

St. Joseph Patron of Canada Parish

64 Church St. E., Acton, ON

Office

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Fr. Mark Sullivan, Pastor

Janet Raats, Office Administrator

Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm, Fri. 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

It is hard to believe that we have come to the Fourth Sunday of Advent, which is the last Sunday we will celebrate this season.

This Sunday we are re-introduced to a figure which many forget to think about during the Advent Season, this being St. Joseph. The Nativity stories of Matthew and Luke blend and meld together in our memories. Also in our memories, other than Jesus Himself, Mary takes centre stage in our annual re-telling of the birth of Jesus.

Luke does focus on Mary, and Luke's story is the one most often quoted, but it is important to realize that Matthew and Luke are different. For Matthew, Joseph is the central figure.

A couple of weeks ago, we read of King Ahoz of Judah who gave up his faith and the faith of his people to keep his throne at any cost. Matthew presents Joseph as the absolute opposite of King Ahoz. Ahoz's lack of trust and faith cost Judah its independence and almost its very existence. The trust and faithfulness of Joseph brought a new King who ushered in a new kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Joseph was a "righteous man" according to Matthew. This tells us that Joseph followed the law and would have been present regularly with other men in the Synagogue of his community. Joseph had a relationship with God that allowed him to listen to God's will and to live it with courage.

Mary, already considered a wife, was pregnant. Joseph wished to spare her the shameful experience of exposure and punishment, so he sought to quietly divorce her. Through what Matthew calls an angel, Joseph changed his mind and took Mary anyway, loving her Child as his own.

Joseph, who often sits alone at Christmas, should be seen as a model for all of us in our life with God. He was presented with circumstances that must have caused him great pain and confusion. Joseph, a righteous man, sought enlightenment, and it came. He trusted in God, he acted with courage and love, he took Mary

despite every reason not to, and the reward for us is Christmas and God's Kingdom.

On this last Sunday of Advent, we need to understand that two people, Mary and Joseph chose to trust in God despite their circumstances and confusion. Christmas just didn't happen. Christmas was an act of love.

Christmas Blessings to all of you and your loved ones this Christmas Season. Let us pray that the birth of our Saviour will give us a sense of joy and hope in our lives.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

"The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God."

— C.S.Lewis "Mere Christianity"

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

**Mary Palmateer, Bill Woodcock,
Lisa Fuller**



This week we pray especially for the following families of our parish:

**Nother, O'Farrell-Carberry,
O'Meara, Osman, Palmateer,
Pereira**

The **Parish Office will be closed** from 12:30 p.m. December 19 to 9:30 a.m. January 6 to prepare year-end reporting and to celebrate Christmas. Messages and emails will be monitored.

Winter Weather Conditions:

During inclement weather, we remind Parishioners to be cautious when coming to Mass and be prepared to stay home if conditions are treacherous. We wish all our Parishioners to be safe both on the roads and on the sidewalks this Winter.

DAY & TIME	MASS INTENTIONS (December 22 – December 28)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues. 7:00 p.m.	<i>Intentions of Our Parish</i>	
Wed. Dec 24 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. Midnight	Christmas Eve	
Thurs. Dec 25 10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day	
Fri. Dec 26	No Mass	
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Daniel Earl Haffey	Suzanne Blanchet-Haffey
Sun. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Cassie and Emily Raats Pro populo	Raats Family

Sacraments of Baptism and Matrimony

Father Mark arranges Baptisms and Marriages personally, by appointment. Please see Father after Mass to set a time for an interview. Marriages must be arranged one year in advance. Completion of a marriage preparation course is required. Applications may be obtained from Father Mark.



CONTACT PERSONS for CWL and K of C

Anyone interested in learning more about our parish Catholic Women's League or Knights of Columbus is invited to call the appropriate contact person:

CWL: Christie deSouza: 519-400-6012 cwl@lartist.com

K of C: Ian Nolan: grand.knight.8050@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASSES – Christmas and New Years Day fall on Thursdays this year. Please note **there is one Mass on Christmas morning.**

Christmas Eve: 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Mass**
(No 9:00 a.m. Mass) 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Mass**
Midnight **Christmas Mass**

Christmas Day: 10:00 a.m.
There will be no Mass on December 26

New Years Eve:
(no 9:00 a.m. Mass) 5:00 p.m. **New Year**
New Years Day: 9:00 a.m. **New Year**
(no 7:00 p.m. Mass) 11:00 a.m. **New Year**

Reconciliation Times:

December 23 6 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.



Sat. Dec 27 5 p.m.
Lector Patricia
Ex. Minister Nancy

Sun. Dec 28 9 a.m. 11 a.m.
Lector Catherine Cheryl
Ex. Minister Jay Lar

A copy of the service schedule for Christmas can be found in the Sacristy. Please remember to sign in so Father Mark knows you are present.

CHRISTMAS YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, January 3rd at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton.** Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



Bulletins are available online at:

<http://www.parishbulletins.com/bulletins/097>



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of St. Joseph's invites the ladies
of the Parish to our regular
meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of
each month at 7:30 pm.

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