READINGS FOR THE WEEK -

Monday: Rom 8:12-17; Ps 68:2, 4, 6-7ab, 20-21; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25; Ps 126:1b-6; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
Feast of St. Simon and St. Jude (who is the Patron Saint of so-called hopeless causes)
Thursday: Rom 8:31b-39; Ps 109:21-22, 26-27, 30-31; Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Rom 9:1-5; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

Contact Information for our Parish:

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 8:30 am. to noon and 1 to 4 pm.
Office Address: 96 Huron St., Stratford, ON N5A 5S6
Office email: stjimcstrat@dol.ca
Phone: 519-271-6722 or 519-880-3685
Fax: 519-880-3686
Website: www.stratfordcatholic.com
Facebook address: St. Joseph’s and Immaculate Conception Parish Community

Staff Directory:
Fr. Dick Bester, Pastor: ext. 23 (dbester@dol.ca)
Fr. Seejo John, Associate Pastor: ext. 24 (sjohn@dol.ca)
Dr. Ron MacDonald (D. Min.), Pastoral Minister and Director of Liturgical Music: ext. 25 (rmacdonald@dol.ca)
Main Receptionist: ext. 0 (Mary Chisholm and Elizabeth Manto on Mondays) (stjimcstrat@dol.ca)
Brenda Heisz, Bookkeeper and Hall Bookings: ext. 22 (bheisz@dol.ca)
Mary Chisholm, Office Administrative Assistant: ext. 26 (mchisholm@dol.ca)
Wayne Klooster, custodian @ St. Joseph’s Church: ext. 28
Linda Ingoldsby, custodian @ Immaculate Conception Church: ext. 31
Anna Checinski, organist: 519-703-0851 aachecinski@gmail.com

WELCOME TO THE STRATFORD CATHOLIC PARISH COMMUNITY
OF ST. JOSEPH’S & IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

Pastor: Fr. Dick Bester
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Seejo John
Deacon Mark B. Stagg (retired)

Sunday, October 25, 2015
From the Pastor’s Pen— Today, we celebrate the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
In today’s Gospel, Jesus restores the sight of Bartimaeus because of his faith. Faith was essential to his disciples, who were blind to what Jesus demanded of them. Faith is essential for us, too, if we are to be made whole. All we need to do is call out for what we need. Do we have enough faith to do that?

Once again, I want to thank all the volunteers in our cluster for all the work that they do to help keep the cluster running smoothly. I want to thank the Advisory Board for organizing our Appreciation afternoon and I also thank all the wonderful entertainment that was provided. For those who were able to take part in the afternoon activities we had a wonderful afternoon together.

“A Biblical Walk Through The Mass” will be offered in five sessions this fall. The dates are November 4, 11, 18 and December 2, 9. Sessions will begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in St. Joseph’s Hall. The program is to aid us in a better understanding of our worship. All are welcome, but I especially invite the liturgical ministers to attend as this is ongoing formation in your ministry. Please register by calling or emailing Mary Chisholm at the office. (Contact information on back page of the bulletin.)

As you know, our Thanksgiving Appeal is currently on. The assessment for St. Joseph’s is $67,546.00 and Immaculate Conception’s is $25,692.00. To date we have raised $10,043.00 and $5,215.00 respectively. Thank you for your generosity.

(continued on next page...)
**Pastor’s Pen—continued:** I remind all young people of the upcoming COR weekend November 13, 14, 15. It will take place in Dublin. If you are 16 years of age or older and have not made COR, this weekend may well be for you. Applications are available on the bulletin boards at St. Joseph’s and Immaculate Conception churches and both our Catholic High Schools. For more information call Paul and Angela Gras 519-273-6397. Please send in applications by November 6th.

**Reflection: True Blindness**—Bartimaeus caused a stir. Normally he sat by the side of the road being a “good blind beggar.” But one day Jesus passed nearby. Bartimaeus jumped up and called out to Jesus. We can imagine him turning toward the direction of the commotion and noise. Bartimaeus probably had his arms outstretched as he shouted out to the son of David.

The people who knew him were embarrassed by his outburst. They tried to hush him up and get him to sit back down by the roadside. Their actions spoke volumes: “Bartimaeus, you’re not fit for Jesus.” But it was okay for them and other “sighted” people to follow Jesus. In today’s readings, we learn that true blindness is not a condition of our eyes but of our hearts.

**Baptisms**

This past weekend we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. With great joy we welcome to our Church our newly baptized!!

Ava Ellen Brickman, child of Joshua and Monique (Knott) Brickman.

Annabelle Helen McLeod, child of Robert and Ramona (De Groot) McLeod.

Harlow Cameron Ryan, child of Adam and Amanda (Hansford) Ryan.

“May the Lord give His angel charge over you,
to guide you in all your ways.”
Psalm 91:11

**ST. JOSEPH’S MASS INTENTIONS**

Tuesday—7:00 pm.  
Elizabeth MacDonald  
Jean O’Donovan  
Bill Hulman  

Anita Collie  
Rob and Heide DiDiomante  
The family  

Eucharistic Adoration follows this Mass for one hour with prayers for vocations.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS INTENTION**

Tuesday—2:00 pm. at Anne Hathawa Residence  
The Souls of Purgatory  
Intentions of Theresa & Adrian Thejsmeijer  
Marie Reynolds  

Dave and Joan Franks  
Dave and Joan Franks

**Vocations Prayer Calendar**

This week please pray for Fr. Charles McManus, Fr. David Boutette, Fr. Keith Morrison, Nick Fournier, Pastoral Minister/Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Deacon David Johnston, Deacon Cyril Coghe, Fr. Raymond Masse, religious communities, Bishop Fabbro and Auxiliary Bishop Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.

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The Souls of Purgatory  
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**Annabelle Helen McLeod**

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to guide you in all your ways.”
Psalm 91:11

Please pray for those who have died, especially Domingo Rodriguez, father of Dinah Mamac. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please pray for those who are sick, especially Lucille Smith, Geraldine Merkel, Adrian Thejsmeijer, Maureen Griffin, Mary Whaling, Joan Mezenberg, Frances Culliton, Brigitta Bokkers and Raven Petrie.

A note about the sick list: Continuing prayer for those we love is very important to all involved and we encourage you to call with the name of family members who are seriously ill or are recovering from surgery. In order that we may provide a current and meaningful prayer list, we will update the list monthly. If we do not hear from you, we will assume that your family member may be taken off the list. For privacy issues these names should be given by a family member after having permission from that person to publicly announce their illness.
Youth News! Here is what’s happening!

- **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**: We continue our preparation for First Reconciliation. Retreats are next Tuesday, Oct. 27 and Wednesday, Oct. 28, at Immaculate Conception church for all Gr. 2 students and older children who are registered. The Rite of Acceptance (presentation of all First Reconciliation candidates) will take place during all Masses at both churches on November 7th and November 8th. Also that weekend we will be hosting our Learning Centers at Immaculate Conception Church. (right after the bazaar! This place will be hopping with activity!)

- **The next Youth Led Family Mass** will be on Sunday, November 8th, 11:30 am, with the music ministry being led by our Children’s choir. Mass will be followed by a coffee social in the Parish hall.

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**Diocesan news and events—**

**Heart of Mary Womens’ Evening** —October is the month of our Lady of the Rosary. Experience Mary’s human response to the joys and sorrows of her life and how it relates to our own. We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering on Monday, October 26th. Join us at the home of Carla-Mae Nyenhuis in Kinkora from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. as we watch a video presentation by Kimberly Hahn. Bring a friend. To RSVP or for more information please contact: firecracker2@hotmail.com 519 345-1331 or lindsaysills@yahoo.ca 519 527-184

**Pur 9ne Monthly Gatherings** are held on the 4th Saturday of the month. Next gathering is November 28th, from 7:00 - 10:00 pm. at St. Andre Bessette Catholic Secondary School (2727 Tokala Trail, London)

All High School, College, University, Young Adults, Adults and Parents are invited. Our monthly “Gatherings” are filled with gym time, praise and worship, prayer, a teaching, and small group discussions. The opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is provided at most of our monthly “Gatherings”. Our October and November Pure Life Gatherings will inspire you to live your life more fully for the Lord. The “Gatherings” from February to May will feature the NEW video series ~

**AL T A R A T I O N**—The Mass as Teens Have Never Seen it Before. For more information please check out our Facebook page @ https://www.facebook.com/groups/652145881501645/

**COR Youth Retreat for ages 16-21**—COR weekend unfolds the weekend of Nov. 13, 14, 15. COR 27 will take place in the quaint town of Dublin, ON. It is a weekend where teens discover more about themselves, respecting others, experience a reconnection with God, and just have a whole lot of fun through games and music. Pick up an application form on the bulletin boards at St. Joe’s or Immac’s or at St Mike’s and St Anne’s High School. For more information call Paul & Angela Gras 519-273-6397. Please send in applications by Nov. 6th. An application form can also be emailed to you by contacting them at: pandagras@cyc.net

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**Parish and Parish Supported Ministries**

**Music Ministry**—Resurrection Choir practice and social on Monday, November 9th at 10:00 am in the Music Room to begin preparing for the Christmas Concert!

**Mission Committee**—Fundraising Buffet Dinner for Project Precious Haiti will be held at Boston Pizza on Monday, November 9th from 5:00-8:00 pm, with food being served from 5:30-7:00 pm. Tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children 10 years and under. Half of each ticket will go to help with the rising needs in Haiti. For tickets please call Marg and Jim Brickman at 273-1838.

**Mom and Tots Group** will meet again on Thursday, November 5th in the hall at St. Joseph’s Church. (**Note change of location for this month.) As well, The Good Shepherd program is provided for children 3 and up. Child-care will be available for children 3 years and under. Join us for coffee, snacks, discussions, inspiration, laughter, support and encouragement and an opportunity to learn about our faith. For further information or if anyone is interested in helping with child care for this ministry please contact Rosa Ort at 275-2619.

**St. Pio Rosary Group**- Are you in need of spiritual refreshing? Come join us in friendship and faith for rosary, scripture, tape ministry, and discussion on Mondays from 9:30-11:00 am. followed by 15 minute coffee social and 1/2 hour of discussion or video tape ministry in the Cenacle at St. Joseph’s church. All ages are welcome. If you would like to join us, please call Louise Gould at 519-305-0197 or pandagras@cyc.net

**Thursday Lectionary Study Group**—The Thursday Lectionary Groups meets in the Cenacle from 10:30 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in preparing yourself for hearing God’s Word at Sunday Mass, this group is for you! All welcomed.
Knights of Columbus News

Family Skate is Sunday, November 29th at RBC from 1:30—2:30 pm. Relax in the Tim Taylor Lounge from 1:30—4 pm. with refreshments and a visit from Santa! Everyone welcome to this clustered event! For more information call Mike Lobinger at 519-273-5356.

Breakfast every Thursday at Immaculate Conception Parish hall from 8:30—9:00 am.

Catholic Women’s League News

Immaculate Conception CWL—Our next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 9th, at 7 PM. Come out to honour our dear deceased members ( Sadly 7 in less than a year)! Hear of our Bazaar results, and enjoy some well-deserved relax time listening to our amazing Men’s Choir! Hope to see you there!

St. Joseph’s CWL—Card Party Wednesday, Oct. 28th at 1:30 pm in the meeting rooms. Convener: Lillian Morris, Phyllis Schooley and Barb Zavitski. Cost is $1.00.

As the current term for the St. Joseph’s CWL executive will end December 31st. Please consider lending your name stand for nominating or nominate someone who you think would be a good addition to the executive. The positions are: President, President elect, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Spiritual Life. If you cannot contribute at this time please come to our general meeting November 16th to vote for our new executive. Contact Edna Brake (519-273-1713) or Connie Birmingham (519-273-4620).

Sacraments

Baptisms—Next baptism class is Tuesday, November 10th with baptisms being held on Sunday, November 15th.

First Reconciliation will be celebrated on November 25/26. Preparation has begun!

First Holy Communions will take place during the Easter season at all Masses in both churches.

Confirmation will be celebrated on Sunday, May 15, 2016 @ 2 pm at St. Joseph’s church.

Weddings—should be booked six months to a year in advance. Please call the church office for an appointment with our Pastor.

A Time to Remember: The Bereavement Ministry, Catholic Women’s Leagues of both St. Joseph and Immaculate Conception and the Knights of Columbus are hosting our annual MEMORIAL SERVICE on Sunday, November 1st at 7 p.m. in St. Joseph’s Church. The service is a time of coming together to remember and commemorate deceased loved ones through prayer, reflection, song and lighting candles as a sign of our hope in the Resurrection. All are welcome. A reception will follow in St. Joseph’s Parish Hall.

As we approach the Solemnity of All Saints, the lives of the holy men and women who have gone before us come to mind. We contemplate both their struggle for holiness and their example of holiness while they were living on earth. Quotes from some of the saints’ writings can literally catch your breath. Here is one of them...“For me, prayer is an upward leap of the heart, an untroubled glance toward heaven, a cry of gratitude and love which I utter from the depths of sorrow as well as from the heights of joy.” ~St Therese of Liseux

A Christmas Market!

Everyone is warmly welcome to join us on Saturday, November 21st from 9 am.—1 pm. for a ‘Christmas Market’ at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall. The market will have lots of crafts and gift ideas, a great silent auction and a bake table—literally something for everyone! There is also a lunch counter with food and drinks available for purchase. We are currently looking for donations for our silent auction. (gift items, services, etc.) We would also appreciate any homemade jams, jellies and preserves. Please consider making a couple of extra jars and donating them to the market. If you have any craft items involving sewing, knitting and crocheting we welcome these too! This is a fund raiser for the St. Joseph’s Restoration Project and all proceeds will be donated to this fund. For more information please call Elia Forte @ 519-271-2728 or Mary Jacob @ 519-271-7894.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Our annual Immaculate Conception CWL bazaar & raffle is SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7th from 9:30 am. - 1 pm. This is our main fundraiser and it is always loads of fun! We need your continued support to keep this bazaar so successful! The bulk of the profits generated will be directed back to Immaculate Conception Church expenses and the balance goes to cluster parish groups and community needs.

PLEASE pick up a book or 2 of tickets to buy or sell. Only 9 tickets in a book: $2 each or 3 for $5. Remember to fill in tickets clearly; labels cannot be used. Return stubs and money in an envelope at the doors of the church or place in the collection basket. Ticket Convenor is Lorraine Hertel (519-271-3076.)

Your donations ( NEW items only please) and assistance are appreciated. For further information, here are the Convenor Heads along with their phone numbers. Penny Table-Cathi Flood 519-271-7046; Wheel of Fortune- Paula Bentley 519-271-4443; Craft Table- Cathy Robinson 519-273-1268 & Rose Iacobellis 519-271-7883; Bake Table- Marg Bossence 519-271-6612; Silent Auction- Susan Gjesing 519-271-4719; Lunch Counter- Mary Ann Molyneux 519-271-6102; Advertising-Sharon Twamley 519-273-1995; General Bazaar Convenor- Donna MacArthur 519-273-0363.