



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, January 24, 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Monday, January 25	No Public Mass	
Tuesday, January 26	<b>+Frank DeLazzer</b>	By Phil & Marlene Scordino
Wednesday, January 27	No Public Mass	
Thursday, January 28	<b>+Caesar Hajdu</b>	By Garret & Helen Smits
Friday, January 29	<b>Fr. Ron Mahon</b>	By Paul & Mary Jane Collee
Saturday, January 30	5 p.m : <b>Private intention</b> 5:30 p.m.: <b>+Maria Turini</b>	By Bruno & Lidia Carlesso
Sunday, January 31 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time	9 a.m.: Holy Communion Service (HCS) 9:30 a.m.: <b>pro populo</b> 10 a.m.: HCS 10:30 a.m.: <b>Kolitsos Family</b> 11 a.m.: HCS 11:30 a.m.: <b>Private intention</b>	By Adelaine Nohara

We are all aware of how difficult these days are. It is particularly distressing that public worship of God has been arbitrarily curtailed to 10 people. What is the difference between 8, or 12 people? Or better 35? We can freely move around without social distancing at Walmart or Costco with hundreds of people; somehow that is acceptable. There is no logic to the restrictions. While enduring the hypocrisy we would do well to pray hard daily that God will deliver us from this pandemic. While our ability to attend Mass is being sorely tried, we must not, however, lose sight of some fundamental truths.

Sunday worship is a divine commandment. Worship involves more than just our private prayers to God. It is necessary that we gather in community to hear the Word of God and to be nourished by the Body and Blood of Jesus. Watching Mass on television, whether live or not, is NOT a replacement for attending Mass. Yes, the elderly, the infirm and other who honestly attend Mass in person do well to watch a televised Mass because it helps them to pray and to raise their hearts and minds to God. True, Bishop Bergie has dispensed the laity from the Sunday Mass obligation until further notice. That dispensation, however, is required because parishes cannot accommodate the normal number of people. The dispensation relieves their conscience that they might be committing sin if they haven't been able to get into church; it also relieves those extra vulnerable to the virus from placing themselves in danger of infection. Nevertheless, the truth remains that watching Mass on television is NOT the same as attending Mass. First and foremost, the grace of receiving the sacrament of the Eucharist is not the same as making a spiritual Communion, important as the latter might be. Now that we have several Masses each weekend, as well as during the week, people should be longing to come back to Mass (concerns of age, covid etc still taking precedence, of course.) Today, Mass will be offered at 9, 10 and 11. A Communion Service will be held at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30. Next week, it will switch. Mass will be at 9:30, 10:30, and 11:30. Communion services will be held at 9, 10, 11. Each week it will switch back and forth. This will only work if people come to church at the same time each week: it will guarantee Mass twice a month and Communion services twice a month. It is imperative that people sign up on Eventbrite (the link is on the front of the bulletin). For those who do not have computer access, please speak to me to confirm a sign up time. I also want to remind people that mass is available during the week. Attendance by parishioners has been, to be blunt, dreadful. Not one weekday Mass this month has been filled to capacity. The same handful of parishioners comes. It leads me to fear that people are either losing the sense of the importance of Mass or that they have grown comfortable watching Mass on television.

From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Tradition preserves the memory of an ever-timely exhortation: Come to Church early, approach the Lord, and confess your sins, repent in prayer.... Be present at the sacred and divine liturgy, conclude its prayer and do not leave before the dismissal.... We have often said: "This day is given to you for prayer and rest. This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it."

You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests.