

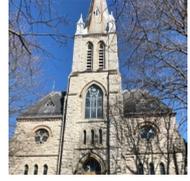
## Our Family of Parishes



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

### Grow as a Disciple | pray, study, engage, serve:

Have you ever felt nervous in standing up for something, or in taking a position on an issue? Even when the stakes are not particularly high, like a classroom debate over an author's meaning in her text or requesting that customer service fix a take-out order gone awry, it can be nerve-wracking for many of us to have this kind of engagement. It is especially difficult when we sense conflict. Why is that? Why do we care so much what others think of us? What about when the stakes are literally life or death? In today's first reading, Joshua is imploring the people to decide which god they will serve, and he boldly proclaims: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." In the Gospel, some of Jesus' disciples reject his teachings and drift back to "their former way of life." Jesus asks the Twelve whether they, too, "want to leave." Simon Peter responds with the rhetorical question, "Master, to whom [else] shall we go?" Like Joshua, he is bold in his own pronouncement: "You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Today's readings encourage and exhort us to go "all in" when it comes to discipleship. The implication is clear: it matters not what others think of us, or what attraction they might hold for us to acquiesce to them. God alone is the source of life, and the truth. He offers us a way – it's that simple. We simply must decide to serve him.

**GO:** At times this commitment, this life of discipleship, is more difficult than other times. Faith is a personal and communal relationship with our Triune God, and just like our human relationships it requires attentiveness, and "[living] in love as Christ loved us." Just as a spouse or roommate can annoy us – being messy, hearing the same joke over and over, and don't get me started on who gets to control the remote! – we may get upset with God because our expectations are not met. But God is God, not "who we think God ought to be." Therefore, today's readings are an encouragement to remain steadfast when things are difficult, with St. Paul comparing the love of Jesus for the Church (all of us!) with the mutual love between a husband and wife. No one said it would be easy. Just as a good marriage requires communication, give-and-take, and large doses of forgiveness, so does our relationship with the Lord require prayer, confession, repentance, and thanksgiving.

**ACTION:** Place Joshua's words on your refrigerator this week: "Decide today whom you will serve ... As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Brainstorm about how each member of your household can do that.

### We ask you to pray:

**Please pray for those who have died**— especially Wilma Healy. May they rejoice in Your kingdom with You for eternity.

**Please pray for those who are sick**— especially for Ellen Hopper, Alfred Heinbuck, Hermina Reurink, Claire Nicholson and Pauline Patterson.

### Please pray for vocations—

#### Week of August 22—28

Nursing home volunteers in our Diocese, Fr. Terence Runstedler, Deacon Leonard Tetreault, Deacon Gerard Van Schyndel, Deacon Chris Masterson, Parish sacristans in our Diocese, Leanne Moran (Pastoral Minister), religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

#### Week of August 29—September 4

Fr. Frank Murphy, Fr. Thomas Donohue, Fr. Paul Rennick, Fr. Adam Gabriel, Deacon Arthur Bondy, Fr. Kazimierz Lorencowicz, Fr. Mohanathas Kamalathanan religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski and Pope Francis.

## Mass Intentions

### Week of August 23—27

#### Tuesday—7:00 pm. St. Joseph's Church

The intentions of Emmeline Runstedler

Barb & Chris Runstedler

Deceased members of the Kramers & Schuster families

Rosina Calver

Her family

#### Wednesday—8:00 am. Immaculate Conception Church

Olga Kostuk MacDonald

The Apostles of Divine Mercy, Stratford

Mike Butler

Knights of Columbus, Council 1431, 3rd Degree

Jason Kiffman

Huron Perth Catholic District School Board

#### Thursday— 10:00 am. At Holy Name of Mary Church

Deceased members of the Flanagan family

Their family

Urban Portz

Marianne & Dennis Kelly

Sharon Klooster

Heather MacDonald

#### Friday—8:00 am. St. Joseph's Church

Bruno Zanin & Stella Baron

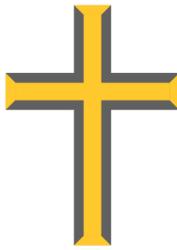
Maria Zanin & family

Kim Selbie

St. Joseph's School staff

Raymonde Abboud

St. Joseph's CWL



### Week of August 30—September 3

#### Tuesday—7:00 pm. St. Joseph's Church

Clarence Ruston

The Ruston family

Frank Ruston & Debbie Barr

The Ruston family

Frank Krauskopf

Knights of Columbus, Council 1431, 3rd Degree

#### Wednesday—8:00 am. Immaculate Conception Church

Ariel Andrew Hall

Craig & Michelle Campbell

Deceased members of the Vloet & Vanderhyden families

Raymonde Abboud

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul

#### Thursday—10 am. Holy Name of Mary Church

Nick Forte

Rita Forte

Maria Stam

Monika Herten

Nelly Wouters

Nick Wouters

#### Friday—8:00 am. St. Joseph's Church

Leslie Psutka

Laurie Ash

Pat Brown

Frank Whaling

Barb Leyser

Ken & Mary Chisholm & family



## Sacraments

### Confession times:

**Saturdays:** 11 am. —noon at St. Joseph's church &

4—4:30 pm. at Immaculate Conception church.

**Sundays:** 9:00 am.—9:30 am. at Holy Name of Mary church.

(or by appointment by calling the office and speaking with one of the priests.)

**Baptisms** - Baptisms are celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of the month with the preparation class held the Tuesday before at 7:40 pm. Please call the office and register your child by leaving a message at extension 0 or email Elizabeth at [emanto@dol.ca](mailto:emanto@dol.ca) or Mary at [mchisholm@dol.ca](mailto:mchisholm@dol.ca)

**First Reconciliation** Registration begins again in the fall, 2021.

**First Holy Communions** - On Sunday, September 19th, we will celebrate First Holy Communions for all children who were registered this past Spring.

**Confirmation** - On Sunday, September 26th, we will celebrate Confirmation for all candidates registered in the Fall of 2020.

**Weddings**—should be booked six months to a year in advance by calling either church office to speak with one of the priests.

## Parish Office and Premises Updates

**The Parish Office is OPEN BY APPOINTMENT.** Parish staff are once again working from the office. Staff can be reached during regular office hours. Please keep in mind that some are on vacation so leave your messages at Extension 0 with the time and date of your call and your phone number so we can serve you efficiently.

**The Parish Halls and meeting rooms remain CLOSED. Safety Plans are being developed and we are hoping to make access available to Parish Groups in September.** The Society of St. Vincent de Paul continues to operate the food bank and provide take-out only community meals from St. Joseph's Parish hall. Strict Covid protocols are in place.

Please continue to use the **secure drop box** just to the right of the office door which will accept envelopes and packages. The lower office door is now unlocked but if you arrive for an appointment please use the red buzzer to the left at the top of the stairs to announce your arrival. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during these uncertain times.

## DONATIONS

During these difficult times your financial support is especially appreciated:

**Holy Name of Mary:** <https://dol-hnom.plenty.com/>  
**Immaculate Conception:** <https://dol-ic.plenty.com/>  
**St. Joseph's:** <https://dol-sjcc.plenty.com/>

To e-transfer, please email Maureen or leave a message for her at extension 23.

## AVON-THAMES CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

**Website:** [www.avonthamescatholic.dol.ca](http://www.avonthamescatholic.dol.ca)  
**Email:** [avonthamescatholic@dol.ca](mailto:avonthamescatholic@dol.ca)

**Parish Family Office:**  
96 Huron Street, Stratford ON N5A 5S6  
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Phone:** 519-271-6722 Stratford

519-284-2593 St. Marys