

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

We are now on the eve of the birth of Jesus. In today's Gospel, Matthew tells us how this came about. His account is totally different from that of Luke. The only thing in common with both accounts are the central ideas that:

- Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and
- Joseph and Mary are the parents of Jesus.

In both accounts there is an angelic appearance: in one case to Mary and in the other to Joseph. Mary is told - in Luke's gospel - that she is to bear a son. When she says that she is still a virgin, she is told that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and her child will be the Son of God. In Joseph's case, he is told - in Matthew's gospel - not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife because the child with whom she is pregnant is from the Spirit of God. The stories are different but the central message is the same. Mary is the mother of the Child but Joseph is not the father. The child has been conceived by the power of God's Spirit. The son is to be called 'Jesus', which means 'Saviour' because his mission is to save his people from their estrangement with God.

Christmas – December 25, 2019

Today we hear the magnificent passage from the opening of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God... The Word was the true light that enlightens all men and he was coming into the world ... The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of God." There is no mention of Bethlehem, of Mary, of shepherds, or the stable and the manger, so why do we read this Gospel for Christmas Day?

The Bethlehem story, of course, was told during last night's Mass. But today we are, as it were, going behind the scenes, and looking at the deeper meaning of that story. After all, who is that little baby, so small, so helpless? And why do we make such a fuss about his birth? He is the Word of God. From the beginning he was with God and WAS God. Think of those extraordinary words as you gaze at the crib.

Dear Parishioners and Guests,

May this Christmas be more than just a season; may it become a way of life for us. May the little Child whom we contemplate in the manger, watch over all the children of our parish and the entire world, as well as vulnerable and discarded persons. May all of us receive peace and consolation from the birth of the Savior and, in the knowledge that we are loved by the one heavenly Father! Let Jesus be really re-born in each one of us this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

Fr. Marian Gil OMI

"It is love alone that gives worth to all things."
St. Teresa of Avila


Parish Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - The Eucharist is the center 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. J. Vianney

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 our Parish Centre 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.

Family Blessing at both Masses on **December 28/29**. The family is important to the Church and to civil society, for it is the primary life-giving community. In our prayer we call down the Lord's blessing upon you, so that you may continually be instruments of God's grace to one another and witnesses to faith in all the circumstances of life. Continuing through the rest of the year, there will be a family blessing on the last Sunday of the month.

Building and Maintenance Collection will take place next weekend **December 28/29**. This is to help the parish with many repairs and upgrades needed to keep the church in good condition. We would really appreciate your help. There will be extra envelopes left in the pews.

 **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.

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.

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

Christmas Mass Schedule 2019 & Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 24 – 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Wednesday, December 25 – 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Thursday, December 26 – 10:00 a.m.
+Earl Grubb – Helen Bastian & Family

Friday, December 27 – 8:30 a.m.
+Ed Forwell – Betty Jane Forwell

Saturday, December 28 – 9:00 a.m.
+Sabina & Ted Lis – Grace Gajkowski

Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
+Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe
+John Artinger – Rosa Artinger

Sunday, December 29 – 10:00 a.m.
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

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

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2019

- Monday, December 23 – Very Rev. Wojciech Kuzma
- Tuesday, December 24– Rev. James McSharry
- Wednesday, December 25 – **Christmas Day**
- Thursday, December 26 - Rev. Martin Mikulski
- Friday, December 27 – Rev. Joseph Okoko
- Saturday, December 28 – Rev. Franjo Sprajc
- Sunday, December 29 – The Holy Family

Vocations – Fourth Sunday of Advent - "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, contact: **Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton: 905-528-7988; vocations@hamiltondiocese.com**

Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass in the Cathedra Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton on **Wednesday, December 25th** at 12:00 a.m. The celebration will be live streamed and telecast on S+L and CHCH TV. 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.

Stewardship Report December 15, 2019

Envelopes.....	\$2,349.00
Loose.....	403.75
Building and Maintenance.....	30.00
Memorial Donation.....	200.00
Vigil Candles.....	81.95

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

Thank you!!!! to all who helped set up the Nativity Scene in front of our church and to those who cleaned the Church on Saturday. Many hands do make light work and we got a lot done! It is much appreciated.

Coffee Sunday will be in the New Year. We will see you after the 10:00 a.m. Mass on **January 5th, 2020**. Thank you to all who have participated by providing the treats for this event in 2019.

Catholic Women's League Elections: We are looking for a new president and executive for St. Teresa's Catholic Women's League. To be eligible to stand for office you must be a paid up member. There will be postings on the bulletin board and nomination forms available in the next few weeks. Please give this your prayerful consideration. Contact numbers will be made available at a later date.

Marriage Tip of the Month - At Christmas we gather with love ones to share gifts, eat great food and build joyful memories. Sometimes we get caught up on the glitter and glam of the season and forget to take time as a couple to decide how much money, time and energy we can expend during the season. This year why not sit down in advance and decide how much you can do as a couple/family. Weave into your plans time for the two of you to take a quiet moment with each other. During Advent and Christmas, take time to pray and share important faith moments with each other. Trying these initiatives could make this Christmas your best yet!



Euchre

- High Score - Charlotte Wilson
- Most Lone Hands - Bill Zister
- Low Score - Erma Williams
- 1st Draw - Mary Alice Zister / 2nd Draw - Stella Lemieux

Euchre Nights are cancelled until further notice.



Matinee on **Saturday, January 18, 2020** 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.