

St. Joseph Parish



Parish Dedicated June 24, 1894

Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1933

260 Herkimer Street, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 2H9

Telephone: (905) 528-0019 Fax: (905) 525-0134

stjosephsparish@cogeco.ca

www.stjosephsparish.ca

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE



Parish Staff

Father James Link, C.R. - Pastor

frjimlinkcr@gmail.com

Father Toby Collins, C.R. - Associate Pastor

frtobycr@gmail.com

Maria Ennett - Office Administrator

Stillman Matheson - Director of Music

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday Eucharist

Please see schedule inside.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Baptism

Please make arrangements for Baptismal Preparation two months in advance. All baptisms are celebrated on the following dates:

Jan 9/10	May 22/23	Oct 23/24
Feb 13/14	June 26/27	Nov 13/14
No March Baptisms	Aug 14/15	Dec 11/12
April 17/18	Sept 18/19	

Sacrament of Marriage

Call office one year prior to desired wedding date. A marriage preparation course and appointments required.

Children's Liturgies (September to June)

Children from J/K to grade 2 (pre First Eucharist age). Children's Liturgy takes place in the Parish Hall during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday Eucharist.

Pastoral Council

Chairperson	Laura Rossiter	905-546-0781
	Ilidia Botelho	905-522-2380
	Harry Douglass	905-632-5258
Lee Hillman		905-520-6311
Rochelle Martin		905-522-4355
Linda Pandzich		905-528-8470
Ray Plant		905-526-8688
Michael Scozzaro		905-318-3470
C.W.L. Rep.	Daniela Conz	905-521-1064
Youth Group Rep.	Peter Gauthier	905-526-9395
School Rep.	Steve Murphy	905-522-7111

Vocational Information

If you wish to pursue the possibility of a Religious or Priestly vocation, please feel free to speak with any member of the parish staff or call:

Father Bob Liddy, C.R.
519-885-0331 ext 312
Sister Mary McIntyre, C.S.J.
905-528-0138

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LAY MINISTERS for MARCH 20 / 21			
	5:00 p.m.	9:30 a.m.	11:30 a.m.
Lectors	Lynda Narducci Lorraine Lossing Phyllis DeRosa-Koetting	Cameron Nolan Michael Coughlin Christine Weir	Lynne Taffs Confirmandi
Eucharistic Ministers	Sister Maureen Sweeney Joanne Venzon David O'Connor	Therese Gervais Nathan Startek Ene and Paul Readyhough	Diane Shea Jacqueline Horn Ildia Botelho Aniko Ivanyi Gail Reid
Servers	Christian Mattina Solana Mattina Dori Haines	Ben Kukucska Sylvia Kukucska Jessica Dekker	Kiera OSullivan Shea Claire DePaul Michael Mattice

Fourth Sunday of Lent

RECONCILIATION SERVICE - Please note that the Lenten Reconciliation Service will be held on Thursday, March 25 at 7 p.m.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

GET YOUR TICKETS! Our annual Roast Beef Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 14. This is a long standing tradition to commemorate St Joseph's Feast Day which is on March 19. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for children. They are available after Mass each week.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

Since its creation by our Canadian Bishops in 1967, the CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE has supported over 15,200 development projects and emergency relief programs.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE'S theme this year, **See your gift grow**, reflects one of Development and Peace's main priorities in the Global South: to help communities achieve food sovereignty in the face of increasing threats to their food sources. DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE also supports the reconstruction of communities devastated by conflict and natural catastrophes, such as the recent earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, and organizes awareness campaigns in Canada.

Next weekend a special collection for DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE will be held in our Parish on Solidarity Sunday, March 21st. Funds collected throughout this campaign, which ends on Easter Sunday, April 4th, will allow DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE to continue supporting development projects in over 30 countries in the Global South.

Thank you, the generosity of our community is always outstanding and expresses our desire to be in solidarity with those less fortunate.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH SEDER MEAL

St. Joseph's annual Seder Meal will take place during Holy Week on Tuesday, **March 30th** in the Parish Hall. Tickets for the Seder Meal will be on sale after each of the Masses. This solemn Hebrew custom, described in the Book of Exodus, celebrates the Israelites' freedom from slavery in the land of Egypt and foreshadows the Passover Meal (Last Supper) when Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist while breaking bread with his Apostles. Please join us for an evening of food, prayer, and song when we continue to observe this significant Old Testament tradition.

ADOPTION BUILDS FAMILIES

Have you ever considered adoption? Would you like to hear more about the adoption process through the Catholic Aid Society of Hamilton? Please join our adoption staff for our information night on Wednesday, **March 24** at 7 p.m. at the Society, 735 King St. E. For further information call 905.525. 2012 ext. 3125.

A Fundraiser for Canadian Martyrs Church

A real "Authentic Italian Dinner", will be held on **Saturday, March 27, 2010** after the 5:00 p.m. Mass. Dinner will start at 7:00 p.m. at **Canadian Martyrs Parish Hall**. Tickets: \$40 per person. For tickets please call Santo at 905-538-1200 or the Parish Office at 905-528-4632. No Tickets will be sold at the door. Everyone is welcome!

INVITING ALL ST. MARY SECONDARY SCHOOL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

St. Mary Catholic Secondary School will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary of Catholic Education from May 27 to 30, 2010. The celebration will begin on Thursday, **May 27th** with a May Crowning/40th Anniversary Mass at 9:30 a.m. for students, staff and parents, followed by a Gallery of Distinction Awards and Gala Dinner on Friday, May 28th, and alumni games and social events on Saturday, May 29th. The weekend will wrap up with a Closing Mass celebrating 40 Years in the Catholic Learning Community of Hamilton on Sunday, May 30th. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in volunteering at any of these events, please call 905 528-0214, ext. 507. More details to follow in upcoming bulletins.

FAST FREE & CONFIDENTIAL INCOME TAX SERVICE

Volunteers with the Canada Revenue Agency's Community Volunteer Income Tax Program will continue to complete 2009 Income Tax Returns for low income Canadians, whose 2009 annual income was less than \$25,000 for singles, and around \$35,000 for families until Monday, April 19. For details contact volunteer Chris Dunn by phone at 905-525-8388 or by email at: cnjdunn@cogeco.ca



The **OFFERTORY** Collection
for **March 6 / 7** was **\$6,652.43.**

The **Our Neighbours in Need** collection for **March** was
\$2,290.00

Thank you for your continued generosity.

LITURGIES AT ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

MONDAY, MARCH 15

8:00 Ruth Bensette
Patrice Graham & Paula Linger & Family

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 Rosario Agresta Caterina Agresta & Family
Jimmy Webster Marg Webster

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

8 a.m. Mary Karlinski Bill & Rosalie Little
7 p.m. Evensong

THURSDAY, MARCH 18

8:00 Scott Emerson Porter Dianne Porter

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 Helen Sinclair Sister Michaela
Tom Phelan Jeanne Reed-Lewis

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

5:00 Intentions of Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny in Haiti
The Portuguese Associates

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

9:30 For all the people of St. Joseph's Parish
11:30 Patricia McLean Gerry McLean & Family

Desk Scribbles . . . 4th Sun Lent . . . March 14, 2010 . . . Jim Link, C.R.

Joshua 5:9a,10-12; Ps 34; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3. 11-32

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." (Paul Boese)

Our gospel this Sunday tells us a familiar and much beloved story about a son who wanted to cash in early on the life policy of his father. He took the money, wasted it on a life that, in the end, brought him none of the happiness, freedom and peace he longed for. He was left hungry, poor and alone, far from home. The warm, loving homecoming he received from his father has moved our hearts for thousands of years. It is the story we know at the Prodigal Son.

To commemorate this story of love and forgiveness, the 17th century Dutch Artist Rembrandt painted a larger-than-life portrait that now hangs in the Hermitage museum in Saint Petersburg, Russia. When he saw the painting on a trip to the former Soviet Union in 1986, Henri Nouwen shared his experience in *The Return of the Prodigal Son* (Doubleday, New York 1992) "The more I gazed at the painting," wrote Nouwen, "it became, somehow, the heart of the story that God wants to tell me and the heart of the story that I want to tell God and God's people. All of the Gospel is there. All of my life is there. All of the lives of every beloved sinner are there. The painting has become a mysterious window through which I can step into the kingdom of God. It is like an open gate that allows me to enter into the presence of the God who loves me."

If you have not read Nouwen's book, I highly recommend it. It is an incredibly powerful reflection on forgiveness, love and human greed, pride and stubbornness. Nouwen examines the story from the perspective of all three main characters: the father, the prodigal son, and the elder son who stayed home. On one level, most of us can identify with the prodigal son though we probably have never walked away or strayed from home as

radically as the young son did. We may find ourselves moved by the compassion, forgiveness and love of the father who, while the son was still a long way off, ran to meet him.

A retreat director my community had many years ago suggested to us that the elder son is the one that most of us will identify with. We may be sinners — but not that bad. We may have forgiven someone who offended us but may have struggled in welcoming them back with joy or loving them unconditionally.

It is the elder son that probably mirrors the life most of us lead. We try our best to be faithful, dutiful and obedient to what God asks of us. But — and this is the setup --- from our "lofty" position of righteous, can we, dare we extend forgiveness to someone who obviously doesn't deserve it? The story of the Prodigal Son is left unfinished and open-ended. The father pleads with him to accept and forgive the son — his brother — in the manner that the father has done. We never really know if the elder son goes into the party or not.

The truth is, we are all sinners and stand in need of God's love and forgiveness. Indeed, our sin may be of a lesser degree than someone else's but no sin can be forgiven without God. We are sinners and debtors and that is why none of us can put on airs or lord it over anyone else. The good news is that God comes running after each and every one of us. But, because God loves us, God will allow us, as the father did to the younger son, to make our own choices even if they are not the ones that will bring us life.

Hell is a choice; it's is not God's choice for us, but it can be ours because love cannot be forced on another. We have a choice each day to choose life or death. Choose life.

Midway through Lent, let us ask God to give us the grace to put our feet on the road home and turn our minds, hearts toward God. We cannot imagine what awaits us!

DID YOU KNOW... The Offertory motet this weekend at the 11:30 Mass, Palestrina's *Sicut cervus*, has a short text taken from the first verse of the 42nd Psalm: *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.* On the surface of it, the comparison is obvious; a cool, clear stream provides life-giving water for a thirsty creature in the wild. However, some commentators consider this to be a much too superficial interpretation of this passage. In 1611, Henry Tuberville wrote that the deer is not only fond of feeding near water for drinking, "but when he is hard hunted, and nearly spent, he will take to some river or brook in which he will keep as long as his breath will suffer him... his last refuge is to the water, and he will commonly descend down the streame and swimme in the very middest thereof... . And sometimes the hart will lye under the water, all but his very nose.... for they are constraind to take the water as their last refuge." Adam Clarke concurs: "Thus pursued, spent, and nearly ready to give up the ghost, the psalmist pants for God, for the living God, for him who can give life, and save from death." Palestrina set this text to music in the latter part of the 16th century.

CRUTCHES AND BAGS - Please support struggling Haitians: There is an urgent need for CRUTCHES of all sizes to protect the integrity of stump sites for future successful prosthesis. Calling all who can sew sturdy BAGS WITH HANDLES (upholstery material or leatherette). These will be used at food distribution centres when 100 lb bags are broken down into family sized portions. MANY THANKS!

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER INTENTIONS This week we ask that you keep the following people and intentions in your prayers: Fr. David Lewis., Fr. Robert Hetu, All Married Couples, Fr. Ronald Voisin, Fr. Terence Sehl, and Fr. Peter Tuyen Nguyen.

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