



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

920 Wellington Street
 Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C3
 519-832-2202



stjospar@bmts.com - www.stjospar.com

St. Joseph Church

Location: 920 Wellington St., Port Elgin, ON

St. Patrick Church

Location: 36 Albert St. S. (Highway 21), Southampton, ON

April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday the Resurrection of the Lord

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Chris Tracey
Administrator: Rosalie Scarlett
Secretary/Receptionist: Kay Pyke-Mullen

Parish Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Weekend MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM

(Online registration begins Saturday afternoon one week prior to the Mass)

During the Pandemic, only the priest and lector are visible in the 'on-line' Mass.

Weekday MASS

Wednesday 9:30 AM *(Cancelled on March 31, 2021 and April 7, 2021)*

During the Pandemic, Weekday Masses (except Wed) are celebrated in private by Pastor, Fr. Chris.

Holy Week Schedule:

NOTE: ONLINE Registration ONLY

Holy Thursday	April 1, 2021	7:00 PM
Good Friday	April 2, 2021	3:00 PM
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil	April 3, 2021	8:00 PM
Easter Sunday	April 4, 2021	9:00 AM

Public Masses have resumed with limited capacity (15% of worship space) in accordance with COVID-19 Government and Hamilton Diocese Restrictions.

Registration for Weekend Masses is required via Website Home Page: www.stjospar.com

MASS INTENTIONS

Request by Email at stjospar@bmts.com, regular mail, leaving phone message 519-832-2202 or dropping off in Sunday collection or Rectory letter box. Give your name, name(s) for intentions and if living or deceased and if a Mass card is required. Cost is \$10, please enclose cash or cheque in an envelope.

Easter Sunday the Resurrection of the Lord

[Date: + Deceased or * Intention / Clergy, Hamilton Diocese]

5-Apr-21	Mon	*	Pastor's Intentions	Rev. Louis Lensen, C.R.S.P.
6-Apr-21	Tue	+	Monique Charette	Rev. Fernando Ferreira Pinto, C.S.Sp.
7-Apr-21	Wed	+	Greg Williams	Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)
8-Apr-21	Thu	*	Sharon and Don Carere	Rev. Allen Varlaki
9-Apr-21	Fri	+	George Bugiardini	Rev. Paul Edmondstone
10-Apr-21	Sat	*	Gabriel & Almerinda Sousa	Rev. Jerzy Tomon
2nd Sunday of Easter				
11-Apr-21	Sun	*	Parish & Pandemic Front-Line Workers	Sunday of Divine Mercy

Provincial COVID-19 Restrictions: Update

Churches in Hamilton Diocese are re-opening to welcome parishioners for worship, *but still at the required 15% capacity* required by the Ontario Board of Health. So, people may feel secure enough to return, parishes are following rigorously the protocols prepared by the Chancery according to Government restrictions. We aim to assure the safety and good health, physical, mental, and spiritual, of all parishioners. Like many parishes, our **office will still be operating 'virtually'**, with staff safe at home. *Meetings are by special appointment or performed on-line. Emergency and pastoral calls will have priority*, responded to with utmost care to observe Provincial health rulings. Meanwhile, please follow carefully the **3-Ws: Wear a Mask, Wash Hands, and Watch Your Distance (6')**. Stay home in your 'bubble' to repel this dangerous virus, especially as it mutates into more highly infectious, lethal cells, possibly immune to the new vaccines.

May God bless you, and keep you well and safe in his embrace. – Father Chris.

Diocesan Links: [Statement on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines - Diocese of Hamilton \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](https://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

First Reconciliation and First Communion:

Thank you for registering children in Grades 2 & 3.

****Please Note: Children must be registered to allow parish permission to perform sacrament.****

Our first 'virtual' preparation commenced on Sunday, February 28, 2021.

The **7 Weekly Lessons** will help Catholic and Public School parents play a primary, invaluable role in their children's Faith formation and Sacrament preparation.

First Reconciliation took place on March 21st and 27th, 2021. The Sacrament of First Communion will be celebrated in **May 2021**

(*depending on COVID-19 Government Restrictions*).

St. Joseph's 'Pen Pal' Program:

This *Parish Pastoral Council* program is to help families with children Grades 2-8, to accomplish three main goals:

- To build community among youngest parish members.
- To provide opportunities to support children's spiritual and social development from home
- To practice reading and writing in a non-threatening, authentic environment.

Ashley and Scott Clark manage the 'Pen Pal' Program.

More information is on our parish website:

<https://www.stjospar.com/youth.html>

Sacrament of Confirmation:

Children Grades 7 & 8 are eligible to receive *Confirmation*. The Holy Spirit helps them build a strong relationship with Jesus and deep knowledge to live as a true follower of Christ.

A new website was launched for Confirmation preparation and to provide a user friendly and more accessible domain for students to access from all boards.

****Please Note: Children must be registered to allow parish permission to perform sacrament.****

Confirmation is planned for: **May / June 2021**

(*depending on COVID-19 Government Restrictions*).

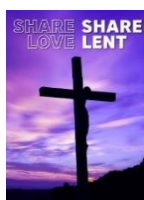
Faith Programs: To participate, please request a ZOOM invitation link from tcarolan06@gmail.com:

- **Faith Sharing:** Wednesdays at 1:00 to 2:30 PM to discuss up-coming Sunday readings.
- **Rosary:** Tuesdays at 7:00 PM to share in our community prayer to Mother Mary.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

To sanitize pews and touch points for approximately 1/2 an hour following weekend Masses. Please call or email the parish office.

Diocesan Collections – These funds are forwarded directly to the Diocese for their distribution to the charities. *Special collection envelopes are included in your quarterly package. If you do not have collection envelopes, you may use a blank envelope marked "Share Lent" with your name and address.*



Share Lent Collection – This has been a tradition in Canadian parishes since 1968. It was established to embody the two pillars of social action—charity and justice— which Pope Benedict XVI described as “not only social, but also spiritual actions, accomplished in the light of the Holy Spirit.” This year, the campaign theme is *Share Love, Share Lent*. It is inspired by the message of social fraternity conveyed by Pope Francis in his latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*. The Share Lent collection is an opportunity to find inspiration from the parable of the Good Samaritan which is at the centre of this encyclical. Participating in Share Lent is a way of doing our part so, as the Holy Father hopes, that “every person lives with dignity and has sufficient opportunities for his or her integral development.”

Needs of the Church in the Holy Land - This Good Friday collection was originally initiated by Pope John Paul II for the support of the Church in the Holy Land.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 11th, 2021

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday.
It can be found at divinemercury.org.

Canadian Food for Children is operating on reduced hours to ensure they can do the best for their volunteers while providing essential goods to those they serve. While donations are genuinely needed and welcomed, they ask you to consider whether your item is something a family in a developing country in need can use to survive and support their children. As always, they are very grateful for your monetary donations.

You can contact them at: (905) 274-9239.

Or Mail cheques to: Canadian Food for Children
1258 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga, ON L5E 1E9

Or donate online: [Donate Now - CANADIAN FOOD FOR CHILDREN \(canadahelps.org\)](#)

Society of St. Vincent de Paul: If you wish to support St. Vincent de Paul, please send a cheque to the parish office via the rectory letterbox or donate on line via CanadaHelps.org at:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-josephs-st-patricks-conference-port-elgin/>.

Catholic Organizations:

Catholic Women's League (CWL)	Lucie Desbiens 519-832-6521 or Cell 519-706-0442
Knights of Columbus	Harry Orszynowicz 519-832-9280
SJTW Secular Franciscans	Brenda Murray 519-832-6185
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	Hot Line: 519-832-2207

Please contact the Parish Office for the following:

Baptism:	information and registration.
Marriage:	an appointment 1 year in advance of date.
First Communion:	Grades 2 & 3 April/May 2021.
Confirmation:	Students in Grades 7 & 8 May/June 2021.
R.C.I.A.:	Adults, and children in Grade 3 and up.
Care of the Sick:	Visits are not allowed due to COVID-19, but prayers by phone are available.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

Easter 2021

My dear friends,

“He is not here; He has been raised!”

What a breathtaking message the young man dressed in a white robe imparted to the women who had come to the tomb to anoint the body of Jesus! At that moment everything changed – for them – for us! At that moment Jesus’ teaching took on a new authority, a new power. Because of this event the followers of Jesus, at that time and throughout the past 2000+ years, have witnessed reassuring miracle upon miracle proving that He lives – and truly helps us to “live fully”!

Mary Magdalene – the Apostle of the Apostles – was the first to announce the Good News to his followers. Certainly, the lives of Peter and the closest disciples of Jesus were changed immediately. And when filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, they set out to proclaim that Good News “to the ends of the earth”!

Because “He has been raised”, He is still doing awesome healing works, lifting us up, freeing us, saving us! The miracle of new life is always a blessing – the promise of a future filled with hope. The dedication and commitment of healthcare workers during these pandemic days, even in the midst of suffering and death, has been inspirational – and life-giving! My brother tells me that my niece is planning to study epidemiology! I hope she does – I hope other young people are so inspired!

I am always astounded by the outreach of so many to assure the well-being of people who are challenged in many ways. The Good Shepherd Ministries, the DeMazenod Door, Wayside House, the Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton, Catholic Family Services, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, The Bridge, Rygiel Supports, the Catholic Youth Organization – and there are so many other good works – all providing supports for people who reach out for a helping hand. Filled with the Spirit of Jesus, they go about “lifting up”, providing opportunities for a fresh start.

The pandemic has shone the spotlight on the importance of care for our senior sisters and brothers – those who have provided us with the blessings we experience in our lives. We understand that we have a responsibility to assure their well-being no matter their age. Migrant farm workers leave their homes and families to work on farms in our communities to assure that the “food chain” is safe so we can enjoy nourishing meals. They, too, must be supported by our caring outreach. His rising from the dead provides us the grace and courage to do so joyfully!

My dear friends, we are only too aware of the misery and suffering of our world – of our lives. The message of the young man at Easter assures us that “there is something happening here” which makes life worth living. That, precisely, is our HOPE – life does not end – rather it goes on; because we are His sisters and brothers, we are His heirs! Alleluia!

Sincerely in the Risen Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

/ed

Saint Joseph Parish

920 Wellington St., Port Elgin, ON N0H 2C3
Telephone: 519-832-2202 / Email: stjospa@bmts.com

April 1, 2021

A MESSAGE OF EASTER PEACE AND JOY

from Pastor, Rev Father Chris Tracey

Dearly Beloved Friends,

As we approach the Paschal Mystery, let us be grateful for the great privileges God has extended to us in our community at such a challenging time. As we learn to cope better with isolation, loss of income, distancing from those we love, perhaps suffering from the Covid-19 virus ourselves, we have also had the opportunity to strengthen our bonds with family and loved ones, learned to be more resourceful, and especially strengthened our faith in Christ.

At this year's celebration of Triduum we are unable to enjoy the traditional rituals of raising palms in the air, washing feet, venerating the cross, and holding candles of Christ's light in the darkness at Vigil Mass. But Christ is with us and in us which is all that matters. Remembering him with love and gratitude for what he gave us and sacrificed for us is all that is required. Celebrating in our minds and hearts the memory of our Saviour is enough to awaken the Holy Spirit in all of us.

Let what we have learned this Lent be our guide and sustenance, together with God's grace, to face any difficulties life may present us. As Christians, the promise of Resurrection awaits us. Let the glorious celebration of Easter, this magnificent time of remembrance of our Lord, Jesus Christ, remind us not to seek nor worry about the things of this world, but seek only to be with him in the next.

For those who are missing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attached is the beautiful directive our Papal Father, Pope Francis, offered to us to accommodate our inability to see a priest for confession at this time. Remember that God knows our hearts, our minds, and our intents and always hears a sincerely contrite heart.

Peace and Joy in Christ.

Father Chris Tracey.

April 16, 2020

From: Rev Fr Chris Tracey of Hamilton Diocese

For: His Holiness, Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome

Re: Confession

During: COVID-19 Pandemic Directives

**Pope Francis says, “If you can’t go to confession,
take your sorrow directly to God.”**

Dear Friends,

“Return to your father who is waiting for you,” the pope said. “The God of tenderness heals us; he will heal us of the many, many wounds of life and the many ugly things we have done.”

“God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms”, he said. “It’s like going home.”

“Many people today would tell me, ‘Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because I can’t leave the house? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want him to embrace me, I want the Father’s embrace.’”

The pope said his response would be, “Do what the Catechism says. It is very clear: If you cannot see a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, ‘Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,’ and ask for pardon with all your heart.”

“Make an act of contrition”, the pope said, and promise God, “I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.’ And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says:

“When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called ‘perfect’ – contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.”

“As the catechism teaches,” Pope Francis said, “you can draw near to God’s forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think about it. This is when to embrace confession directly with God.”

Let us continue to be united in prayer as we place our trust in God’s providence during this difficult time.

Peace in Christ. – Father Chris for Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome.

Rev Fr Christopher Tracey, Pastor
Saint Joseph Parish
Saugeen Shores, ON

Guidelines on forgiveness of sins when a priest is not available.

As per established church law, the current health crisis means it is impossible to go to a sacramental confession.

However, the church recognizes sins are forgiven when a penitent:

- 1.) Expresses true sorrow and detestation of sins in a “perfect act of contrition” with sincere love for God or “out of love for God”.

Being sorry *out of love for God* is having a desire to be reunited to God, because of who he is, his perfect love for us, and because of sorrow for having offended God by sin. It means wanting to live in unity with God, and to put aside the sins which stand in the way.

There is no set formula for making **an act of contrition**, but a common one is as follows:

“My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against You, whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with Your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.”

- 2.) Asks God sincerely for forgiveness.

- 3.) Makes a firm commitment to go to confession when it becomes possible.

“By devoutly and sincerely performing these actions, one can obtain forgiveness for all sins. Those who come before Almighty God with sincere contrition for their sins and a fervent desire for forgiveness can be confident of God’s mercy.”

The sacrament of penance is still the sole means for the forgiveness of *mortal sins* after baptism. Contrition is about conversion which means turning away from attachment to sin, and turning toward the sacraments.

Pope Francis has encouraged Catholics restricted to social distancing during the pandemic to ask God for forgiveness and then to go to confession when they are able:

“You do what the Catechism says. It is very clear: if you do not find a priest to hear your confession, speak to God, who is your father, and tell him the truth.

Promise him: ‘Later I will confess, but please forgive me now.’
And immediately you will return to the grace of God,” Pope Francis said.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

DECREE

EASTER DUTY DURING THE PANDEMIC

Whereas all the faithful are obligated to observe the Easter Duty, which requires all the faithful to Receive Holy Communion once a year during the Easter Season;

Whereas the Easter Duty does not require the reception of Penance once a year unless a person is in grave sin (CCC 1457, 2042);

Whereas, during the present pandemic it may not be possible for people to receive Holy Communion either because they cannot attend church or because of a delicate conscience relative to receiving Communion in the hand;

I hereby dispense the faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton from the Easter Duty this year, 2021.

Given on 8th day of March at the Chancery Office in Hamilton, Ontario.



(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

Very Rev. Monsignor Murray J. Kroetsch, PH, VG
Chancellor

/cd