

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 Héту

*Lord, for the Lord is good
God's steadfast love endures forever.* (Psalm 107)

The Lord indeed has been good these past forty years. By God's grace, I was ordained a ministerial priest for service to the Diocese of Hamilton on May 10, 1986. I did not always want to be a priest. When I was little, I wanted to be a doctor—then I learnt that blood was not my thing. Then in grade 8, I thought that I would become a lawyer and then go into politics.

Several Sundays ago, we heard the Emmaus story. In this story, we hear that the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread. I, too, can say that I had an Emmaus experience. It goes way back to my days in Catholic High School. My Emmaus experience happened in a religions class. My teacher was a newly ordained priest—then Father Thomas Collins—now the retired Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto. In this religion class I understood for the first time what really happens at Mass. I understood for the first time that when the priest blessed the bread and wine, it is transformed into the very Body and Blood of Jesus. Wow!

I came to understand and to believe that Jesus died on the cross for ME—to take away MY sins. I accepted that Jesus loves ME so much that if I were the only person in the world, Jesus would have died on the cross to save ME from MY sins. What an awesome gift!

My journey to the priesthood was not always easy. After five years of formation, I left the seminary for personal reasons. I did not think that I was good enough to be a priest—and I am not. I am sad to say that I was caught up in my own weakness and sinfulness. I had a negative self-image. I did not love myself, let alone like myself; I was forgetting about the grace of God.

During my time away from the seminary, a wise young seminarian, now a bishop, reminded me, "You do not have to be perfect to be a priest; just striving for perfection." Taking these wise words to heart, I learned to accept my sinfulness and my call to priesthood. God was calling me, perhaps like St. Peter, in spite of my sinfulness, to be a wounded healer.

Dio Gratias!

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "Serve the Lord with gladness." ~ Psalm 100



*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.

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:00pm **Valentina Aquino** – The Reidy Family
Intentions of Alicia Galarneau – Bob & Molly Myers

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

8:30am **Koos Toxopeus** – Renti Toxopeus
10:30am **Caessant Care Mass**

Thursday, May 14, 2026

8:30am **Jean Martin** – Mac & Gail Brown

Friday, May 15, 2026

8:30am **Intentions of Dwight Gross**
10:30am **St. Joseph School Mass – May**

Crowning

Gerry Doyle – Staff & Students of St. Joseph Church

Saturday, May 16, 2026

5:00pm **Intentions of Heather Bator**
Maria Weber – Sue Beatty
Janusz Holody - The Family
Jean Martin – Peter & Carol Landoni

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:00am **Intentions of Parishioners of St. Joseph Parish**

11:00am **Intentions of Fr. Robert Héту on his 40th Anniversary of Ordination**

Contributions for April 26, 2026

Regular Collection	\$ 5,189.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 25.00
Seminary Appeal	\$ 25.00
Share Lent	\$ 100.00
Needs of the Holy Land	\$ 25.00
Easter Offering	\$ 25.00
Indigenous Reconciliation	\$ 25.00
Pope's Pastoral Works	\$ 45.00
Building Fund	\$ 685.00
Electronic Donations	\$ 2,817.92

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 10, 2026

The Lord said, "I will not leave you orphaned." Pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.



LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: Little Johnny, one Sunday after Mass, said to his pastor, "When I grow up, I want to become a priest like you. Father smiling asked, "Why do you want to be a priest?" Johnny exclaimed, "Isn't obvious! You only work one day a week!"

Knights of Columbus Chicken BBQ

The Knights of Columbus are having their 2nd annual Chicken BBQ on May 23rd in the parish hall starting at 6:00pm. Tickets are now on sale after each mass. For \$20, you get a half chicken dinner, which includes BBQ chicken, baked potato, coleslaw, vegetable, bun and dessert. Eat in or take out. Take out containers will be supplied, but you can help the environment by bringing your own takeout containers. Tickets are now on sale after each mass, or by calling the parish office. **Final ticket sales are May 17th after the 11am mass**

Catholic Women's League Scholarship

Application forms for our CWL Scholarship are available on the CWL table in the Narthex, for students graduating from Grade 12 and intending to pursue ongoing education in September 2026. Applications are due by May 31st. They can be left at the office or drop in the collection basket in an envelope marked CWL.

Michael House Baby Bottle Campaign

Join us in supporting Michael House through the Baby Bottle Campaign! From Mother's Day to Father's Day, take home a baby bottle and fill it with coins, bills, or cheques to help support vulnerable mothers and babies in our community. Pick up your empty baby bottle in the Narthex and return by Father's Day. You can also make online donations using the following link: <https://www.michaelhouse.ca/event/baby-bottle-campaign/>

Wellington CDSB Recruitment - Fair May 12

Interested in a career in Catholic education? Wellington Catholic DSB is hosting a **Recruitment Fair** at the Catholic Education Centre on **May 12 from 5-8 PM**. We are recruiting for current and future positions across our board, including teaching roles, education assistants, early childhood educators, student supervisors, caretakers, support staff, board administration, and more. All qualified candidates are welcome. For more information, visit wellingtoncdsb.ca/careers or contact hrgeneral@wellingtoncdsb.ca.

May- The Month Dedicated to Our Lady

May the month of Our Lady -Throughout this month, we are invited to draw closer to Mary through prayer, especially the Rosary. In her quiet "yes", she shows us how to live with humility, courage, and openness to God's will. May we turn to her in our needs, trusting that she brings our prayers to Jesus with tender care

Are Your Affairs in Order?

Gilbert MacIntyre and Son Funeral Home will be hosting a Complimentary Educational Workshop titled "Are Your Affairs in Order?" on the evening of Wednesday, June 3rd at 7:00 – 9:00 pm in our Church Hall. Expert quest speaker, Michael Labelle will show you how to properly prepare an estate and how to organize your important documentation. You will learn the essential duties of an Executor and how to choose one, the importance of an up-to-date Will and Power of Attorney. Learn how advanced planning is key to protecting your loved ones by diminishing the emotional and financial stress placed on families at time of loss. Discover the peace of mind that "Being Prepared" brings. Please refer to the printed flyers located in various spots throughout the church for details on how to register for this important educational event.

The National Week For Family And Life

Sunday, May 10 to Sunday May 17, 2026, with the theme "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20) Families are encouraged to take time during this week to celebrate their families, express gratitude, offer forgiveness, and/or share meaningful moments with loved ones across generations. This week is an opportunity to uphold the value of life and to live out our calling to love one another within our homes, communities, and the world. Resources can be found on the Hamilton Diocesan website. Watch the video celebrating the week as a family here: [National Family and Life Week 2026 \(May 10-17\) | Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops](#)

Upcoming Events

May 9	Mother's Day Tea 1pm
May 10	Fr. Robert's 40 th Anniversary of Ordination Celebration after Mass
May 12	Knights Executive Meeting 7:30pm
May 13	Caressant Care Mass 10:30
May 23	Knights of Columbus Chicken BBQ 6pm
May 24	Confirmation with Mass, 2pm
May 31	CWL Scholarship Applications Due

PRIESTS ARE NOT MACHINES

Sometimes we look at priests as if they were tireless machines never weak, never weary, never wrong, and always available. But priests are not machines.

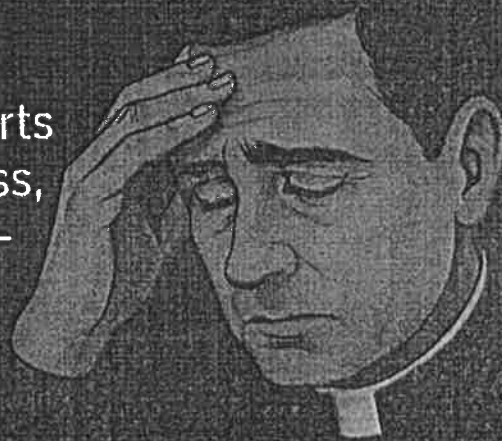
They are human beings called by God, with hearts that feel joy and sadness, dreams and disappointments, strength and fragility.

A priest's mission goes far beyond the altar and parish meetings.

He walks with families, comforts wounded hearts, visits the sick, guides leaders, and often carries invisible burdens.

Remember to pray for your priest.

Not a machine, but a person.
a brother, a father, a shepherd.



You Lovingly Called Me

(A second adaptation of one of my first poems from 1998 titled *The Rainbow Leads Me*)

I am what I am

True to my many colours

The rainbow and the cross lead me

I might not fit the mold

Yet, I know that I am

In the palm of Your hands

You love me how You created me

Your beloved son

A unique work of art

You died on the Cross for me

I thank You Lord for loving me

Till Your death

I know that death

Has no more power

Over You nor over me as well

I ask You Lord to help me

Share Your new life

With all whom I meet

You called me to be Your priest

To proclaim and preach

Jesus Your Word

To make You and Your love

Known throughout

The whole world

You commissioned me

To share Your gift of the Eucharist

And the forgiveness of sins

I am what I am

And I thank You Lord

For that great gift

Amen

Fr. Robert Hérou

May 2026

The Society of St Vincent de Paul

January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

We bring you greetings from your representatives of St. Vincent de Paul from St. Joseph and St. Mary parishes. We thank you most sincerely for your generous donations throughout this past year.

From the special collections taken from the congregations of St. Joseph's in Fergus and St. Mary's in Elora we are able to continue the work of Blessed Frederic Ozanam who said, and I quote: "I would like to embrace the whole world in a network of charity," end of quote. To this we help anyone in need regardless of their colour, race or religion. And because of your generosity we have been able to extend this need not only in our community, which of course is our priority, but beyond that.

This past year we have visited 106 families to whom we have given vouchers for groceries, and furniture items. We also hand out NTY certificates to help clients in need of clothing and household items. We provide the Food Bank with personal hygiene products.

We have provided:

- winter coats, hats and mitts for 31 children up to 18 years of age;
- We have donated \$500.00 to the Groves hub for snacks;
- At Christmas we handed out 33 grocery vouchers each valued at \$150.00 to our frequent clients. These were handed out at the church; and
- Paid out our insurance and dues to the Particular Council in Guelph

OVER

Now, dear parishioners, we need your help!!! Please consider joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Our members are in decline due to age, health or other personal reasons. It is a rewarding parish ministry and we encourage you to consider helping our community in need so as to ensure the continuation of the work of Blessed Frederic Ozanam began in 1833. We meet every last Tuesday of the month at 4:00pm. in the Marian Room and you are free to attend. If interested please contact Jane at 519-787-1961, Marie at 226-383-4195, Bob at 519-846-8308, or St. Vincent de Paul at 226-383-9707. We will be pleased to give you more information.

We sincerely ask that you keep us in your prayers so that we may continue our work with humility and compassion for our clients.

Thank you and thank you Father!



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