

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

**Grow:** Wait, what? One moment the people of Nazareth embrace Jesus, but as soon as he challenges them the crowd turns on a dime, and moves toward throwing him off a cliff. The Son of God, also the son of a carpenter, goes from hometown hero to *persona non grata* just like that, prefiguring his death on the cross and giving credence to his admonition that “no prophet is accepted in his own native place.” From the earliest moments of his public ministry as recorded in Luke, Jesus’ love for us is prominent. He never faltered. He never wavered. He moved forward to continue his mission of fulfilling God’s will for him, and be a sacrifice once and for all for our sins.

Perhaps we have had a similar experience of being the “hero” for someone, only to somehow end up the goat. It is not easy to remain steadfast in our daily mission to love as Jesus loved. Today’s readings assure us that God will give us the grace to do so.

### Go Evangelize | prayer, invitation, witness, accompaniment

**Go:** It can be challenging to square Paul’s eulogy of love with the reality of day-to-day living with a spouse, family members, and friends. Love is patient ... *except when I’m late getting out to the car for church again.* Love is kind ... *except between crabby siblings who want to watch different shows on Netflix.* It is not quick-tempered ... *unless you thoughtlessly back into my car in the driveway.* It occurs to me that perhaps Paul’s words aren’t entirely about us, but about the perfect love of God. It’s pretty amazing to think that God loves us in all the ways Paul describes. As we open our hearts to God’s love and deepen our relationship with Jesus through prayer, we may find that love spilling over into our daily interactions. For when we are kind, we love; when we are patient, we love; when we are not quick-tempered, we love.

**Pray:** Although our love for one another is imperfect, we must strive to love as Jesus loved each day, and there is no better place to start than prayer. Ask a friend or family member this week if they have any concerns you can include in your prayers. Or request a Mass for someone who is going through a tough time or who has recently died.

### We ask you to pray...

**Please pray for those who have died,** especially Robert Bartlett. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

**Please pray for those are sick,** especially Raven Petrie, 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. Franklin Mizzi, Darlene Van Bakel (Youth Ministry), Fr. Christopher Bourdeau, Fr. Sekar Raj, Maija Wilson (Campus Minister), Fr. Gil Simard, Rachelle Leslie (Pastoral Minister), for religious communities, Bishop Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.



### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of January 31—February 5

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

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Marj Vere       | Laurie Ash           |
| 2. Denise Marsh    | Rita Vittoria        |
| 3. Pasquale Ruscio | Bryan & Nicki Merkel |

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

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ellen Hopper           | Janet Conroy             |
| 2. Mario & Yvonne Coletti | Michelle Vallance        |
| 3. Joyce Eusebi           | Marco, Eva & Lisa Eusebi |

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

**As this is the Feast of St. Blaise, the blessing of throats will take place immediately following Mass.**

- |                                     |                  |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Edmund Christopher Wijesinghe    | Anne Weerasinghe |
| 2. The intentions of Donna Campbell | Patti Rothwell   |
| 3. Otilia Rybka                     | Her friends      |

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

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 1. Muriel Gleason | Shaun O'Neill                           |
| 2. John Armstrong | Mike Meyer                              |
| 3. Betty Brown    | The Apostles of Divine Mercy, Stratford |

### 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](mailto:emanto@dol.ca) or Mary at [mchisholm@dol.ca](mailto:mchisholm@dol.ca)

**First Reconciliation** Preparation begins February, 2022.

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

**Confirmation** - Registration is closed and we now prepare for our virtual large and small group gatherings. These sessions will begin February 7th and February 9th. Books are available for pick up after all Masses this weekend. Other arrangements can be made by contacting Mary at [mchisholm@dol.ca](mailto:mchisholm@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

**The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** Our Poor Box Collection will take place this weekend January 29 & 30. We thank you for your generous support.

**Date Night with FFI (Family Foundations Institute)** — Take the time and invest in your relationship with "Date Night with FFI".

On Friday, **February 11, 2022** join **Ken & Janelle Yasinski** for their live talk and Q & A on **Three Simple Words**. "**Please**", "**Thanks**", and "**Sorry**" can build up relationships and create peace and joy in the home. This is a virtual presentation. Make a pre-valentine's date of it! 8:00 pm—9:30 pm. \$10 to register. Visit [Date Night with FFI February 2022 - FFI - Family Catechism \(famfi.ca\)](https://famfi.ca) to register.

### **Immaculate Conception CWL—**

We are now selling raffle tickets. You can buy a book of tickets from one of the conveners. (information is below) We have great prizes—\$500 cash, \$300 cash, \$250 Swanson's Jewelers gift card, Samsonite luggage, \$175 Stratford Festival voucher for a 2022 performance, Arden Park Hotel gift card for brunch. Please call one of our conveners—Barb Mitchell 519-271-6595, Marlene Currah 519-271-0953 or Sharon Twamley 519-273-1995. All proceeds raised goes to support our church. If you have not paid your membership call Sharon and she will pick it up. Thank you!

**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



### Presentation of the Lord—Wednesday, February 2nd

The Presentation of the Lord pulls many favorite mementos from the Catholic cupboard: candles, blessings, Christmas, and church. As faithful members, we still glow with the memory of the birth of Jesus. The origins of the feast lie in ancient Jewish custom. On the fortieth day after childbirth, parents brought the infant to the Temple to present him/her to the Lord and to purify the mother. St. Luke tells us that Joseph and Mary sacrificed two birds for the occasion after the birth of Jesus. Count up forty days after Christmas, and you'll come to February 2. Until the 1960s, we used to call this day "The Purification of Mary." The title changed for several reasons. We no longer believe that women who give birth need purification, and the true significance of the feast concerns Jesus coming to the Temple. He is the Promised One, whose light will shine, beaming rays of hope to the entire world. Also on the old calendar, this feast closed the Christmas season. Now we end the Christmas season with the Baptism of the Lord. So, even though the date for the Presentation still depends on Christmas, it has become a feast of Ordinary Time. Since it is a feast of the Lord, it takes precedence even when it falls on Sunday. On the day following this feast, our calendar permits the option of commemorating St. Blaise, a bishop and martyr of the early Church. Legend has it that he once freed a child from choking, and while imprisoned under persecution he received light from friends who visited his cell with candles. Our Church still uses candles (although not lit for safety reasons) in the blessing of the faithful's throats on St. Blaise's Day. Blessed candles in our churches and homes signify the living presence of Christ in our community.

With Christ as our light we warm a lost and wintry world.

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

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#### AVON-THAMES CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

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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 currently working from home.

#### 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.