



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

**Grow:** It was several years ago now, but the scene is still vivid in my mind. My son stood confidently in front of the altar as the music rose in a crescendo and his bride stepped into sight. The love and joy he felt trickled down his cheek as she walked down the aisle. He broke into a smile as she joined him, and proudly took her hand to promise to become one with her forever. Isaiah writes: "As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." Isaiah was talking about the nation of Israel, but God loves and rejoices in each of his children and wants us to know the joy of being loved by him. He generously shares his gifts with us, "different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit," St. Paul explains to the Corinthians. *All* spiritual gifts come from God, and *all* are important and necessary: "To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." God's gifts are distributed uniquely to each person to use in our own unique way to "announce his salvation, day after day," and invite others to discover the joy of his great love.

**Go:** You are a masterpiece! This message was conveyed at the camp our Diocese held each year to help teens recognize that they are God's beloved sons and daughters, called and gifted by the Holy Spirit to be missionary disciples. Discerning what our gifts are and how to use them can be challenging. The Gospel about the wedding at Cana offers an interesting guide. Mary tells the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you." By reserving time for listening and not speaking during prayer, we can hear what Jesus is "telling" us. Jesus then says to the waiters, "Fill the jars with water." We can "fill our jars" with the knowledge of how to live as disciples by reflecting on Scripture. Finally, Jesus tells the waiters, "Draw some out." We can "draw" on his love for strength and courage when we need it, but more importantly, we are called to "draw some out" to share with others. In sharing the "good wine," the Good News of Jesus Christ, others will begin to believe in him, too.

**Prayer:** As the new year gets under way, devote time to discerning the unique spiritual gifts, or charisms, you have been given. Make time for silent prayer and reflecting on Scripture each day.

### **We ask you to pray...**

**Please pray for those who have died**, especially Rita Stagg.

**Please pray for those are sick**, especially Jim Kelly, Claire Nicholson and Pauline Patterson.

This list will be cleared bi-monthly. If you wish to remain on the list please call Mary at the office. (519-271-6722 ext. 24)

**Please pray for vocations**, especially this coming week for Deacon Thomas MacLeod, Fr. Martin Nyland, Deacon Reginald Quesnel, Deacon Mark Castanier, Fr. Jose Montepeque, Fr. John Comiskey, Fr. Paul Kim, for religious communities, Bishop Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.



**Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of January 17—22**

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

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Maria Rosa Astorino & Domenico Sacco | Mirella Costanzo       |
| 2. Robert Taylor                        | Audrey Murray & family |
| 3. Frank Nyenhuis                       | Mary Nyenhuis          |

**Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church**

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Brendan Murray Mundy    | Linda Murray & family  |
| 2. Philip Wilkins          | Patti & Randy Rothwell |
| 3. Flora & Charlie Malouin | Janet Conroy           |

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

- |                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Chris De Fonseca | Anne Weerasinghe                |
| 2. Irene Elliot     | Patricia Healy                  |
| 3. John Pratt       | Cathy Robinson & Dana Vredeveld |

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

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Assuntina Colangelo        | Filomena Molinaro     |
| 2. Anne Goodyear              | Her family            |
| 3. Yvonne Masur (anniversary) | George Masur & family |

**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 begins February, 2022.

**First Holy Communions** - Preparation will begin in Spring, 2022.

**Confirmation** - Preparation begins with virtual parent meetings on Saturday, January 15th or Wednesday, January 19th. Letters and registration forms have been sent out to Catholic elementary school. For more information please email Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca or James at jprins@dol.ca

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

## Parish and Parish Supported Groups

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**— We sincerely thank all participating parishioners and local Catholic elementary and secondary schools for your very generous support of the Giving Tree Program this year. You've assisted 59 families in our community, including 135 children, who were all very grateful for the donated gift cards in support of providing a joyous Christmas Season for their families. May the peace and joy of Christmas continue to live in your hearts.

**Heart of Mary Study Groups**—We are launching into 2022 with two online options for women who enjoy faith studies and fellowship. Wednesday evenings, beginning January 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm., we feature the study **Symbolon**. Participants will receive a guide, view a dynamic video each week and have the opportunity to break into small groups for discussion.

Our bi-weekly Thursday evening alternative begins January 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm., focusing on the **Abiding Together** podcases. For this program, we meet virtually for one hour to discuss the group questions provided by the dynamic trio who host the podcast. You can find out more by visiting [www.mountcarmelplaceofprayer.com/heart-of-mary-programming](http://www.mountcarmelplaceofprayer.com/heart-of-mary-programming) or text/call Colleen Cronin 519-272-5875. These times of learning and sharing faith are for all women on all levels of faith journeys. There are several women in our Family of Parishes who are part of the Heart of Mary study groups so you may see familiar faces!

**St. Joseph's CWL** — We will be postponing the installation of the 2022/2024 Executive until a later date. All St. Joseph's CWL Executive and General meetings are also postponed. Please check the bulletin or Flocknote for updates.

**Development and Peace**—Development and Peace's campaign, **People and Planet First**, is calling for Canada and Canadian corporations not to be complicit in violations against the planet and its inhabitants. The easiest way to take action is to sign the petition calling on the government to implement a due diligence law that would require its companies to respect human and environmental rights in their overseas operations. However, there are several other options available to you if you have already signed and want to continue your commitment. Check out the Development and Peace website at <https://devp.org/en>. Whatever you choose to do, thank you for helping to spread solidarity.

### 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 or

519-284-2593 St. Marys

Staff are working from the office - Access by appointment

### 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.



## Ordinary Time

(Liturgical Colour for Ordinary Time is Green)

Ordinary Time, the longest season of the Church year, fills the weeks that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 43). It's the no-particular-reason season.

Christmas Time honors the birth of Christ. Easter Time rejoices in the Resurrection. Ordinary Time is devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects. The number of the weeks of Ordinary Time replaces the old counting of weeks "after Epiphany" and "after Pentecost." The old calendar suggested that Pentecost ran for six months. The new calendar gives Pentecost a day. Then we return to Ordinary Time. At first glance, the principles of Ordinary Time seem basic enough. Start counting the weeks after Christmas Time. Break for Lent and Easter. Resume after Pentecost and keep counting until Advent. Basically, that's how it works. But we have a few quirks. For example, there is no "First Sunday in Ordinary Time"; however, there is a first week. Usually Christmas Time ends on a Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. The lectionary also calls it the First Sunday in Ordinary Time, but it is actually part of Christmas Time. (Some years the Baptism of the Lord falls on a Monday, but that's another story.) Ordinary Time gets underway on a weekday. When the next Sunday rolls around, we start week two. On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, we see the last of Ordinary Time until after Pentecost. Even then, it emerges only on weekdays. Trinity Sunday always follows Pentecost Sunday, and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord comes the next Sunday. Therefore, when the numbered Sundays in Ordinary Time return in summer, we start out a little higher than where we left off. Sometimes we skip one or two entire weeks of Ordinary Time during the Easter break. We want to close the Sundays of the year with Christ the King, one week before Advent. Christ the King always falls on the Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. So, we determine the week number after Pentecost not based on where we left off before Lent, but by counting backwards from Christ the King. One or two weeks may disappear, but Ordinary Time still serves the complete mystery of Christ.

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