

## OUR PARISH FAMILY



St. Joseph's



Immaculate Conception



Holy Name of Mary

### Grow as a Disciple I Pray, study, engage, serve

**Grow:** I have a competitive nature. As an older runner, I strive to place high in my age group (maybe even pick off runners older than I one at a time as we near the finish of a race – of course, I can neither confirm nor deny that). Oh, to be first! There is nothing inherently wrong with healthy competition. However, constantly striving to be the “best” or the “first” in other areas of life – career, parenting, even holiness – can quickly lead to frustration and burnout. As the disciples jostled for “first place,” Jesus gently but directly corrected them: “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Like the Apostles, we tend to focus on our achievements as a measure of our worth, forgetting why we are here: to serve others. We can ask Jesus to help us gain the “wisdom from above” and the characteristics so beautifully described by Saint James: pure, peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits.

**Go:** Reading today's Gospel from Mark, I am struck by the image of Jesus embracing a child: “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me.” Most of us picture our own children, grandchildren, godchildren, nieces, or nephews. Of course we would embrace them! However, Scripture scholars point out that for Jesus, the child symbolized the *anawim*, a Hebrew word for the poor, the lowly, the vulnerable, the oppressed. Picture, then, not just children but those we might be less eager to immediately embrace, not just children: ragged men on the corner, immigrants at the border, the neighbor's son with schizophrenia, prisoners or ex-convicts. Jesus challenges us not to avert our eyes but to “embrace” them – whether that means offering a cup of coffee, becoming a pen pal, stopping to chat, or finding another way to accompany them. Scholars tell us that the *anawim* share a total dependence upon God, something we all have in common regardless of our life's circumstances. **Actions:** Seek “wisdom from above” at the beginning of each day. In the evening, reflect on the ways God has held you in his loving embrace through the kindness of others, moments in nature, simple pleasures. Say thank you.

### We ask you to pray...

**Please pray for those who have died**, especially Marie Bontje. 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. Wacław Chudy, Fr. Anselmo Jaehee Ri, Fr. Zbigniew Sawicki, Fr. Olivet Okoro, Fr. Daniel Morand, Deacon Brian Hanley, Deacon David Callaghan, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and Pope Francis.

## Mass Intentions

### Mass Schedule for the week of September 20—25

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

1. Chris Taylor
2. Luciana Dassie
3. Barb Leyser

A parishioner  
Maria Zanin & family  
Joanne O'Neill

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

1. Rita & Arnold Brewer
2. Deceased members of the Flanagan family
3. The intentions of Linda & Phil Ingoldsby

Their family  
Their family  
Patti & Randy Rothwell

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

1. Dennis Brown
2. Fr. Andre Sylvestre
3. Maria Mellitta Diaz

Nelda Dwyer  
Marg & Jim Brickman  
The Eucharistic Apostles of Divine Mercy

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

1. Kim Selbie
2. Anne O'Brien
3. Adam Schmitt

The Huron Perth Catholic District School Board  
Knights of Columbus Council 1431, 3rd Degree  
John Fuhry

## Sacraments

### Confession times:

**Saturdays:** 11:00 am. —noon at St. Joseph's church &  
4:00 pm. —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](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** - Today, we give praise and thanks to Almighty God for the celebration of First Holy Communions for 62 children! May they always remember this special day and continue to grow closer to Jesus through receiving the Eucharist.

**Confirmation** - On Sunday, September 26th, we will celebrate Confirmation for all candidates registered in January of 2021.

**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

**Immaculate Conception CWL** Our first meeting for our membership will take place on Monday September 20th at 7:00 pm. Please park in the Bay St. parking lot and enter through the back door. Sign in sheets will be on the table as you enter. Masks are mandatory and social distancing will be adhered to. No beverages or food will be served but you may bring your own drink. Help your new executive get our year started—9 months late. Nonetheless, we are back! Our 2022 membership drive has begun so please bring your \$25 membership fee with you.

**Stratford and District Right to Life** will hold their annual **Life Chain** on October 3rd in front of St. Joseph's Church. Other intersections will be Ontario St. and Waterloo St. in front of Popeye's restaurant and in front of Walmart on Ontario St. All are welcome to join this peaceful demonstration for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. If you would like to volunteer to set up or distribute signs, please contact Pat Bannon at 519-273-1616.

**The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** On September 27th we celebrate the Feast of Saint Vincent de Paul. Saint Vincent de Paul (1581-1660) was ordained to the priesthood in 1600. Father Vincent was devoted in the service of the poor. He felt the need to establish institutions to carry out his ministry and mission, which he saw as the continuation of the mission of Jesus Himself. Saint Vincent de Paul was named Patron of Works of Charity by Pope Leo XIII in 1737.

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul strive to carry on with the work of this great saint. Our poor box collection will resume at the Masses on Saturday and Sunday September 25 & 26 at Immaculate Conception and St. Joseph's churches. This year to date we have had 511 visits (801 adults and 277 children) at our weekly food bank. Through your continued generosity in support we are able to service the people in need in our community.

## Diocesan News

**What is Bishop Fabbro's vision for the Diocese of London?** Being a Mission-Oriented Church that Forms Disciples of Jesus. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing more about living and praying for this vision. We can live this by growing our relationship with Jesus and sharing that relationship in our parishes, communities.

### Living the Vision: Mission-Oriented Action

In your Parish: Full, active and attentive participation at each Mass

In your Community: Help those in need of food by supporting a local food bank or shelter

In your Heart: Read a daily Scripture verse or passage

Diocese of London: Being a Mission-Oriented Church that Forms Disciples of Jesus

### Truth, Reconciliation and Healing: Speaker Series and Gatherings

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. Virtual or in person attendance registration will be required. To register, please email [springbankcatholic@dol.ca](mailto:springbankcatholic@dol.ca) or call 519-471-4220.

### 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.

### DONATE

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**