



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
The Little Church with a Big Heart

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Mass Times During the Pandemic

PLEASE SIGN UP AT EVENTBRITE TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/136951071341>

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 11 a.m.

Saturday: 5 pm; 5:30 pm

Sunday: 9, 10, and 11 am OR 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30 (alternating each week with communion services)

Confessions: during the pandemic, by request.

Sunday, February 21, 2021

1st Sunday of Lent

	Intention	Requested by
Monday, February 22 Chair of St. Peter	no public Mass	
Tuesday, February 23	+Don Palma	Tim & Janet Nohara
Wednesday, February 24	no public Mass	
Thursday, February 25	+Don Palma	Tim & Janet Nohara
Friday, February 26	+Jane Vanden Veen	Garret & Helen Smits
	7 p.m. Stations of the Cross	
	5 p.m :	
	Special Intention	
	5:30 p.m.:	
	Private intention	
	9 a.m.: HCS	
	9:30 a.m.: Special Intention	
	10 a.m.: HCS	
	10:30 a.m.: pro populo	
	11 a.m.: HCS	
	11:30 a.m.: Private intention	
Sunday, February 28 2 nd Sunday of Lent		

A reminder that confessions are available by request during the pandemic. I am happy to hear confessions with proper social distancing in the sacristy behind the portable screen. Do not hesitate to ask me, even to set an appointment during the week for greater privacy. **Confessions are available every night, Monday through Friday, 8-9 p.m. at St. Denis Church on the corner of Lake and Carlton Streets (just south of the QEW – Lake Street exit) in St. Catharines. We are five priests who take a turn each night hearing confessions in a completely private, anonymous confessional. The entrance is on Carlton Street through the door closest to the neighbouring school.**

A note about finances. Many people have been very good about supporting the parish in these difficult times. Some of you, even though you have not been attending church, have been sending in donations. I am very grateful. While I realise that some of you may have had your incomes affected, even severely, during the pandemic, the needs of the parish continue. Recently there have been maintenance issues: a broken window in the hall kitchen, replacing the hot water tank in the rectory, maintenance and servicing of the boilers. If you have not been making regular donations, could I ask you to reconsider? Perhaps you can't give your usual amount, that's understandable. I know it seems unsightly when the Church asks for money (although I am not sure why that is), and, believe me, I don't enjoy doing it; however, now that we are in Lent, almsgiving, in addition to our regular charity, ought to be part of our routine. Support of the parish, as devout Catholics, ought to be one of our regular bills like a hydro or gas bill. I have not been listing the weekly collection amounts only because they have been sporadic. One week very little may come in the collection and the next week a large donation comes in from someone who has been making up for a couple of months. While this situation continues, I will publish a monthly total which is a better, but not totally accurate, indicator of how we are doing. For January 2020, the offering was:

New Year's: \$490. Maintenance: \$105. Offerings: \$3550.

Weekday Masses

Very few people attend weekday Mass. In fact, the same 2 or 3 parishioners attend Mass on one or two days. The other days I am saying Mass by myself. I know it is a preference of the 2 or 3 people that Mass be at 11 a.m. and I am happy to have it at that time on the days they attend; however, 11 a.m. is not a convenient time in general. I would hope that more people will start coming to weekday Mass as part of their Lenten practice, or simply to come to Mass because they haven't been able to come to Sunday Mass. To accommodate other people, I am quite willing to have mass at 8 or 9 a.m. or at 6 or 7 p.m. if people will attend. Please let me know if you are interested in having different Mass times.

Year of St. Joseph

Don't forget that Pope Francis has declared this to be the year of St. Joseph. As our parish patron, this is a unique opportunity for us to increase our devotion to this great saint who was chosen to be the earthly foster father of the Saviour. Here, in Canada, we are privileged to have the world's largest shrine to St. Joseph in Montreal.

Saint Joseph, spouse of Mary, virginal father of Jesus, and my spiritual father, I consecrate myself entirely to you. I lovingly embrace your fatherhood and take refuge under your paternal cloak. Help me to pray and be virtuous today. Instruct me in the wisdom of the saints, protect me from the snares of the enemy, and keep me from sinning. Should I take my last breath today, be by my side, and take me to heaven to be with Jesus and Mary. Amen