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96 Huron Street, Stratford ON N5A 5S6

Office hours: Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 12, 2023 Third Sunday of Lent

Ex 17:3-7 | Rom 5:1-2, 5-8 | Jn 4:5-42

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE



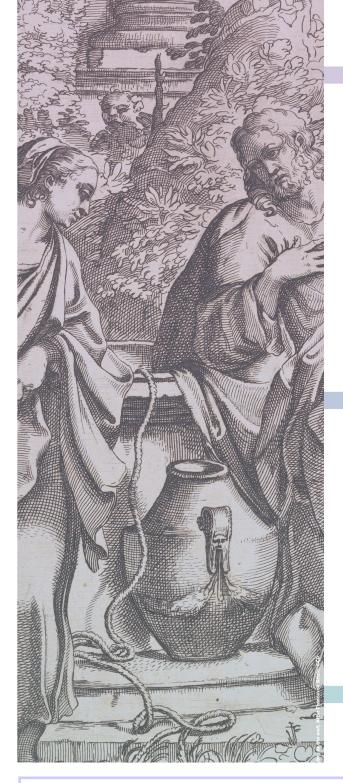
Even St. Teresa of Calcutta experienced a period of "spiritual dryness." We pray, we go to Mass faithfully, we serve others yet at times God's presence may seem elusive. Like the Israelites, we may ask, "Is the Lord in our midst or not?" As we enter the third Sunday of Lent, today's readings assure us that God remains with us even during those times we may feel spiritually parched. In Exodus, water flows from a rock to satisfy the people. In the Gospel, Jesus tells the Samaritan woman at the well: "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst; the water I shall give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman, a sinner and an outcast, recognizes Jesus as Messiah, and it changes her life. Even when we don't "feel" God's presence, we can rest assured that Jesus stands beside us. He is our redemption and our Hope, and "Hope does not disappoint."

# GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's Gospel, Jesus breaks with custom by talking to a woman - a Samaritan woman, no less. He "sees" her - knowing she has been married five times before and is living with a man not her husband. Yet he chooses to reveal to her his identity as the Messiah and offers her "living water." But it doesn't end there. The woman at the well goes forth and shares her experience with others. Many more came to believe in the Messiah based on her testimony. What an unlikely disciple! We may feel that we, too, are unlikely disciples: We are sinners, we've made mistakes, perhaps we feel we are unworthy to "represent" Jesus to others. But nothing is further from the truth. Jesus invites us not only to partake of the living water but to share it with others so that all may believe.

**ACTION** Put a note on your mirror or bedside: "Hope does not disappoint." Each morning, remind yourself that Jesus is the source of our hope, and try to think of ways to share this hope with others.



\*\*There will be NO Children's Liturgy during the March Break weekends— Sunday March 12th and Sunday March 19th. We'll resume on Sunday March 26th!

#### Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of March 13-20

Currently, many Seniors Residences are not allowing outside visitors for Mass. Please call ahead if you plan on attending.

#### Tuesday—7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Church (Adoration following Mass with prayers for vocations)

1. Steve Nicholson Tom & Klaudia Ryan

2. Norah Allan Jane Gladding & family

3. Valerie Campbell Laurie Ash

4. The intentions of a parishioner

5. The intentions of Joe and Joanne VandenHeuvel on the occasion of their 70th Wedding Anniversary

#### Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

1. Giuseppe Eusebi Clara Eusebi

2. Arnold & Rita Brewer Pat Brewer

3. Pat Brown Frank Whaling

4. The intentions of the Kraftcsik family Charlotte Ross

#### Thursday—10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church

1. Kazimira (Dunja) Gabric Jennifer & Ryan Basco

2. Frank & Filomena Vito The estate

3. Lori Ruston Laurie Ash

#### Friday —8:00 am. at St. Joseph's Church (Adoration following Mass until 9 pm.)

1. Fran & Keith Culliton

2. The intentions of Vivian Wilkins

3. Marion Hall

4. The intentions of Rosa & Michael Ort

#### 10:30 am. at River Garden Residence

Maria Del Chiaro



Their family Randy & Patti Rothwell St. Joseph's CWL Randy & Patti Rothwell

Oliva Del Chiaro

#### We ask you to pray...

**Please pray for those who have died,** especially Carolynne O'Hearn, Ernie Little and Magdalena VanDeWalle. May God graciously welcome them into His Heavenly Kingdom.

**Please pray for those are sick**, especially Keith La Pierre, Pauline Patterson, Lianne Vink, Veronica Flood, Ken Gaffney, Tony Wieggers, and Claire Nicholson.

Please pray for vocations, especially this week for Fr. Gerard Bedard, Fr. Joseph Kannath, Alice Chinnick (catechist), Fr. Russ Shantz, Filipe Da Silva (Pastoral Minister of faith formation), Fr. Anthony Eboh, Fr. Stanislaw Izdebski for religious communities, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.



Penance and Prayer in Every Parish



www.dol.ca/doc

Day of Confessions—Wednesday, March 29th. The season of Lent is a time to be renewed and to be reconciled with our merciful and loving God. An important part of our Lenten call to personal holiness is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As Pope Frances reminds us, "Confession is where we encounter Jesus." In an effort to highlight this important part of our Lenten journey, every year on the fifth Wednesday of Lent, Parishes all across the Diocese of London have priests available to hear

confessions throughout the day and/or evening. Our schedule is as follows:

**⇒** 8:30 am.—noon at Immaculate Conception Church.

1 pm.—5 pm. at Holy Name of Mary Church and

6 pm.—9 pm. at St. Joseph's Church

Easter Flower Memorials We invite parishioners to participate in a new Family of Parishes Easter tradition of making a donation toward the purchase of flowers in memory of their deceased loved ones. As a special way to honour your deceased family and friends, these flowers will decorate all 3 of our churches during the entire Easter season as we celebrate and place our hope in the Resurrection. Please complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket at one of the churches or to the lock box outside the office door at St. Joseph's.

Please clearly mark the envelope to "Easter Flower Donation". You may also leave the name of your deceased love one(s) by calling the office or emailing Mary at mchisholm@dol.ca or Elizabeth at emanto@dol.ca and etransfer the Parish as follows:

St. Joseph: stjosephstrat@dol.ca

Immaculate Conception: immaculatec@dol.ca Holy Name of Mary: hnmstmarys@dol.ca

\*\*please put 'Easter Flowers' in the message line. We will display the names of our deceased loved ones in the sanctuary by the flowers.

(Please print clearly—thank you)	
Name:	Donation: \$
Telephone Number:	Envelope Number: Parish:
In Memory of:	

#### Parish and Parish Supported Ministries and News...

Immaculate Conception CWL welcomes you on Monday, March 13th at 7:00 pm. There will be a talk on Divine Mercy given by Brenda Heisz. After the talk, we'll have snack put on by team 4, followed by our meeting. Call Mary Kay Lobsinger 519-273-5356 if you need a ride or have any questions.

## Stations of the Cross ~ Friday Evenings during Lent at 7:00 pm.

Friday, March 17th— St. Joseph's Church

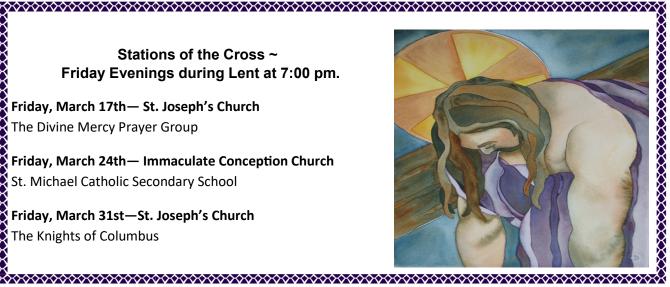
The Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Friday, March 24th — Immaculate Conception Church

St. Michael Catholic Secondary School

Friday, March 31st—St. Joseph's Church

The Knights of Columbus





# Easter Triduum 2023

## HOLY THURSDAY

**HOLY NAME OF MARY** 6:30 PM

ADORATION UNTIL 9PM

ST JOSEPH'S 7PM

ADORATION UNTIL 12AM

# GOOD FRIDAY

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

3:00PM

HOLY NAME OF MARY

# EASTER VIGIL

ST JOSEPH'S 8:00PM

# EASTER SUNDAY

HOLY NAME OF MARY

10:00AM

ST JOSEPH'S 8:30AM

11:30AM

