

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

Grow: Do you ever find yourself feeling like you are at the cusp of something remarkable? Like you are witnessing an incredible, historic, athletic, or aeronautical feat? I wonder if that's what it was like for the followers of Jesus when he began his public ministry: "News of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all." In today's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of the prophet Isaiah that are effectively a "job description" of his mission: glad tidings to the poor, liberty of captives, sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed. What Isaiah prophesied, Jesus claims to fulfill. He thus inaugurates his public ministry with a claim that is straightforward, bold, true, and of great consequence. Today, by virtue of our baptism, we are part of the body of Christ and share in that mission. Whatever our backgrounds, abilities, or talents, we each have something to contribute to building up one another and the Church. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we, too, can be bold in our own proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord.

Go evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

Go: We've heard the phrase "Don't sell yourself short." Social media aside, many of us tend to focus on our shortcomings: We may wish we could run faster, be better at our jobs, have a cleaner home, in general, "get it together!" Truth is, we're all works in progress. That's what I love about Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. He reminds us that each one of us – whatever our strengths or weaknesses – is part of the body of Christ. God loves us with our imperfections, not in spite of them. As such, each of us has indispensable value and much to contribute to the mission of the Church. As we move into the week ahead, today's readings invite us to place ourselves at the service of the Church and one another. Beyond that, we can invite others to join us by recognizing that God values the talents – and foibles – that each of us brings to his service.

Pray: Yesterday on the USA liturgical calendar was the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As members of the body of Christ, let us join our voices with the universal Church and pray a Pro-Life Rosary each night this week. The USCCB Prayers and Devotions page is a good resource.

We ask you to pray...

Please pray for those who have died, especially Jim Kelly and Cyril White.

Please pray for those are sick, especially 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 Fr. Paul Nicholson, Deacon Richard Heath, Ms. Nives Davies (Pastoral Minister), Fr. Michael Dwyer, Ursuline Religious of the Chatham Union, Fr. Sebastian Pakiyanathan, Kathryn Heemsherk (Pastoral Minister), for religious communities, Bishop Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.



Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of January 24—29

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mary Christine Rogers | Carol Leeming |
| 2. John Elwyn Leeming | Carol Leeming |
| 3. Marj Vere | Margaret & John Bettridge |

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. Ron McCormick | Mary Bannon |
| 2. Barb Leyser | Frank Whaling |
| 3. Mary (Lane) Garvey | Jean Clemmer |

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

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mario Joseph Coletti | OECTA |
| 2. Nellie Wouters | Nick Wouters |
| 3. John Gras (anniversary) | Janie Gras & family |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Elisabeth Dobbe | Donna & Chris Campbell |
| 2. Anna Juhasz | Janet Panuska |
| 3. Intentions of Karen Bolton | Knights of Columbus, Council 1431 3rd Degree |

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 12:00 pm. (Holy Name) or 1:00 pm. (rotating between St. Joseph's and Immaculate Conception) 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 has begun with our virtual parent meetings last week. If you are still seeking this sacrament for your child, please contact Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca or James at jprins@dol.ca
Registration deadline for 2022 is Friday, January 28th. Small groups begin the first week of February.

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

Parish and Parish Supported Groups

Missions—(a note from Marg and Jim Brickman) We have been so blessed and humbled, once again, as we look back at 2021 for Project Precious Haiti (PPH)! The ongoing generosity in support of the work of PPG is truly amazing and touches our hearts deeply! This is our first year end report as our own Canadian Registered Charity and we are thankful for our dedicated Board of Directors who are committed to PPH.

We are so blessed to have raised \$73,000 in 2021. We were able to provide:

- tuitions and school costs for 13 students
- school feeding programs to 6 schools
- kitchen equipment to start a new school feeding program
- school repairs to one school
- a couple of laptops and a printer for a parish/school,
- various hospital needs at Hopital Bon Samaritain.

Even though we are unable to travel to Haiti at this time, due to COVID and safety reasons, we are truly thankful to have honest and reliable people in Haiti to wire money on a regular basis. As heart wrenching as it is that we cannot go, we are so happy and grateful we are still able to keep the work of PPH alive on the ground in Haiti! All of our contacts must report back to us with a full report of how the money was spent, along with receipts and photos. They need to be accountable to us, so we can be accountable to you, our very generous benefactors. Our Lord has blessed us so well with our dedicated Haitian friends.

Heart of Mary Study Groups—

We are launching into 2022 with two online options for women who enjoy faith studies and fellowship. Wednesday evenings, (we began last week but it's not too late to join!) 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 20th 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 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!

Development and Peace—

Caritas Canada's People and Planet campaign is advocating for a law that compels Canadian companies to respect the human and environmental rights of local populations in their overseas operations. Acting in solidarity with their brothers and sisters in the Global South, thousands of Canadians have already signed a petition asking the government to enact such a law. If you have not already done so, please consider signing the petition today. On behalf of all those who struggle to preserve their land, lives, livelihoods and lifestyles, Development and Peace — Caritas Canada thanks you for your commitment and mobilization. Together, we act in solidarity with the protectors of the Earth. Together, we have the power to change lives. Visit <https://devp.org/en> to learn more and once again, please consider signing the petition.



Conversion of St. Paul Tuesday, January 25th, 2022

The Conversion of St. Paul is one of the Bible's great stories. A man who persecuted Christians joins the group he was targeting. The story appears several times in the New Testament. Saul was traveling on the road to Damascus when he was struck by a blinding light and fell to the ground. Unable to see, he heard the voice of Jesus ask, "Why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). Saul in turn asked, "Who are you, Lord?" (Acts 9:5).

Housed by a disciple named Ananias, Saul learned about Jesus Christ, was baptized, and became known as "Paul." Through his travels, preaching, and writing, he became the most influential of all the followers of Christ. The conversation during his vision symbolizes the stance between God and the average human person: God asks why we do what we do, and we try to penetrate the mystery of God.

The Catholic Church celebrates a feast day in honor of Paul's conversion every year on January 25. There is no historical evidence linking this date to that event. The earliest appearance of January 25 on the Church calendar seems to have commemorated the anniversary of the day that the relics of this apostle were moved from the catacombs to the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls of Rome. The date later became associated with his conversion, probably because of the universal appeal of Paul's story.

As a feast day, the conversion outranks most other weekdays, but when it falls on a Sunday, the Ordinary Time liturgy takes precedence. However, Pope Benedict XVI made mid-2008 to mid-2009 a special year commemorating the two thousandth anniversary of the birth of St. Paul, and in honor of this event, he authorized the celebration of the Conversion of St. Paul on Sunday, Conversion of St. Paul on Sunday, January 25, 2009.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020

Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

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

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.