

OUR PARISH FAMILY



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

Pastor's message:

Grow as a Disciple | Pray, study, engage, serve

Our oldest son is deaf. I vividly remember watching him notice sounds for the first time in the days after his cochlear implant was activated: the “caw” of a crow, a doorbell, the low rumble of the furnace kicking in. Our job as parents was to provide a running commentary to help him understand the meaning of each sound that so many of us take for granted: “See the birds? That is a crow!” “Your dad is home.” “The heat is coming on.” I’m reminded of those early days when I read Mark’s account of Jesus restoring hearing to the deaf man. While most of us can hear, so often we take the sounds all around us for granted or relegate them to background noise – including the Scripture we hear at Mass each week. As Bishop Robert Barron writes, “This deaf man stands for all of us who do not hear the word of God, who have grown oblivious to it.” As we listen to today’s readings, we can ask Jesus to open our ears and our hearts to the word of God.

Go Evangelize | Prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment **Go:** Mark spares no detail in describing Jesus’ encounter with the deaf man who had a speech impediment. Jesus places a finger in his ear and spits, touching his tongue, then utters the word *“Ephphatha!”* (“Be opened”) Immediately, the man can hear and speak clearly. When listening to this reading, I often focus on the man’s hearing. But Jesus also cured the man’s speech impediment, which I think indicates we’re not supposed to just hear God’s word, we are to speak to it, and speak of it. Once we allow Jesus to open our ears and hearts to the Good News, sharing it will begin to come naturally. There may still be times when our Catholic tongues feel tied, but “Be strong, fear not!” Jesus will give us the words.

Actions: Next time you take a drive, listen to the day’s Scripture readings. Ask Jesus to open your ears and hearts to his words and show you how best to share them with others. And most teachers would agree: The more senses we engage, the more we take in. If you have trouble following the readings at Mass, open your missalette and read along silently.

We ask you to pray...

Please pray for those who have died, especially Ellen Hopper and Agnes Gaffney.

May they rejoice in Your kingdom, where all our tears are wiped away. Unite us together again in one family to sing Your praises forever.

Please pray for those are sick, especially Alfred Heinbuck, Hermina Reurink, Claire Nicholson and Pauline Patterson.

Please pray for vocations, especially this coming week for Fr. Maurice Restivo, Fr. James Conlon, Bridget Corneil (pastoral worker), Madonna House Apostolate, Fr. John Jasica, Fr. Vincent Van Zutphen, Fr. Denis Grecco, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and Pope Francis



Mass Intentions

Mass Schedule for the week of September 6—11

Tuesday - 7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Church

1. Italia Forte
2. Barb Leyser
3. Margaret Merkel

Elia Forte & family
Laurie Ash
Sandra Didiomete

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

1. Anne Connor
2. Barbara Bauer-Maison
3. Elisabeth Dobbe

Ken Gaffney
Harry & Eileen Thomas
Carla Revington

Thursday - 10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church

1. Kent Abbott
2. Sandy Marccacio
3. Gerard Poel

His family
Shirley Ann Beecroft
John & Dora Van Herk

Friday - 8:00 am. at St. Joseph's Church

1. The intentions of those who use the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul foodbank
2. George Heisz
3. Shirley Uniac

His family
The Huron Perth Catholic District School Board

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 at 1:00 pm. with the preparation class held the Tuesday evening before at 7:40 pm. Please call the office and register your child, or email Elizabeth at emanto@dol.ca or Mary at 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 Groups

St. Joseph's CWL—Our first meeting is September 20th— the executive will meet at 6 pm. with the general meeting starting at 7 pm. Covid protocols will be followed; please wear a mask and enter by the front doors of the hall . We welcome anyone who would like to attend, however, we have limited seating. Please reserve your spot by contacting Mary Cobb at mjcobb68@gmail.com or call 519-275-1842.

Membership fees are due beginning in September. Please drop off your dues of \$25.00 to the collection boxes at church or to the lockbox just outside the office door. Please mark your full name and " St. Joseph's CWL Membership Dues" on the envelope. Thank you.

Diocesan News

The relationship between the Church and the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island has been fraught for 500 years but rarely acknowledged or discussed within our communities. With the revelations of countless unmarked graves, the Church and our nation is beginning to wake up. Beginning September 8, we will gather to discuss the legacy, which is ours, while calling us beyond ourselves to part of the process of reconciliation and healing. Each week will cover a different topic and speakers present will come from both Indigenous and settler communities. These gatherings will take place in the Parish Hall at St. George's, 7—9 pm. Registration will be required, whether you would like to attend these talks in person or virtually. To register, please email springbankcatholic@dol.ca or call 519-471-4220.

September 8 - Richard Vedan, Professor-Emeritus, University of British Columbia

September 15 - Michelle Zinck, Fond du Lac First Nation, SK

September 22 - Michelle Zinck, Fond du Lac First Nation, SK

September 29 - Michelle Zinck, Fond du Lac First Nation, SK

October 6 - Valarie Waboose, Faculty of Law, University of Windsor Walpole Island First Nation

October 13 - Senator Murray Sinclair, (VIDEO) Chair of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission

October 20 - Jesse Thistle, (VIDEO) Author of From the Ashes Department of Humanities, York University

October 27 - Peter Jaffe, Academic Director of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, Western University

November 3 - Archbishop Murray Chatlain, Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas

November 10 - Bishop Jon Hansen, Diocese of McKenzie-Fort Smith

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 are open to Parish Groups for meetings. Please call the office for Safety Plans and the guidelines that must be followed. 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.



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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 **Email:** 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