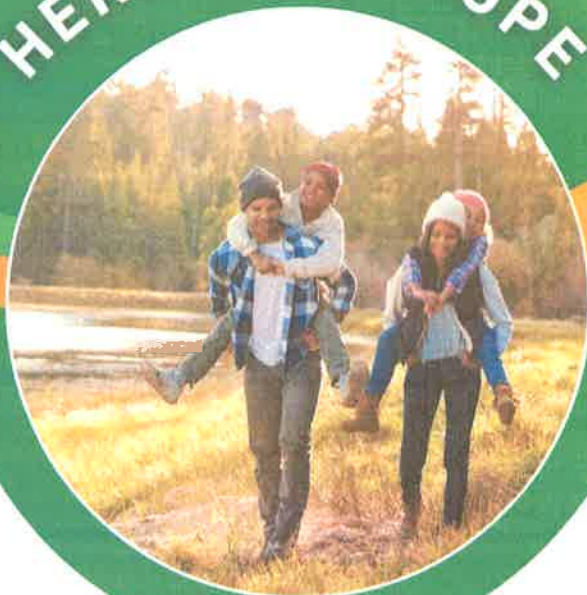
C H R I S T M A S



Jubilee Year of Hope December 2025

For those to Minister
to Families

HEROES OF HOPE



Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

The Catholic Church describes the family as a **Domestic Church** since it is in family that faith is first lived and communicated. Parents draw children to the faith through prayer, love, holiness and engagement in the Church. The home is a sacred space where Christian life is set as a foundation in children's lives. Parents are vital heroes of hope since they are the primary educators of their children.

Beyond parents, grandparents give so much to their families to help nurture and support them. As Pope Leo XIV stated at the Jubilee of Grandparents and the Elderly, *"Let us look to grandparents and the elderly as witnesses of hope, capable of lighting the path for new generations. Let us not leave them alone, but join them in a covenant of love and prayer."*

"The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called 'the domestic church,' a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity." – CCC 1666



Ministries for Families

Across our Diocese, many organizations and ministries work tirelessly to support families, especially the most vulnerable. Through their efforts, they offer strength, care, compassion, and hope — reflecting God's love in action.

Heroes of hope work and/or volunteer in various places: the **Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton**, through the **Good Shepherd's** numerous programs, by offering assistance at **The Working Centre**, by providing homes that support new families such as **Marillac Place** and **Angela's Place**, by providing for the challenged through **Rygiel Homes Support for Community Living**, through the works that occur at the seven school boards, by delivering a multitude of programs for children through the **Catholic Youth Organization**, or by assisting at the many other places that provide support. All have a mission to help families become the best version of themselves.

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton puts children first by supporting their safety, well-being, and healthy development. Through family-centered, culturally responsive services and strong community partnerships, we work to protect children, strengthen families, and help them thrive.



Ministry for Families in the Diocese

Many parish ministries, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and others, seek to support families who may be struggling to meet their many needs. Their tireless efforts and outreach provide hope, often on a daily or weekly timeline.

In our parishes, as well as the Diocesan Offices, numerous ministries exist to assist families meet their needs. They offer support in passing on the faith through catechetical programs, assistance when preparing children for the Sacraments and aid to help families fulfill their important foundational role. These heroes of hope see that families are encouraged to pray together, supported in teaching and living Catholic values, assisted in celebrating the liturgical seasons and in living the Gospel in their daily lives.



By offering **Marriage Preparation** at both parish and diocesan levels, our heroes of hope help couples build strong, faith-filled relationships — foundations that support families rooted in love, charity, forgiveness, and service. The Diocese further strengthens marriages through enrichment opportunities, **Retrouvaille** for couples facing difficulties, and **ReStart** for those with changing family situations after divorce.



Support from the Diocese for families as they navigate their ever-changing family dynamics and the many unexpected issues that arise in everyday living allows families to become their own heroes of hope in dealing well with these challenging situations. **Catholic Moms Groups** offer support to moms with monthly meetings, which include faith and practical elements to support mothers in their vocation. Families are often in need of support, and the Diocese remains committed to meeting those needs with compassion and care.

“As you join together to marry and form a new circle of love, never forget that you are surrounded by a larger circle of family, friends and a faith community who are there to celebrate with you. As you welcome children your circle of love will expand further, but that same larger circle, which includes the Church, will continue to surround and uphold you.” – *Bishop Douglas Crosby*



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who uphold the dignity of marriage, built on the firm foundation of love and faithfulness, and for those who assist families to grow in mutual love, that they may enjoy your peace in their homes and become a source of blessing for one another and for the life of the world.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We invite you to visit the **Family Ministry Office** for resources, workshops, and support.





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