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

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 9:00 am 11:00 am

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS:

Catholic Women's League Knights of Columbus St. Vincent Charities



BAPTISMS: By arrangement with the pastor.

MARRIAGES: By arrangement one year in advance.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 4:00 - 4:30 pm or by appointment.

SCHOOLS: St. Joseph 519-853-3730 Christ the King 905-702-8838

WELCOME TO NEW PARISHIONERS We invite you to register in our parish community by filling in a blue registration form.

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR:

or the first three Sundays of Easter, the Gospel passages have shown the Apostles reactions to the Risen Christ. On this, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we are presented an image of Christ as being the Good Shepherd who leads and protects His flock. With this image in mind, the Church proclaims this Sunday as being World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

Ever since the days when the early Christians painted pictures of Christ as the Good Shepherd tending His sheep on the walls of the catacombs in Rome, the image of the Good Shepherd has been a favourite in Christian circles. Generations of Christ's followers have been comforted and consoled by the picture of Christ the Good Shepherd anxiously seeking out the lost sheep and carrying it home on His shoulder. This image provides inspiration as it expresses the type of care, compassion, and guidance which Christ offers to all of us.

This image gives us permanent assurance that each one of us is loved as if we were the only one. Jesus is telling us that He knows us individually and thinks so much of us that He cannot let us out of His sight. The fact that we have a special place in His heart should instill hope in us and increase our confidence. Even when sin causes us to wander and stray, the Good Shepherd is there to come to our rescue. He brings us back carrying us shoulder high into the safety and companionship of the fold.

Once again in Revelation, we see the image of one speaking of a lamb being the Shepherd that stands beside the throne. A lamb will lead? This is the kind of image that forced readers to reexamine everything that they believed regarding the Messiah.

Since sheep have no defensive abilities, raising them is very difficult. They are easy prey, especially sheep that are separated from the rest of the flock. This is why the flock was absolutely dependent on a shepherd for protection and safety.

The question for us is: Do we recognize the voice of the Shepherd, Jesus, who can lead us closer to God? Spending too much time with other people with different values makes it more difficult to recognize the voice of Jesus whose sole desire is to protect us from harm.

Unfortunately, many individuals do not want to be led by a Lamb, Christ. Why should we want to be led by a creature that follows its shepherd with such a blind trust that it will even follow the shepherd to its own death as a sacrifice? This strange thought is meant to make us ponder the sublime reality that is God.

This Sunday let us pray for vocations to religious life. We are given the promise from Jesus that hearing His voice will allow us to be welcome in the fold which He shepherds.

On this Mother's Day, let us also pray for all mothers, living and deceased who are inspired by the Blessed Mother. There will be a special blessing for all mothers at the masses this weekend at Saint Joseph's.

Fr. Mark

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother." - St. Therese of Lisieux

PRAYERS FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

This week please pray especially for:

Pat Haffey, Nicole McInnis, Gerry Cronin

Family Prayer This week we pray especially for the following families:

O'Meara, Osman, Palmateer, Pereira, Plimmer, Podsada

Bulletins are available online at: http://www.parishbulletins.com/bulletins/097

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

We are currently accepting enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program, which begins in September 2025. Join us as we explore the Practical strategies for ministry youth and the accompaniment of young people in our diocesan community. To review the full course list and for information. more please visit: www.hamiltondioceselearns.com

| DAY & TIME | | MASS INTENTIONS (May 12 – May 18) | REQUESTED BY: |
|------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Tues. | 7:00 p.m. | Ann Marie Curtis | C.W.L. |
| Wed. | 9:00 a.m. | Jaroslaw Piotrowski | Kazi and Zorika |
| Thurs. | 7:00 p.m. | Intentions of Rena Arbic | Theresa Duncan |
| Fri. | 9:00 a.m. | Helen Fowler | Luisetto Family |
| Sat. | 5:00 p.m. | Angela laizzo | Luke Kosir |
| Sun. | 9:00 a.m. | Pro populo | |
| | 11:00 a.m. | Jo Ann Duval | Her Children |



m. CWL General

| Tues. | 7:30 p.m. |
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| Wed. | 8:00 p.m. |



Acton Sharing Group

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 <u>CWI@lartist.com</u> K of C: Ian Nolan: <u>grand.knight.8050@gmail.com</u>

LECTURES IN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE: ST JEROME'S UNIVERSITY St. Jerome's University, Waterloo hosts a series of public lectures each year on a variety of important and prevalent topics within Catholic life. On Thursday, May 15, Father Greg Boyle, SJ will be speaking on the power of love through his experiences of ministry at "Homeboy Industries". For more information on the Lectures in Catholic Experience and to explore recordings of previous lectures, you are invited to explore the St. Jerome's Website: <u>https://www.sju.ca/LC</u>

ABOUT THE SPIRITUALITY OF CHILDHOOD

Holy Rosary Parish in Guelph is hosting the first of a two-part Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level One Formation Course **July 7-12, 2025**. This retreat-like experience immerses the adult in scripture, liturgy, theology, prayer, the needs and capacities of children, and making materials the child works with to internalize the Christian message. Catechists formed in this method usually go on to work with 3–6-year-olds in a parish or school, or are involved in ministries such as RCIA, Children's Liturgy of the Word, and preparation for the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. For more information: www.cgsac.ca /Courses/Level One or contact the course registrar: **therese.wright8591@gmail.com**.

From the CWL: Michael House Bottle Drive

Once again, the CWL is fundraising for Michael House, a place for young mothers in need in Guelph. Please collect change, bills, cheques in the bottle and return it on Father's Day (June 15). More information can be found on the poster on the doors at the back of the church.

CWL General Meeting reminder: May 13 after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Come and make a Rosary with us!



