

Third Sunday of Advent

“Gaudete Sunday” this name is taken from the first word of the Entrance Song in Latin. Gaudete means ‘Rejoice!’ the Mass text and readings today are full of joy, especially the Entrance Song, the Opening Prayer and the First Reading from Isaiah. “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I say, rejoice!” is the cry of the Entrance Antiphon. Why? Because “the Lord is near”. Today we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus, our Savior.

Today’s Gospel tells us that John the Baptizer came as a witness to testify to the Light, i.e., Jesus. The coming of Jesus, the Light, into the world is cause for rejoicing as he removes darkness from the world. We should be glad and rejoice also because, like John the Baptizer, we, too, are chosen to bear witness to Christ Jesus, the Light of the world. We are to reflect Jesus’ Light in our lives so that we may radiate it and illuminate the dark lives of others around us. The joyful message of today’s liturgy is clear. The salvation we await with rejoicing will liberate both the individual and the community, and its special focus will be the poor and lowly, not the rich and powerful.

“It is by humility that the Lord allows himself to be conquered, so that he will do all we ask him.”  
St. Teresa of Avila

**MY BEST ADVENT SEASON** – Help your children, your family and friends to make this season unforgettable. Dedicate a bit of time to your children every day and your life and theirs will change for ever. This year we invite you to journey with our parish community by entering into this program.

During this Advent children received a special Advent Calendar and an activity chart. We love counting down the days to Christmas each December and this year we’re focusing our Advent Calendar on reading Scripture passages and doing something the world always needs more: **deeds of KINDNESS and LOVE**. Encourage your children to do something good every day and ask them to write these good deeds on hearts cut out of paper. On Sunday morning ask your children to collect these hearts and bring them to our church. We place the hearts in the crib as a sign that we prepare our hearts and our parish for Christ’s coming. Every Sunday during this Advent season we will draw one name from the crib and ask this family to take home a statue of Mary praying this particular week through her intercession for your family and our entire parish.

 **Prayer Network:**

For those not on the internet there is an envelope on the bulletin board at the main entrance marked ‘PRAYER NETWORK’. Please take a copy of the prayer intentions inside this envelope and pray for fellow parishioners.

Vocations – Third Sunday of Advent

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.” Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, contact: **Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988; [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)**

**Prayer from Diocese**

Saviour, you long to set us free. The waiting is over and you have already worked it out. Help us to live through the moments of our own salvation, in the messy and long ways that you work in this world and the world to come. May we place our own salvation in the manger with you. Amen.

**Prayer Shawl** - If you would like a prayer shawl as a Christmas gift contact the parish office and we can make arrangements to pick them up. All have been prayed over and blessed by our pastor.

**Mass Intentions**

There are weekday Mass intentions available for deceased, sick or any special intention for family and friends. Please call or visit office if you would like to request a Mass.

**Children’s Liturgy of the Word**

All children are called to Children’s Liturgy of the Word at the 10:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, from September through May. After the opening prayer, children (ages 4 – 9) who wish to attend are invited to the lower church to hear the Gospel reading in simple, relatable language. Readings are accompanied by interactive dialogue, and other activities. Children return before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please share this message with other families.

**Christmas Mass Schedule 2019 at St. Teresa Parish**

**Christmas Eve:** Tuesday, December 24 - 5:00 p.m.  
**Christmas Day:** Wednesday, December 25 - 10:00 a.m.  
St. Stephen, The First Martyr: December 26 - 10:00 a.m.  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph,** December 28 - 5:00 p.m. and December 29 - 10:00 a.m.  
On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus there will be an opportunity for **individual family blessing** following each Mass.

**Mary, The Holy Mother of God,** Holy Day of Obligation  
- December 31, 5:00 p.m.  
- January 1, 10:00 a.m.

**Parish Office Hours During Holy Week**

The Parish Office will be closed from **December 24, 2019 through to January 2, 2020.**

Mass Intentions December 16 - 22, 2019

**Tuesday, December 17 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Intention of Ken Skinner – daughter Heather**

**Wednesday, December 18 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**+Larry Wismer – Joan Wismer**

**Thursday, December 19 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**+Ludwig Ceh – Theresa Ceh & Family**

**Friday, December 20 – 8:30 a.m.**  
**+Isabelle & Danilo Varela – Fernando Varelo**

**Saturday, December 21 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Intention of Lorraine & Bob Krall – Phyllis Krall**

**Saturday - 5:00 p.m.**  
**+Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe**  
**+Veronica Reid – Reid & McDonald Family**

**Sunday, December 22 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

PARISH EVENTS

**December 15 at 10:00 a.m.** - Holy Mass with Gifts – “Actions speak louder than words”. We will officially welcome our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will also bring the offertory gifts to the altar during this Sunday.

**Bambinelli Sunday**

The blessing of the ‘Bambinelli’ – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass on **Sunday, December 15th** at the 10 a.m. Mass to be blessed as we too celebrate Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your ‘Bambinelli’ home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day - as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

**Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2019**

Monday, December 16 – Rev. Alessandro Tirelli  
Tuesday, December 17– Rev. Fernando Ferreira Pinto  
Wednesday, December 18 – Youth Ministers  
Thursday, December 19 - Rev. Tim Hingston  
Friday, December 20 – Rev. David Avila  
Saturday, December 21 – Rev. Jerzy Tomon  
Sunday, December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Stewardship Report December 1, 2019

Envelopes.....	\$3,056.00
Loose.....	236.27
Building and Maintenance.....	80.00
2020 Missals.....	40.00

**2020 Contribution Envelopes** will be at the back of the church this weekend (know your Envelope #, they will be in numerical order). If your address has changed in 2019, please let the office know. Thank you.

**St. Teresa CWL Collecting Adult Socks and Underwear**  
Next weekend, the 21st and 22nd is our last opportunity to bring socks and underwear for the needy. Please help to make this CWL project worthwhile!

**Prayer Group** has their Christmas Party on **December 20<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a Mass at 7 pm followed by potluck dinner and games. Welcoming all All ‘Life in the Spirit Graduates #1’.

**Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica**

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass in the Cathedra Basilica of Christ the King on **Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>** at 12:00 a.m. The celebration will be live streamed and telecast on S+L and CHTV. The broadcast will begin on Christmas Eve at 11:30 p.m. with carols from the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend or to watch via live stream or television.

**Parenting Tip of the Month** - For Catholics, Christmas is about so much more than gifts: it is the promise, through the birth of Jesus, of goodness and light coming into our lives. Do your children know this is the focus of Christmas? Advent and Christmas are perfect times to highlight the “reason for the season”. Read stories about the Advent wreath so they understand what each candle symbolizes; read the story of the Nativity (more than once!); be sure the tree is adorned with symbols of the faith; read family Advent reflections daily during Advent; attend Mass and reflect on the readings each week, including Christmas Day. Faith sets a foundation on which to stand and Christmas is a perfect time to bring Christ into your family activities!



**Euchre**

Next game night will be **Friday, December 20th** at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.



Matinee on **Saturday, December 21st** from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Charities Bingo Hall, 510 Krug Street, Kitchener. To assist with this fundraiser for our parish, please call the office: 519-743-4525.