

Third Sunday of Advent

This Sunday is often referred to as “Gaudete Sunday” from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in the Latin original, Gaudete (“Rejoice!”). And indeed today’s Mass text is suffused with expressions of joy and jubilation. Today’s Gospel speaks of the expected coming of Jesus. This coming is being proclaimed by John the Baptist as he preaches by the waters of the River Jordan. After having heard what John had to say, his hearers asked a very sensible question: “What must we do, then?” It is a question we might well ask ourselves as we prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas. Repentance calls for a change in behaviour and not just regret for the past.

St. Teresa of Avila:
“May God protect me from gloomy saints.”

Youth Ministry
Advent is a great time to prepare ourselves to make an invitation to the Lord to be born again in our hearts, and to help us journey closer to the Father. Please follow the link to take advantage of Advent resources for youth:
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/uploads/docs/AdventResource2018-YouthMinistry.pdf>

Vocations
Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious consecrated man or woman, and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, call Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988, x2246.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
The Eucharist is the centre and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel) is taking place from Monday to Friday from 9:00 am – 9:00 pm. We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish our spiritual life. “If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?” St. John Vianney

Pre-baptismal Preparation (a one-hour meeting) is required and is available to parents after they register their child for baptism (pick up envelope at back of church on rack). These meetings are friendly gatherings helping parents to learn more how to accompany their children in passing on their faith. If child care is an issue, parents may bring their children. Godparents may attend but their presence is not mandatory.

2019 Contribution Envelopes will be at the back of the church this weekend (know your Envelope #, they will be in numerical order).

Lectors: Our lectors can find Sunday’s readings following these links as they prepare to proclaim the Word of God during our liturgical celebrations:

<https://www.scsba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/SundayReadings.pdf>
<http://www.lectorprep.org>
Mass Intentions

December 17 – December 23, 2018
Tuesday, December 18: 5:30 p.m. +Howard & Edna Weber – Sue Weber-Bell
Wednesday, December 19: 8:30 a.m. +Mary Ann Ellis – MA & Bill Zister
Thursday, December 20: 8:30 a.m. +Mary Ann Ellis – Zister Family
Friday, December 21: 8:30 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving for the continuing Graces & Blessings through the St. Teresa Church and School Rosary Bouquet –Jane Richard
Saturday, December 22: 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, December 22: 5:00 p.m. +Larry Wismer – Joan Wismer +Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe
Sunday, December 23: 10:00 a.m. Mass for Members of St. Teresa Parish

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2018
Monday, December 17 – Rev. Sam Restivo
Tuesday, December 18 – Rev. Tim Uniak
Wednesday, December 19 – Missionaries
Thursday, December 20 – Rev. Stephen Murrin
Friday, December 21 – Rev. Timothy Higgins
Saturday, December 22 – Rev. Romelito Guillen
Sunday, December 23 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Report

December 2, 2018 (should have been last week)	
Sunday Envelopes.....	1,810.00
Loose.....	173.20
Building and Maintenance.....	10.00
Christmas Offering.....	40.00

Catholic Women's League Christmas Bazaar - Thank you to all who helped, donated and supported our annual Craft and Bake Sale. We made slightly more than \$2000 which we use for Masses and gifts, as well as donations to needy causes within the Parish, Church, and community. A list of winners is posted on the bulletin board at the back of the Church. May God bless you and have a wonderful Christmas season from all of our CWL members.

First Communion and Confirmation

Sunday, December 16th, 2018 at 10.00 a.m. Holy Mass with gifts: “Actions speak louder than words”. During this Mass our First Communion candidates will present their projects, which they selected as part of their preparation program for Reconciliation and Eucharist.

Offertory Procession
Confirmation & Communion candidates will bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following Sundays: December 16th, 10 a.m. Robert Sebastian & his family. December 23rd, 10 a.m. Aliyah Chouinard & her family. Along with the offertory gifts, candidates will bring nonperishable food to support our SVDP association who provides support to the poor.

Warm Clothing Drive - Congratulations St. Teresa Parishioners! You did it! Your generosity allowed us to give 80 pieces of warm winter clothing and blankets to the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Drive and nearly 120 pieces to St. John's Soup Kitchen where it was gratefully received and put to immediate use. **Thank you!**

 **Catholic Women's League Warmth and Comfort Project** - We have collected 3000 pairs of warm winter socks (brand new!) for the poor, the homeless and for those who live on the street. We are well on our way to making a mountain. Keep up the good work and, again, thank you for your generosity.

C.W.L. MEMBERS, IT'S NOT TOO LATE! Ladies 16 and over, please renew your membership or join (we would love to have you join us). Membership fee is \$25 and can be put in the collection basket or drop off at the parish office. You can use the special envelope in your envelope box or put in plain envelope marked CWL. Include your name, address, phone number and email. Any questions, please contact Mary Helen Stroeder at 519 570 4375.

 **WCDsb -We Are Hiring**
We are currently accepting applications for the following opportunities: **Occasional Teachers**
Please visit our website for job details and application criteria: www.wcdsb.ca

Euchre Results
Next game night will be **December 28th**.

Bingo
Matinee at 1 – 3 p.m. on **Saturday, December 22nd** at the Charities Bingo Hall, 510 Krug Street, Kitchener.
New Sunday Missals for the New Liturgical year 2018/19 are available for purchase at the back of the church.



What is the state of diocesan finances? Is this a desperate situation that requires a campaign?
The diocesan financial picture is strong – the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. Meanwhile, the Diocese is generous with grants and loans to parishes and Catholic organizations within the Diocese. Parish assessments have been stable in recent years but have not kept up with increases in diocesan operating costs. Property sales have been used more frequently to keep the Diocese’s operating budget balanced and strong, and many assets (such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries) are restricted and not at the Diocese’s disposal. This is not an emergency situation. The Diocese is looking ahead and acting before any kind of emergency could develop. Overall, the campaign is a way to ensure that more parishes will be able to be self-sufficient over the long term, building up themselves and the Diocese at the same time.
I’ve heard the Diocese has a lot of assets. Can’t those be used?
At the end of 2017, the Diocese reported assets of \$322 million. However, the majority of the assets are restricted assets, such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries, money legally reserved for the maintenance of cemetery operations and funds held for pre-arranged funeral services and burials. Unrestricted assets are less than a third of the total capital. Of these unrestricted assets, more than 90 percent is used to generate investment income that – when combined with parish assessments – pays for annual diocesan operations (68 percent) and make funds available for grants and loans to help parishes and organizations within and outside the Diocese (32 percent).
Is there any chance that funds would be used to settle potential claims of abuse of children by clergy?
The tragic stories recently in the news, thankfully, do not reflect the circumstances and history of our diocese. However, it should still be noted that funds raised during the campaign will be held in a segregated account, in trust for the parishes and ministries for which they were raised. Both civil and canon law require the diocese to use the gifts we receive for the stated purposes for which they were given – an obligation to which we are fully committed. Regarding how the Diocese handles abuse allegations, Bishop Crosby said in an August 2018 letter to all in the Diocese: “All allegations of sexual misconduct have been and will continue to be taken seriously and addressed immediately in accordance with our diocesan policy.” For a link to the full letter, see our diocesan website, hamiltondiocese.com. What kind of financial transparency can we expect during the campaign and beyond? Transparency is a top priority for the Diocese. Summaries of diocesan financial reports from 2012 through 2017 are on the diocesan website, and copies of the full reports are available from the Diocese’s financial office. Regular updates of campaign goals, projects and fundraising will be communicated during the campaign through a number of avenues – the website, emails, social media, to name a few.