

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

44 Leonard St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6C8 Phone: 519-743-4525

E-mail: st.teresa@stteresakit.ca www.stteresakit.ca

The Ascension of the Lord

May 24, 2020

St. Teresa of Avila

“Truth suffers,
but never dies.”



Parish Staff & Organizations

Pastor: Fr. Marian Gil, OMI

Parish Secretary: Mary Steffler

Business Administrator: David Agnew

Facilities Manager: Jim Weber

Volunteer Gardeners:

Baptism Preparation Team:

CWL President:

Lector Co-ordinator: Mary Alice Zister

Eucharistic Minister Co-ordinator:

Kim Voelzing

Prayer Group:

Mila Navaleza - 519-579-8276

Finance Council Chair:

Don Pickett, Jr.

Pastoral Council Chair:

Barbara Daly

St. Vincent de Paul:

Bernie & Rosemary Pickett

519-749-1501

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Office Closed

Saturday Liturgy:

9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Weekday Schedule

Please check inside for
weekly schedule

Sunday Liturgy:

10:00 a.m.

Confession: 30 min. before Mass; Sat., 4:15 – 4:45p.m.

Healing Mass: First Friday of each month – 7:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday – 7:00 p.m.

St. Teresa School

Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear

Secretary: Mary Lavigne

519-743-2131

The Ascension of the Lord

Today's Gospel is taken from the conclusion of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew's Gospel quickly moves from the disciples' discovery of Jesus' empty tomb, to Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, to the commission that Jesus gives his disciples in today's Gospel. Here we are told that the eleven disciples go the mountaintop in Galilee, as Jesus had instructed, through Mary Magdalene and the other Mary (cf. Matthew 28:9-10). They see Jesus, and both, worship and doubt, at the same time. Jesus approaches them and commissions them to baptize and teach, **"to make disciples of all nations."** The Gospel ends, as it had begun, with the promise that Jesus will continue to be Emmanuel, "God with us" (cf. Matthew 1:23), for all eternity.

The Ascension is not to be understood literally, as if Jesus floated up into space on his way to "heaven". **Where is "heaven"?** Is it above Jerusalem? Is it in the whole sky encircling the earth? Heaven should be conceived, not as a place, but as a relationship with God and God is everywhere, in the whole universe. Jesus did not have to 'go' anywhere to be with His Father. The Ascension is part of what we call the Paschal Mystery. There are four inter-related parts: suffering and death; resurrection; ascension; and the sending of the Spirit. They are closely interlocked as one reality. If the resurrection says that the crucified Jesus is alive, the Ascension says that the living Jesus has entered into glory, sharing on an equal level the glory of his Father.

Family Connection

Just as Jesus sent his disciples to make disciples; our family, the domestic Church, is called to bear witness to the life of discipleship. That act of witnessing can take many forms. First and foremost, our family should call people to discipleship, by the example of our love for one another. That example, is only the beginning - our love must extend beyond the family, reaching out to others and to the world. **Pray as a family for the grace to be witnesses to the world, of the life of discipleship. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.**

Novena to the Holy Spirit

The novena in honor of the Holy Spirit, is the oldest of all novenas, since it was first made at the direction of Our Lord Himself, when He sent His apostles back to Jerusalem, to await the coming of the Holy Spirit, on the first Pentecost. Addressed to the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity, it is a powerful plea for the light and strength and love so sorely needed by every Christian. **Join us following evening Mass starting Friday, May 22.**

Marian Devotion will take place during the month of May following the Eucharist from Tuesday to Saturday.

Mass Intentions – For Father's Day, **June 21st**, we will accept multiple Mass intentions. Call the office if you would like to make a request at 519-743-4525.

All Parish Events suspended until further notice!

Office Closure

Due to the Ontario government announced extension, to the emergency orders, the Parish Office will remain closed until **June 2, 2020**.

You can continue to reach us at st.teresa@stteresakit.ca or 519-743-4525.

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020

May 25 – Rev. Michael Anderson
 May 26 – Most Rev. Anthony Tonnos
 May 27 – Congregation of the Resurrection (C.R.)
 May 28– Rev. Joseph Durkacz
 May 29 – Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch
 May 30 – Most Rev. Matthew Ustrzycki
 May 31 – Pentecost Sunday

Vocations - Ascension of the Lord - May 24, 2020

Jesus said, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." If you are discerning God's call for the priesthood, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
www.hamiltondiocese.com

Mass Intentions for May 26 - May 31, 2020

Tuesday, May 26 – 7 p.m. – +Mary Paquette – Mary Alice & Bill Zister

Wednesday, May 27 – 7 p.m. – +Larry Wismer – Joan Wismer

Thursday, May 28 – 7:00 p.m. – +Earl Boyce – Pat & Dan Weiler

Friday, May 29 – 7:00 p.m. – +Scott Weiler – Pat & Dan Weiler

Saturday, May 30 – 9 a.m. 7 p.m. – +Leona Grobe – Peter Grobe

Pentecost Sunday, May 31 – 10 a.m. – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish



Whoever has God
lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.
St. Teresa of Avila

Stewardship Report

We have received enquiries about how parishioners might support our parish without being able to be physically present. To support our parish via credit card, please visit the special **Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19** page at the Diocese of Hamilton:

[COVID-19 Parish Fund - Diocese of Hamilton](#)

Once you are on the Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19 page, there are 4 sections on the form to complete. They are as follows:

- DONATION DETAILS
- DONOR & TAX RECEIPT INFORMATION
- PAYMENT INFORMATION
- IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR PARISH, PLEASE SHARE IT HERE:

To ensure the funds get directed to our parish, it is imperative that you select **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener** in the drop box in the **FUND** box of the Donation Details section.

Once you have completed the form, click on **COMPLETE DONATION NOW**. This method of giving will provide you with an **electronic tax receipt** immediately upon making your gift.

If you choose the above option, it would be greatly appreciated if you could email the parish office at st.teresa@stteresakit.ca to advise us of your donation.

You may also send a gift directly to our parish through the mail. Continuing support of our parish is an act of generosity and faith. We are very grateful for any contributions you may be able to make at this time.

World Communications Day 2020

This Sunday, Catholics are invited to reflect upon social media communication. The main theme of the Pope’s message in 2020 is: **“That you may tell your children and grandchildren’: Life becomes history.”** The passage, drawn from the Book of Exodus, highlights the importance of sharing "knowledge of the Lord" and meaningful memories, stories and experiences, so that they may transform people's lives, Pope Francis wrote. Please read the entire message on p. 4.

Mass Intentions for May 25 – May 31, 2020 will be celebrated by Father Gil each day, **privately**. The **Masses** will be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 a.m., Saturday Vigil in anticipation of Sunday at 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., on Zoom. Please join Father by clicking on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>

Password: 274733

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is also **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 3 p.m., on the same link.



Marillac Place Baby Bottle Campaign

The spring Baby Bottle Campaign serves as the foundation from which Marillac Place relies on to operate. This year, because of the pandemic, and due to an urgent need for support, the Baby Bottle Campaign, which launched on Mother's Day, will be a virtual campaign. Any amount of support you can provide will make a difference in the lives of the vulnerable young mothers and families we serve.

No one should face motherhood alone. Make a difference today and donate now. Donate on-line at www.marillacplace.ca/donate/ or send cheques directly to 109 Young Street, Kitchener, ON, N2H 4Z2

Stewardship Report – May 20, 2020

Envelopes	\$2560.00
Building & Maintenance	\$ 165.00
Easter	\$ 100.00
Share Lent	\$ 115.00
Needs of Church in Holy Land..	\$ 120.00
Pope’s Pastoral Works	\$ 135.00
Government of Canada – COVID-19	
Grant Money	\$4116.75

Development and Peace - As the global human family faces the COVID-19 pandemic, Development and Peace- Caritas Canada wishes its members, donors and partner organizations, the best of health and resilience. Our thoughts are especially with communities of the Global South, whose hardships are compounded by this crisis. As you know, the Development and Peace Share Lent campaign was not able to proceed as normal, but we are hoping to encourage people to give online. During this difficult time, the need to support one another is more present than ever. Click on the link below to donate and/or for more information:

[Donate online](#)

Saint Teresa Conference of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul are still unable to distribute food hampers but we have been able to do some good things, because of the generosity of the Parish. From your donations, we collected and purchased 50 boxes of tea, as well as donating \$240 for the Baker Lake Project. The food container will be leaving in the next 2 weeks for Nunavik. Thank you to those who have continued to support us with donations using Church envelopes. We will need to completely restock our food supply, as we decided to donate all our food to the Food Bank at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. We wish to be ready, when we are called upon to assist, those in our neighbourhood. Thank you and God bless you!

Waterloo Knights of Columbus Fish Fry – Available every Friday. **Pick up only:** From 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., 145 Dearborn Place, Waterloo. Please call Derek, at 226-748-8378, to order. 1 P.C. - \$14.00; 2 P.C. - \$16.00 Best in Town

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 54th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

***"That you may tell your children and grandchildren" (Ex 10:2)
Life becomes history***

I would like to devote this year's Message to the theme of storytelling, because I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together. Amid the cacophony of voices and messages that surround us, we need a human story that can speak of ourselves and of the beauty all around us. A narrative that can regard our world and its happenings with a tender gaze. A narrative that can tell us that we are part of a living and interconnected tapestry. A narrative that can reveal the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

1. Weaving stories

Human beings are storytellers. From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives, whether in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news, even if we do not always realize it. Often we decide what is right or wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own. Stories leave their mark on us; they shape our convictions and our behaviour. They can help us understand and communicate who we are.

We are not just the only beings who need clothing to cover our vulnerability (cf. *Gen 3: 21*); we are also the only ones who need to be "clothed" with stories to protect our lives. We weave not only clothing, but also stories: indeed, the human capacity to "weave" (Latin *texere*) gives us not only the word *textile* but also *text*. The stories of different ages all have a common "loom": the thread of their narrative involves "heroes", including everyday heroes, who in following a dream confront difficult situations and combat evil, driven by a force that makes them courageous, the force of love. By immersing ourselves in stories, we can find reasons to heroically face the challenges of life. Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life. Yet since the very beginning, our story has been threatened: evil snakes its way through history.

2. Not all stories are good stories

"When you eat of it ... you will be like God" (cf. *Gen 3:4*): the temptation of the serpent introduces into the fabric of history a knot difficult to undo. "If you possess, you will become, you will achieve..." This is the message whispered by those who even today use storytelling for purposes of exploitation. How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming. Often on communication platforms, instead of constructive stories which serve to strengthen social ties and the cultural fabric, we find destructive and provocative stories that wear down and break the fragile threads binding us together as a society. By patching together bits of unverified information, repeating banal and deceptively persuasive arguments, sending strident and hateful messages, we do not help to weave human history, but instead strip others of their dignity.

But whereas the stories employed for exploitation and power have a short lifespan, a good story can transcend the confines of space and time. Centuries later, it remains timely, for it nourishes life.

In an age when falsification is increasingly sophisticated, reaching exponential levels (as in *deepfake*), we need wisdom to be able to welcome and create beautiful, true and good stories. We need courage to reject false and evil stories. We need patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose the thread amid today's many troubles. We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life.

3. The *Story of stories*

Sacred Scripture is a *Story of stories*. How many events, peoples and individuals it sets before us! It shows us from the very beginning a God who is both creator and narrator. Indeed, God speaks His word and things come into existence (cf. *Gen 1*). As narrator, God calls things into life, culminating in the creation of man and woman as His free dialogue partners, who make history alongside Him. In one of the Psalms, the creature tells the creator: "For you formed my inward parts; you *knitted me together* in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and *wonderfully* made ... My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth" (139:13-15). We are not born complete, but need to be constantly "woven", "knitted together". Life is given to us as an invitation to continue to weave the "wonderful" mystery that we are.

The Bible is thus the great love story between God and humanity. At its centre stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfilment both God's love for us and our love for God. Henceforth, in every generation, men and women are called to *recount and commit to memory* the most significant episodes of this *Story of stories*, those that best communicate its meaning.

The title of this year's Message is drawn from the Book of Exodus, a primordial biblical story in which God intervenes in the history of His people. When the enslaved children of Israel cry out to Him, God listens

and remembers: "God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. God saw the people of Israel – and God knew" (*Ex 2: 24-25*). God's memory brings liberation from oppression through a series of signs and wonders. The Lord then reveals to Moses the meaning of all these signs: "that you may tell in the hearing of your children and grandchildren... what signs I have done among them, that you may know that I am the Lord" (*Ex 10:2*). The Exodus experience teaches us that knowledge of the Lord is handed down from generation to generation mainly by telling the story of how He continues to make Himself present. The God of life communicates with us through the story of life.

Jesus spoke of God not with abstract concepts, but with parables, brief stories taken from everyday life. At this point life becomes story and then, for the listener, story becomes life: the story becomes part of the life of those who

listen to it, and it changes them. The Gospels are also stories, and not by chance. While they tell us about Jesus, they are “performative”^[1]; they conform us to Jesus. The Gospel asks the reader to share in the same faith in order to share in the same life. The Gospel of John tells us that the quintessential storyteller – the Word – Himself becomes the story: “God’s only Son, who is at the Father’s side, has *made Him known*” (Jn 1: 18). The original verb, *exegésato*, can be translated both as “revealed” and “recounted”. God has become personally woven into our humanity, and so has given us a new way of weaving our stories.

4. An ever renewed story

The history of Christ is not a legacy from the past; it is our story, and always timely. It shows us that God was so deeply concerned for mankind, for our flesh and our history, to the point that He became man, flesh and history. It also tells us that no human stories are insignificant or paltry. Since God became story, every human story is, in a certain sense, a divine story. In the history of every person, the Father sees again the story of His Son who came down to earth. Every human story has an irrepressible dignity. Consequently, humanity deserves stories that are worthy of it, worthy of that dizzying and fascinating height to which Jesus elevated it.

“You” – Saint Paul wrote – “are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Cor 3:3). The Holy Spirit, the love of God, writes within us. And as He writes within us, He establishes goodness in us and constantly reminds us of it. Indeed, to “re-mind” means to bring to mind, to “write” on the heart. By the power of the Holy Spirit, every story, even the most forgotten one, even the one that seems to be written with the most crooked lines, can become inspired, can be reborn as a masterpiece, and become an appendix to the Gospel. Like the *Confessions* of Augustine. Like *A Pilgrim’s Journey* of Ignatius. Like *The Story of a Soul* of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Like *The Betrothed*, like *The Brothers Karamazov*. Like countless other stories, which have admirably scripted the encounter between God’s freedom and that of man. Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared, recounted and brought to life in every age, in every language, in every medium.

5. A story that renews us

Our own story becomes part of every great story. As we read the Scriptures, the stories of the saints, and also those texts that have shed light on the human heart and its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our hearts, reviving our memory of what we are in God’s eyes. When we remember the love that created and saved us, when we make love a part of our daily stories, when we weave the tapestry of our days with mercy, we are turning another page. We no longer remain tied to regrets and sadness, bound to an unhealthy memory that burdens our hearts; rather, by opening ourselves to others, we open ourselves to the same vision of the great storyteller. Telling God our story is never useless: even if the record of events remains the same, the meaning and perspective are always changing. To tell our story to the Lord is to enter into his gaze of compassionate love for us and for others. We can recount to Him the stories we live, bringing to Him the people and the situations that fill our lives. With Him we can re-weave the fabric of life, darning its rips and tears. How much we, all of us, need to do exactly this! With the gaze of the great storyteller – the only one who has the ultimate point of view – we can then approach the other characters, our brothers and sisters, who are with us as actors in today’s story. For no one is an extra on the world stage, and everyone’s story is open to possible change.

Even when we tell of evil, we can learn to leave room for redemption; in the midst of evil, we can also recognize the working of goodness and give it space.

So it is not a matter of simply telling stories as such, or of advertising ourselves, but rather of remembering who and what we are in God’s eyes, bearing witness to what the Spirit writes in our hearts and revealing to everyone that his or her story contains marvellous things. In order to do this, let us entrust ourselves to a woman who knit together in her womb the humanity of God and, the Gospel tells us, wove together the events of her life. For the

Virgin Mary “treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart” (Lk 2: 19). Let us ask for help from her, who knew how to untie the knots of life with the gentle strength of love:

O Mary, woman and mother, you wove the divine Word in your womb, you recounted by your life the magnificent works of God. Listen to our stories, hold them in your heart and make your own the stories that no one wants to hear. Teach us to recognize the good thread that runs through history. Look at the tangled knots in our life that paralyze our memory. By your gentle hands, every knot can be untied. Woman of the Spirit, mother of trust, inspire us too. Help us build stories of peace, stories that point to the future. And show us the way to live them together.

Rome, at Saint John Lateran, 24 January 2020, the Memorial of Saint Francis de Sales

Crowning of Mary

The month of May is traditionally dedicated to our Blessed Mother, so we are encouraged to honor her in more significant ways all throughout this month. However, if you’ve found yourself overwhelmed by life and suddenly realize that we’re more than halfway through May, yet you still haven’t been doing much to honor Mama Mary (as many Filipino Catholics like to call her), you’ll probably want to try being more intentional about it. So, to help you honor Mother Mary in a more significant way during the remaining days of May, here are a few simple suggestions:

1. Pray more Marian prayers.

If your family doesn’t pray the Rosary daily, you can start with that, or maybe even just a decade a day. You could also inject the Angelus into your daily routine (at 12 noon and at 6pm), if you want. Or even just add, “Mother Mary, pray for us” after you say Grace before meals. **The key is to include our Mother in our daily prayers in a more significant way.**

2. Read books about Mama Mary.

There are lots of Marian-themed books around that are suitable for adults and children too. If you already have storybooks about Mother Mary in your home library, take them out and read them to your kids. If you have older children, you should still read to them, but also encourage them to do some reading on their own. Of course, if you don’t have any books about Mary, you can always use your Bible and read stories about the Blessed Virgin Mary.

3. Have a simple Mama Mary coronation ceremony.

Mary is considered as the Queen of All Saints, and the Queen of Heaven and Earth, so holding a simple crowning ceremony for her would be a great way to honour her. You can do this as a family at home or with friends from your local parish or community.

4. Watch videos or shows about Mather Mary.

There are many films featuring Mother Mary that you might want to consider watching with your kids. A few recommended titles are “Mary of Nazareth,” “The 13th Day” (about the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima), and “Jean Delannoy’s Bernadette” (about the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes). Children will also enjoy watching animated shows that have Mother Mary in them, like CCC of America’s “The Day the Sun Danced: The True Story of Fatima,” “Juan Diego: Messenger of Guadalupe” and “Bernadette: The Princess of Lourdes.” If you have a limited budget, you can also try searching YouTube for videos about Mother Mary.

5. Have Mary-themed arts and crafts activities - You can try searching online for easy Marian crafts for kids. Start with the resources here at CatholicMom.com

CALLING ALL CHILDREN



Do you like to colour? Are you creative? Would you like to use your imagination?

May is a very special month, in which we honour our Heavenly Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Usually, the school children have a special celebration to honour the Blessed Virgin, with a May Crowning. This year, however, as we are not able to gather together, I would like to invite you to colour the attached picture and send it back to us, here at the Parish. We have included these samples, created by other children, to help you create your masterpiece, but

we also would encourage you to do your own design - use your imagination, be creative! Honour Our Lady, by sending her your love, through your creation.

Take a picture of your Masterpiece and send it to: st.teresa@stteresakit.ca by **Thursday, May 28, 2020.**

We will compile your submissions and place them in front of the statue of Our Blessed Mother, **on May 30, 2020.** Get busy and get creative! We look forward to seeing your creations!

We are also including activities for parents and children, to do together, for the rest of May. Please enjoy!

