



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

January 31, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**The Church and Office are closed due to COVID-19 Government Restrictions
All Public Masses are Cancelled until Further Notice**

Parish Staff

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

Parish Office Hours:

Visits by appointment only
Tuesday to Friday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Weekend MASSES

Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 9:00 AM

All Masses are celebrated at St. Joseph Church. Please register online. Registration closes Friday at 12 noon. Masks are mandatory. Masses are recorded for those celebrating at home. Only the priest and lector are visible.

Weekday MASS

Wednesday 9:30 AM

During the Pandemic, weekday Masses are celebrated in private by Pastor, Fr. Chris Tracey, except for Wednesdays which will be offered at St. Joseph Church at 9:30 a.m., followed by Adoration.

MASS INTENTIONS

Request by Email at stjospar@bmts.com / Regular Mail / Leave a Voice Message on the Parish Office Number: 519-832-2202 / Drop a Note in the Rectory Front Door Letter Box / Use the [Mass Intention Button](#) on our website.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

1-Feb-21	Mon	*	Pastor's Intentions	Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch	N/APPL
2-Feb-21	Tue	+	Chiu Fun Wong	Rev. Francisco Cruz	Gerard Deirdre Walsh & Family
3-Feb-21	Wed			Hospitaller Order of St. John of God (O.H.)	
4-Feb-21	Thu			Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.	
5-Feb-21	Fri			Rev. Melvin Pinto, O.C.D.	
6-Feb-21	Sat	+	Aurel Melanson	Rev. Venil D'Souza, O.C.D.	Marie Melanson
5 Sunday in O.T.					
7-Feb-21	Sun	*	Parish & Pandemic Front-Line Workers	/Hamilton Diocese	N/APPL

Provincial COVID-19 Restrictions

As per a directive from Bishop Crosby, on behalf of the Diocese of Hamilton, regarding the recent Provincial COVID-19 Restrictions, there will be NO Masses allowed until further notice from the Diocese. As in the March 2020 lockdown, the Church and Office will again be closed until advised by the Diocese. Therefore, all calls, texts, and emails will be addressed only when possible. However, Emergency and Pastoral calls will have priority. Please observe our Provincial health guidelines: by washing hands regularly, distancing and wearing masks in social situations, and staying at home and within your personal bubble to repel this dangerous virus. Further information is on Hamilton Diocese website: <http://www.hamiltondiocese.com> As your Pastor, together with all your friends at Saint Joseph Parish, we wish everyone to be safe and well and at peace. May God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe in his embrace. *Stay Safe Everyone – Father Chris*

Scripture Readings

February 7th - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Job 7.1-4, 6-7

Psalms: Ps 147.1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (R.1a, 3)

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9.16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1.29-39

Please contact the Parish Office for the following:	
Baptism:	for information and registration.
Marriage:	for an appointment, one year in advance of the wedding date.
1st Communion:	if your child is in Grade 2 or 3.
Confirmation:	for Students in Grade 7 or 8 to be held in 2021
R.C.I.A.:	for Adults, and children Grade 3 and over, interested in becoming Catholics.
Care of the Sick:	Visits to the sick are not allowed due to COVID-19, but prayers on the phone will be offered.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Thank you Message

“Many, many thanks to all those who donated their time, money and talents to the St. Joseph/St Patrick Society of St. Vincent de Paul this past year. This includes parishioners as well as other charitable organizations and businesses such as Southampton Rotary Club and Bruce Power (to name a few) who gave generously. Our work is not possible without this assistance. These donations allowed us to provide food as well as safety, hygiene and comfort items to our clients as needed. We could not have done it without you! Our clients are appreciative of what they receive.

Thank you and blessings to you all.

From your SSVP members”.

If you want to support St. Vincent de Paul, you can send a cheque to the parish office, drop in the collection box, or donate on line through CanadaHelps.org at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/society-of-st-vincent-de-paul-st-josephs-st-patricks-conference-port-elgin/>.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Children in Grade 7 & Grade 8 are eligible to receive the *Sacrament of Confirmation* in the Catholic Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your child will develop a strong relationship with Jesus and have a proper understanding of how to live as a true follower of Christ. Preparation will take place virtually, and the sacrament will be celebrated late spring (**depending on COVID-19 Government Restrictions**).

Attention: Parents, Grandparents, and Caregivers

Time to Register for Kindergarten for school entry for September 2021, for all children born in 2017 (Junior Kindergarten) and for those children born in 2016 (Senior Kindergarten), if not already registered in JK.

Please call St. Joseph’s Catholic School at 519-389-5495, the Catholic Education Centre at 519-364-5820, or visit www.bgcdsb.org for more information on how to register.

St. Joseph’s School is proud of our Catholic tradition of excellence in education. We warmly welcome your child and family to our school community and look forward to working with you in providing the best education for your child.

First Reconciliation and First Communion

Thank you for registering children in Grades 2 & 3. Preparation will take place virtually, and the Sacraments will be celebrated in **April 2021** for First Reconciliation and **May 2021** for First Communion (**depending on COVID-19 Government Restrictions**). Parents are the primary teachers of the faith for their child and our Catholic schools play an invaluable role in helping you and the parish in your child’s faith formation.

St. Joseph’s Pen Pal Program

This initiative by our Parish Pastoral Council is designed to help families with children Grades 2-8, to accomplish three main goals:

- *To build community among the youngest members of our Parish.*
- *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 will manage the Pen Pal Program. More information can be found on the parish website: <https://www.stjospar.com/youth.html>

Faith Sharing: Join us on Wednesdays to discuss the up-coming Sunday readings, using an easy to follow guide, via Zoom. Please email tcarolan06@gmail.com to receive the invitation.

Diocesan Links: [Statement on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines - Diocese of Hamilton \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](#)
[Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass - Diocese of Hamilton \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](#)



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

FOR THE COMMON GOOD

On the Pandemic Sacrifices

My dear friends,

The decision to close our churches and suspend public celebrations of the Mass has been a painful one for our clergy, religious, and all the lay faithful in the Diocese. While the sadness of our inability to gather to celebrate the Eucharist is profound, some of the responses to this closure – in addition to falling short of the demands of charity – betray a fundamental lack of understanding not only of why this great sacrifice is being made, but also whose example we follow in so doing.

We know that Holy Communion is the reception of the Body and Blood of Christ, the source and summit of the Christian life. His death is the ultimate sacrifice of love for us – to which we are joined when we participate in the Mass and receive Communion. When we eat His Body and drink His Blood, we say that “*we become what we eat*”, the Body of Christ.

During these pandemic days we are uniting ourselves closely to Christ by making serious sacrifice for the health and well-being of others. This is not a matter of weakness. In fact, during these days of sacrifice, we live selflessly, as we profess – much as Jesus Christ urges us to live – for the common good. By definition, sacrifice is never easy – and during these days and weeks and months of sacrifice we come closer to Him – we are more like Him – because our sacrifice emulates His! Our children are learning a very important lesson during these difficult days: sometimes we have to give up our freedoms, privileges and pleasures in order care for others – so they might live!

Over the past 22 years, I have been blessed to have served three Dioceses as Bishop: the Diocese of Labrador City-Schefferville, St. George’s Diocese, (the boundaries of which were extended prior to being renamed the Diocese of Corner Brook and Labrador,) and the Diocese of Hamilton. In the first two Dioceses there were remote communities of Catholic faithful who rarely had the opportunity to celebrate Mass, because there were few Priests. The people longed for Holy Communion and gathered and rejoiced when a Priest visited and celebrated Mass with them so they were able to receive the Body of the Lord. This experience of a long wait between Masses will continue for them into an unknown future.

The fact that they cannot receive Holy Communion, however, does not stop them from praying and nurturing a relationship of love with the Lord: the Rosary is still a staple for prayer, reading the Sacred Scriptures prescribed for the day or for the coming Sunday, sharing reflections and praying with neighbours, saying familiar prayers with family and friends. The faithful in these communities will continue to make this sacrifice for months and years to come. In contrast, in Southern Ontario, where we are privileged to have many parishes and priests to serve them, our pandemic sacrifice will last for a few more months, or for as long as it takes to curb the high numbers of citizens – our brothers and sisters – who contract the dreaded virus.

Since the Ontario Government declared a lockdown in the Province of Ontario effective December 26, 2020, the decision was made, once again, to close our Parish churches in the Diocese of Hamilton. While the current government and public health regulations permit gatherings of no more than ten people for worship (including funerals and scheduled weddings), we are asked to limit all gatherings outside of our homes in order to limit the spread of COVID in the community. In compliance with government and public health directives and out of an abundance of charity, gatherings for Masses in our churches, with the exception of funerals and weddings (up to ten people), even in small numbers are suspended for the period of the lockdown.

The decision to close our churches has not been taken lightly and in no way should it be understood as undermining the central place which the celebration of the Eucharist and the other Sacraments hold for us as Catholics. Our need to gather to give thanks to God remains “*our duty and our salvation*”; our need for true nourishment, which the Eucharist alone provides, continues. Now, however, we unite ourselves spiritually with our priests who are celebrating Mass daily and we rely on the infinite fruits of the Mass to sustain us.

We continue to pray for one another, for those who are suffering in any way during this pandemic and for those who have died. Let us pray with confidence in God’s mercy, that the promise of an effective vaccine will be realized and we will soon be able to return to gather again in our churches to give God thanks, to worship with the sacred assembly, and to be nourished with the Body and Blood of the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

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

January 18, 2021

/cd