

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



Grow as a disciple | pray, study, engage, serve

Grow: Many of us have a fascination with royalty. We love to follow the royal family in real life and via the binge-worthy *Crown* series on Netflix. As royal-watchers know, the crown isn't all it's cracked up to be! History and experience, too, show that earthly kingdoms include their share of divisiveness, betrayal and, at times, a total disregard for other people. Jesus gives us a different kind of kingdom and kingship to aspire to – one based on truth not fiction, and born of suffering and not succession. Jesus did not seek earthly glory but endured a crown of thorns and death on a cross to establish the kingdom of heaven – a kingdom that perfects us and unites us with the Holy Trinity. So it is fitting that as we end the liturgical year, we honor Jesus as King of the Universe – heaven, earth, and all creation. Jesus established His kingdom by sacrificing Himself out of love for us. By our baptism we have a share in this holy identity, and therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the authority and power to proclaim Christ's Kingship to all the world by our words and deeds. In this way we are able to serve the one true King, and participate in building God's kingdom on earth.

Go Evangelize | prayer, invitations, witness, accompaniment

Go: Some people aren't shy about saying where they stand: I'm especially fascinated by bumper stickers. We don't like to talk about politics or religion, but somehow it's OK to proclaim our most deeply held beliefs as we tool down the highway. As we celebrate Jesus as King of the Universe, it's a good time to ask ourselves: Is Jesus king of *our* universe? If so, how do we proclaim it? Bumper stickers can be fun, but sharing our belief in Jesus as our Savior requires human interaction. Introverts like me may find it difficult, but we can witness to our faith in a number of ways: yes, through conversation, but also through the priorities we choose and the examples we set. As members of the kingdom of God – present on earth but not yet fully realized – our baptismal vocation is to participate in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. We can ask Jesus to help us find the words and actions that best help us do so.

Prepare: Advent starts next Sunday! Just as we prepare for Christmas, we can start roughing out an Advent "menu." How will we observe as a family this year? What are our goals for the season? What can I accomplish in the week ahead to free up Advent for prayerful preparation?

We ask you to pray...

Please pray for those who have died, especially Thea Van Dam and Cora McCann .

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

Please pray for vocations, especially this coming week for Fr. Etienne Nadonye, Deacon Don Hamelin, Deacon Andrew Labrosse, Fr. Hai Hang Hoang, Deacon Michael Horoky, Fr. John Staskevicius, Jessica Jarvis (coordinator of youth ministry), religious communities, Bishop Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and Pope Francis.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of November 22—27

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

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| 1. Dec'd members of the Flanagan family | |
| 2. Gerhard Wiedman | Marianne & Dennis Kelly |
| 3. Mary Gaffney | Ken Gaffney |

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

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| 1. Elisabeth Dobbe | Janet Conroy |
| 2. Assuntina Colangelo | Filomena Molinaro |
| 3. Phyllis Mathieson | The Mathieson family |

Thursday - 10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church (Remembrance Day)

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| 1. Joanne Borris | Patrick Murphy |
| 2. Marj Vere | Angela Haggarty & family |
| 3. Jean Whaling | Lorraine Hertel |

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

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| 1. Frank Krauskopf | Jerry & Linda Crowley |
| 2. Tanya Jeffreys | Patti & Randy Rothwell |
| 3. Marie Bontje | St. Joseph's Catholic Women's League |



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 or Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca

First Reconciliation Preparation has now been postponed until the new year.

First Holy Communions - Completed for 2021

Confirmation - Completed for 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 News

You will notice that the Books of Life have been placed in the churches. If you would like your deceased loved ones prayed for at our daily Masses, please write their names in the books. If possible, please use your own pen, however, there are pens available as well. If you are unable to come to the church, please call Mary or Elizabeth at the office. We would be happy to include your loved one's name.



Parish Groups

Missions—In Support of Project Precious You are invited to participate in our first online “Silent” Auction which will take place from Monday, November 22nd at 9:00 am. through Friday, November 26th closing at 6:00 pm. We are hosting this event through GalaBid at <https://app.galabid.com/pphope> Please help support our various programs for the school children in northern Haiti. Choose from a curated list of quality items that have been generously donated by supporters of our work in Haiti. This is a great opportunity to get some local Christmas shopping done, while supporting a great cause. Your donations go a long way to helping the beautiful children of Haiti!

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul In keeping with our conference mission, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul is again hosting the “Giving Tree” to support families in our community by providing a joyous “Christmas Season”. The Giving Trees are displayed in St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception Churches with gift tags decorating the trees that request donated gift cards from designated locations and in various amounts. Please feel free to take one or more of these tags, purchase the gift card(s), and return to the offertory collection boxes. Parishioners that are unable to access the Giving Tree and would still like to participate, please drop any denomination of gift card(s) from Walmart, No Frills, and/or Food Basics in a clearly marked envelope into the locked secure box on the right outside the Parish Office.

This program enables parents to purchase a gift for their child aged 17 or under and provides families with a grocery gift card - all to help celebrate the Christmas Season. Your gift of giving will be greatly appreciated.

St. Joseph's CWL—Our next meeting will be Monday November 22nd at 7 pm. Please note that masks are mandatory and proof of vaccination is required.

CWL memberships are now due for 2022. Membership dues are \$25. They can be dropped off to either the mailbox located outside of the office or put in the offertory box when attending Mass. Please mark “St. Joseph's CWL” clearly on the envelope. For any questions or concerns regarding memberships, please contact Neves Pereira at 519-305-0525.

We still have some Epicure fundraising kits available. Cost is \$25. Please contact Gisella Bennett at 519-703-0055.

Knights of Columbus—Kilroy Council 1431 is once again selling Christmas hams, sausage and pepperettes from Stemmler's. Black Forest hams are boneless, precooked and priced as follows:

Small (2.5 lbs.) \$15, medium (5 lbs.) \$28, large (10 lbs) \$50.

Summer sausage chubs are \$19.00 and mild pepperettes are \$6.00 per packages of 10.

Orders can be placed with John Price (519-271-9120 or jjprice@sympatico.ca) or Ken Gaffney (519-271-7705)

Order forms can be found on K of C website: <https://triodevelopers.com/J.Smith/kofc1431.ca/wordpress/>

All orders must be placed by November 30th and orders will be available for pick up on December 17th.

Diocesan News

Learning about the Vision: What does it mean to be a disciple?

Praying for the Vision: Reflect on this verse:

"Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you." 1 Peter 3:15

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

School Community News

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School invites you to its '**Live Nativity**' on Thursday, December 9th from 6:00 pm.—8:00 pm. Come enjoy a live viewing of the Christmas story, receive Advent gift bags and visit our barn yard friends! Admission is free and all are welcome! We kindly ask everyone to wear a mask as you visit and stay within your family grouping. Sanitizer will be available.

Christmas Flower Memorials We invite parishioners to participate in our tradition of making a donation toward the purchase of flowers in memory of their deceased loved ones. As a special way to honour your deceased family and friends, these flowers will decorate all 3 of our churches during the entire Christmas season.

Please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket at one of the churches or to the lock box outside the office door at St. Joseph's. You may also leave the name of your deceased love one(s) by calling the office or emailing Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca or Elizabeth at emanto@dol.ca and e-transfer the Parish as follows:

St. Joseph: stjosephstrat@dol.ca **Immaculate Conception:** immaculatec@dol.ca

Holy Name of Mary: hnmstmarys@dol.ca ****please put 'Christmas Flowers' in the message line.**

We will display the names of our deceased loved ones in sanctuary by the flowers.

(Please print clearly—thank you)

Name: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Envelope Number: _____

In Memory of: _____

Donation: \$ _____ Parish: _____



DONATE

During these difficult times
your financial support is 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 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 or

519-284-2593 St. Marys

Staff are working from the office - Access by appointment