

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



Feast of the Holy Family

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

I hope and pray that all of you had a blessed Christmas with your families and friends.

In just celebrating Christmas, we had celebrated a day of "magic" that makes us feel warm and romantic about the world as it should be.

The Feast of the Holy Family can be the same thing, a day wherein we look to Joseph, Mary, and Jesus as a model of family life. This day can also be a day of challenge for us, and a day that makes us ask questions about our own families and our successes and failures.

In writing his Gospel, Matthew's concern was in helping his Christian community, primarily of Jewish descent, understand who they were in a society that was beginning to reject them. Part of the purpose of today's Gospel passage is to connect the story of Jesus with the story of Moses so that Matthew's struggling community could find a sense of identity in Jesus. Certainly, Jesus' coming out of Egypt represented a new beginning, as had Moses' departure from Egypt.

So, what then, of us and our Catholic sense of family? The purpose of this Feast is to show the importance and sacredness of the family as the basic unit of Church life. It provides an opportunity to reflect on the quality of our home and family life, in so far as they imitate the values of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Family life is a full-time job which is not so much about parents and children living under one roof as it is about their hearts beating together in harmony and love. This will happen if the message of Christ in all its richness is found within its walls.

Religion begins at home and parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Handing on the faith means handing on a way of life. It's no use parents urging their children to pray if prayer is not part of their own adult lives. Or if the sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion etc. are just one day to celebrate without the opportunity to nourish and strengthen their children's lives through their own witnessing of the sacraments.

On this, the Feast of the Holy Family, we must realize that to compete with our own culture that does not know what a family is or should be, to keep our families together, to preserve our Christian identities, we must attach ourselves to God. Someone once said that the worst thing about cliches is that they are true. It is true, then, that the family that prays together stays together.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:

"Once in our world, a Stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."

- C.S. Lewis "The Last Battle"

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

**Madeline Ainsworth, Pat Haffey,
Helen Stroz**



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

**Podsada, Pratt, Previte,
Quackenbush, Querques, Raats**

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 29 – January 4)	REQUESTED BY:
Tues. 7:00 p.m.	Maria Albano	Schiafone Family
Wed. Dec 31 5:00 p.m.	New Years Eve	
Thurs. Jan 1 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	New Years Day Matt Brozic	Karin Brozic
Fri. Jan 2 9:00 a.m.	Marjorie Hutchison	Raats Family
Sat. 5:00 p.m.	Pope Francis	Suzanne Blanchet-Haffey
Sun. 9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Wolodymyr Radomskyj Pro populo	Kazi and Zorika

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

MASSES FOR THE NEW YEAR

New Years Eve: (no 9:00 a.m. Mass) 5:00 p.m.

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

Bulletins are available online at:

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



Sat. Jan 3 5 p.m.

Lector Lilli

Ex. Minister Chris

Sun. Jan 4 9 a.m. 11 a.m.

Lector Ann Gita

Ex. Minister Kazi Aaron

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

PARENTING TIP #174 Christmas is a wonderful time of year! We see family, experience the joys of gift giving and receiving and have some time as a family just to be. It is however, more than any of these things, the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of the season we can forget to focus on this moment, where a child came into the world so that each of us could experience the profound gift of Salvation. This Christmas, enjoy all the fun stuff, but remember to focus, through stories, Mass, prayer and discussions, on the joy of Christ's birth and the real reason for the season. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office; 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

*Today is Born Our Saviour,
Christ the Lord!*





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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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