



St. Joseph's Parish: an inclusive community

Weekend Bulletin

A PARISH OF THE MISSIONARY
OBLATES OF MARY IMMACULATE

151 Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa ON K1N 6N8 | 613.233.4095 | info@st-josephs.ca

New Parishioners and visitors welcome! Registration forms can be found at the Welcome Desk.

Register with the Parish to receive envelopes or our e-bulletin, sign up for autodebit giving, or to volunteer.

April 26-27, 2025
Second Sunday of Easter

- 1** Features
 - Reflection on the Death of Pope Francis
- 2** Parish Announcements
 - Thank You to our Holy Week volunteers!
 - Message from the PPC
 - Archdiocese Mass for Pope Francis
- 3** Parish Announcements
 - Sunday Community Prayer
 - French Meditation Retreat
 - Reflection continued
 - Adoration and Fellowship
 - Elections Canada
- 4** Upcoming, Library, Financial Stewardship, & Noon Masses

Mass Times and Reconciliation

- Weekday Masses Wed-Fri at noon
 - Reconciliation after weekday Mass or by appointment
- Weekend Masses
 - Saturday, 5pm
 - Sunday, 10:30am
- Eucharistic Adoration: 1st Friday of the month after noon mass

Music at the Masses

- Saturday Mass - Cantor with piano accompaniment, including instrumental prelude and postlude
- Sunday morning Mass - Parish Choir with organ accompaniment, including an instrumental prelude and postlude

Pope Francis



17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025

A Reflection on the Death of Pope Francis: for the St. Joseph's Parish Community

- Roshene Lawson

This week, as we continue to celebrate the Easter season, we do so with hearts full of both grief and gratitude as we mark the death of Pope Francis. His passing on Easter Monday feels like a sacred echo. The man who spent his life preaching resurrection, hope, and mercy departed just as the Church began once again to proclaim: Christ is risen. It was not a coincidence—it was a final, quiet sign that his life had been one long homily on what it means to be a resurrection people.

And what does it mean, to be a resurrection people? It means believing that love still triumphs, even when the world is weary. That mercy and encounter still matter, even when they're inconvenient. That brokenness can still be holy, and tenderness still powerful. Pope Francis embodied this belief. Not with grandeur, but with the simplicity and humility that made his ministry feel startlingly close to what he called the Gospel of encounter.

This Sunday's Gospel (John 20:19–31) tells us that Jesus came to his disciples not with vengeance but with peace. *"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* It's a sending we witnessed in Pope Francis over and over again—even as his health declined. Like the apostles in Acts 5:12–16, he became a conduit for healing not through perfection, but through genuine encounter—meeting others face to face, soul to soul, even when the world would look away.

And he never stopped trying to open doors. Even as age and illness caught up with him, Pope Francis continued to breathe life into the Gospels—not as static words, but as a living, inclusive invitation. He sought a Church that spoke not only to those in power but to the silenced, the hurt, the dismissed. He reminded us that the Gospel is for all—not just the pure or pious, but the poor, the outcast, the questioning, the broken-hearted. His voice cracked open old spaces and asked whether they could make room for love.

Nowhere was this more evident than on Holy Thursday of 2024. Seated in a wheelchair, fragile and unwell, Pope Francis washed and kissed the feet of incarcerated women—offering not pity, but profound reverence. The image was gospel in motion: **(continued on page 3)**

STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTORAL

Executive Director

Christopher Adam x223
cadam@st-josephs.ca

Pastor

Fr. Robert Laroche x222
rlaroche@omilacombe.ca

Parish Pastoral Council

info@st-josephs.ca

Music & Liturgy Director (concert and rehearsal rentals)

Jamie Loback x228
jamieloback@yahoo.ca

Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry & Faith Formation

Paul Dansereau x235
pdansereau@st-josephs.ca

MINISTRIES

Supper Table Manager

Kathleen Strader x221
suppertable@st-josephs.ca

Women's Centre Director

Jennifer Clark x226
jclark@st-josephs.ca

ADMINISTRATION

Bulletin, General Enquiries, Sacraments, Donations and Receipts, & Rentals and Bookings

Mikayla Odu
613-233-4095 x251
info@st-josephs.ca

Finance Coordinator

Georgeta Mutu x229
gmutu@st-josephs.ca

FACILITIES

Maintenance Department

Contact Mikayla in the Front
Office, contact info above.

LOCATION

Church & Hall
174 Wilbrod St.
Office Entrance
151 Laurier Ave. E.
Ottawa, ON
K1N 6N8

Parish Announcements

Thanks to the many volunteers and ministries that contributed to our Holy Week liturgies, including:

- The Welcome Ministry
- The Lectors
- The Hospitality Ministry
- The Offertory Collectors
- The Liturgical Environment Ministry
- The Faith Formation and Baptism Ministries
- The Music Ministry
- Those who assisted with the Washing of Feet on Holy Thursday
- Those who carried the Cross on Good Friday



Thanks to those who operated the PowerPoint presentation over the weekend: Eleanor Rabnett, Pat Malikail, Rachel Heft, and Laura Muldoon.

Thanks to Terry Byrne and the volunteers for bringing additional chairs into the church on Easter Sunday to accommodate so many attendees

Thanks to Jim McIntyre for his beautiful photos of the Easter Vigil.

Through all of your help, we were able to offer beautiful, meaningful, and welcoming services for our community. We appreciate all you bring to our parish!

– **Jamie Loback, Director of Music and Liturgy**

Parish Pastoral Council: What we Heard from You

We had a great response to our Conversation Starters this spring. There were more than two hundred comments! People who keep coming back to the parish are very positive. Their reasons: *a welcoming community, an inclusive and accepting congregation, the liturgies, and the homilies.*

Given the diversity in the parish, there were some differing views. Some preferred a sermon by a priest; some, a lay reflection; others, something more challenging. On liturgy, a few questioned whether altar servers should be vested and whether worshippers should kneel during Eucharistic prayer; others disagreed. A few asked for moments of quiet reflection during Mass. The parish's social justice teaching, action, and programs were popular. The choir received many praises. Yet, there was a variety of opinion on what music instrumentation best supported congregational singing.

Many parishioners feel the need for more social connections with those of the same faith and similar values. They enjoy events like monthly coffee mornings and want additional opportunities to meet others, especially those of a similar age. The desire for an enriched spiritual journey was clear. Parishioners voiced their yearning for more opportunities to explore their faith and engage in meaningful dialogue. In the past, parishioners have organized Bible studies, open discussions, and presentations, either here or with a sister parish. Some answers took another path, calling for more prayer, faith-sharing, and reflection. We currently offer a few faith-sharing and meditation groups within the Faith Formation cluster.

Your feedback provided valuable insights for our pastor and pastoral council to consider.



Archdiocese Mass for the Late Pope Francis

You are all invited to the diocesan Requiem Mass for our Holy Father, presided by Archbishop Damphousse:

Date: Thursday May 1, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Saint-François-d'Assise Parish
20 Fairmont Avenue
Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 2K2

Parish Announcements

Sunday Community Prayer - April 27

All wishing to gather with other community members to pray for someone or something important to them, are invited to come together at the front of the church (right front altar space) on the 4th Sunday of the month after Mass.



French meditation groups of the Outaouais region are organizing a day of "spiritual resourcing" in French.

The event will be held Saturday, May 8, 2025 at **Sacre Coeur Church**, Corner of Laurier Ave East and Cumberland Street, in Ottawa.

Rev Kevin Flynn will speak on "Finding the True North of Our Spirit: The Transformation of Our Desires", according to the Desert Fathers. All are welcome. Please register early so kit preparation and room sourcing are made easier. Contact: Florence Marquis-Kawecki at 613-523-1309 or by email at florencemk@rogers.com

(Reflection on the Death of Pope Francis, cont'd from p1) a Church that doesn't fear the margins, a shepherd who sees Christ in the condemned, and a man who, though physically diminished, still leaned fully into love.

Here at St. Joe's, we recognize that kind of Gospel. We, too, seek to embody a faith that is broken and shared. Our Eucharistic statement reminds us: *"Your Eucharist, Lord Jesus, is a memorial of your life given for us, your body broken for us, and your love poured out for us. May our thanksgiving for your magnificent gift be so genuine that we too may become bread, broken and shared for each other."* Pope Francis lived this—every ounce of himself poured out for others, even at the end.

We see his vision reflected in the everyday ministries of our parish—the meals offered through the St. Joe's Supper Table, the welcome and support extended through the Women's Centre and the Refugee Outreach Community, and the many ways lay people lead and serve in our worship, outreach, and community care. Pope Francis championed lay ministry and reminded the Church that holiness does not belong only to clergy or hierarchy—it lives in the faithful actions of the people of God. That same spirit is alive in this parish family, where so many give of themselves not for recognition, but out of love.

His papacy may be over, but the mission remains. In a world where kindness is undervalued and the vulnerable often ignored, we carry forward his legacy. A Church on the move. A Church with open doors. A Church that still believes in the power of tenderness and the transformative grace of true encounter.

At St. Joe's, where the Oblate charism calls us to serve the poor and walk alongside the excluded, we are well placed to keep breathing life into that vision. The tomb is empty. Love lives on.

May we honour Pope Francis not just with our prayers, but with our lives—with justice, with mercy, with deep encounter, and with hearts that still believe the Gospel is good news for everyone.

– **Roshene Lawson**



YOU ARE INVITED TO A NIGHT OF
ADORATION AND FELLOWSHIP
FOLLOWED BY A BBQ POTLUCK

HOSTED BY THE YOUNG ADULT GROUP OF
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH

SUNDAY APRIL 27TH | 7PM
ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH
151 LAURIER AVE E, OTTAWA, ON K1N 6N8



Read an article by former parishioner, Sister Mary-Ellen Francoeur entitled: **Bring the Beatitudes to the Ballot Box**
<https://www.catholicregister.org/item/2033-bring-the-beatitudes-to-the-ballot-box>

St. Joseph's Parish is proud to have our Hall host several Elections Canada polling stations this Monday, April 28!

Ministry Contacts

History Committee:
Terry Byrne
tvb1643@gmail.com

Liturgical Environment Ministry: Wayne Moyle
waynemoyle8@gmail.com

Refugee Outreach Committee (ROC): Dona Bowers
donabowers22@gmail.com

Pastoral Visiting Contact:
Mikayla in the Office
613-233-4095 x251
frontdesk@st-josephs.ca

English Conversation Group for newcomers:
Michaelrichard2008@hotmail.com

Christian Meditation:
Tom Grace:
613-408-4553 (Mon.)
Tom.grace@sympatico.ca
Beth Smith:
613-563-7091(Fri.)

2SLGBTQ+ Accompaniment Ministry:
Eleanor Rabnett
rabnete@gmail.com

Grocery Card Program (OMRA): Donna Rietschlin
dbrietschlin@hotmail.com

Funeral Ministry:
Dianne Taylor
taylortd@bell.net

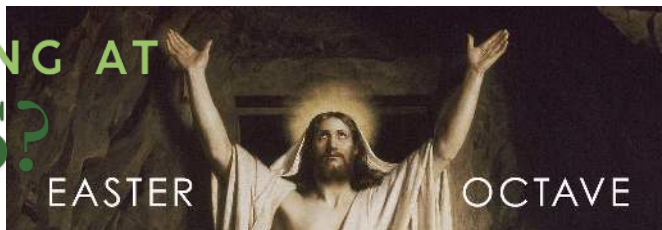
Development and Peace — Caritas Canada:
Joan O'Connell
joanoco@rogers.com

Hospitality Committee:
Kathleen Allan
kathleenallan1903@gmail.com

To add or update Ministry info, please contact Mikayla at info@st-josephs.ca or extension 251.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JOE'S?

The week of
April 28th to May 4th



	Monday 28th	Tuesday 29th	Wednesday 30th	Thursday 1st	Friday 2nd	Saturday 3rd	Sunday 4th
Office Hours	CLOSED due to Election	CLOSED	11am-3pm (today only)	2:30-6:30pm	9am-1pm	CLOSED	After the 10:30 Mass
This Week	- Elections Canada polling station, Hall (all day)	- Ottawa Campus Chaplaincy 7pm, Oblate Lounge - Finance Council, 7pm Zoom	- Weekday Mass, noon	- Weekday Mass, noon - AA, 7pm Oblate Lounge - Vibe Salsa, 7pm - 2SLGBTQ+ Group, 7pm Library	- Weekday Mass + Adoration, noon - Christian Meditation 7pm, Library - Ottawa Swing Dance Society, 7pm	- Saturday Mass 5pm	- Sunday Mass 10:30am - ORYC Concert 3pm
A look ahead...				- May 8: ROC Meeting			- May 11: OYO Concert

Library titles about Pope Francis include:

Francis, Pope. Way of the cross with Pope Francis (BX2040.F813 2015)
 Harrison, P. Pope: the life of Pope Francis, the Holy Father (BX1387.7.H37 2014)
 Pappalardo, M. Have the courage to be happy: thoughts of Pope Francis for young people (BX2347.8.Y7P26 2013).

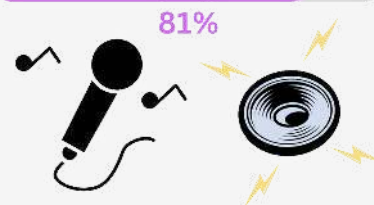


Our Financial Stewardship



Holy Thursday - St. Joe's Supper Table Collection: \$1,235
 Good Friday - Holy Land Collection: \$590
 Easter Vigil and Sunday Collection: \$9,055
 Step Up - Sound System Campaign: \$13,785 of \$17,000
 (Easter Triduum Sound System collection: \$360)

Sound System Campaign Progress



Thank you for your generous contributions to the operations and social outreach programmes of St. Joe's!

Mass intentions are available Wednesday through Friday during the Noon Mass for a recommended contribution of \$15.00.

Please contact the Front Desk or use the link below for arrangements.

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/mass-intentions>

Wednesday, Apr 30 + Thursday, May 1: Renewal of the Cursillo Community in Thunder Bay
 Friday, May 2: Janet Jeffs and Sylvain Champagne

To add a name to the prayers for sick or those who have died: notify the Front Office. We pray for those who are listed during the Prayers of the Faithful.



Prayers for those who are ill:

Agnes Hill, Joel Kwaku Assogba, Reesa Greenberg, Jim McDonald, Patricia Gayle, Brian Edwards, & Ann Van Regan.

Prayers for those who have died:

Pierre Gauthier & Fr. Jim Bleackley OMI.