

# 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](mailto:st.teresa@stteresakit.ca) [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca)

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

## St. Teresa of Avila

“To have courage for whatever comes in life - everything lies in that.”



## 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:** Mary Alice Zister

**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 – 4:45 p.m.

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

**Prayer Meeting:** 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Friday – 7:00 p.m.

### St. Teresa School

Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear

Secretary: Mary Lavigne

519-743-2131

## First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin a New Year in the liturgical calendar. This first period is appropriately called "Advent". It comes from the Latin word *adventus* which simply means 'coming'. But who's coming are we talking about? We are beginning to prepare to remember God coming to be a human being among us, with us and like us.

Today's Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church's celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ's return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark's community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

To be alert and to keep watch are the keywords of this passage from the Gospel of St. Mark. They are repeated with an almost excessive insistence: "Be alert and watch!" (v. 33), "he orders the doorkeeper to stay awake" (v. 34), "so stay awake" (v. 35), "I say to all: stay awake!" (v. 37).

**What does it mean to 'be alert'?** There is a secret to keeping oneself awake, it is prayer understood as a constant dialogue with the Lord. The one who does not pray dozes off. He will eventually end up resigned and will adapt, like unbelievers, to the darkness that envelops the world (Mk 14:37-40).

### We can speak of three comings of God.

**The first**, is when Jesus, the Son of God came to be born in the stable at Bethlehem. **The second is the final coming of Jesus at the end of the world.** And there is still **a third kind of coming** we need to be aware of, namely, when God enters our lives every day. Concentrate on today, on the present hour, the present situation and respond to it in truth and love and the future will take care of itself. Then we do not have to fear no matter when Jesus makes His final call.

### Advent Wreath

**Shape:** The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God's complete and unending love for us—a love that sent His Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

**Number:** The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles (symbolizing: **Hope, Peace, Love and Joy**), which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white "Christ" candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

**Color:** Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, is also called "little Lent".

## Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020

November 30– Rev. Andrew Czarny  
December 1 – Rev. Florian Stasinski, C.R.

December 2 – Discalced Carmelite Fathers (O.C.D.)

December 3 – Rev. John Redmond

December 4 – Rev. Phillip Cook

December 5 – Very Rev. Lukasz Kopaniak, S.A.C.

December 6 – Second Sunday of Advent

## Vocations

### First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master's return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God's "particular task" for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton, 905-528-7988 ext. 2246.

[vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)  
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

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Serra Prayer for the  
Perseverance of Vocations

O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry that they have received. Amen.

## Memory Awakens Hope

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger,  
Seek That Which Is Above, 1986

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child.

**This is a healing memory; it brings hope.** The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope. **It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."**



## The Advent Virus

Anonymous via email

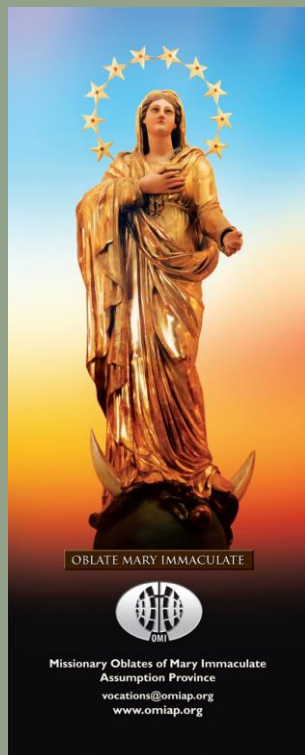
WARNING.....WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner **Hope, Peace, Joy and Love**. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of The Advent Virus:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry. (This is a very serious symptom.)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.





**OBLATE FEAST DAY** - on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 about 4,000 Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate around the world will celebrate their patronal Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This religious community was founded by St. Eugene de Mazenod in 1816 in France. The first Oblate missionaries came to Canada in 1841. At this moment, they work in 68 countries including Canada where they have three Provinces and about 500 members working in different ministries.

**The Immaculate Conception Novena** - this Novena will take place in our parish from November 29<sup>th</sup> - December 7<sup>th</sup> following each Mass. The

Feast of the Immaculate Conception is an important day for us to reflect on Mary's life. It is vital to strive to imitate Mary as the ideal example of the Christian life lived for God. This Novena will give us the opportunity to ask Mary to give each of us the grace to imitate her profound love of God. Please join us for this special spiritual journey.

**Advent with Children** - This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join our parish for Advent with Children. This will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent, dedicate 5-10 minutes to prayer, meditation and some activities.

This week we mailed out about 50 packages to families with children. If you did not receive our Advent Program for Children please contact our parish office.

Children who join this program and attend Mass during this Advent Season will receive, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent - a special gift - little Baby Jesus and a Christmas bookmark. **Do not miss your chance to get your gift and get ready for Christmas!**

**Group Mass Intentions** - In order to assist in the availability of offering Masses, multiple Mass intentions will be offered on the following dates to the end of 2020: **December 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Beginning in 2021, the Mass at 7 p.m., on the First and Third Tuesday, will be available for multiple Mass intentions.

### Mass Intentions November 30 - December 6, 2020

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 - **7 p.m.**

+**Bernard & Antonia Meekes-Rooks** -  
*Annie Baak & Family*

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 - **8:30 a.m.**

+**Ray Zettler** - *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*

Thursday, December 3, 2020 - **8:30 a.m.**

**Memorial of Saint Francis Xavier, Priest**  
+**Ed Forwell** - *Betty Jane Forwell*

Friday, December 4, 2020 - **8:30 a.m.**

+**Stanley Bolger** - *Rouleau Family*

Saturday, December 5, 2020

**9 a.m.** - +**Tom Nakluski** - *Sandra Nakluski*

**5 p.m.** - +**Larry Wismer** - *Joan Wismer*

Sunday, December 6, 2020 - **10 a.m.** - **Second Sunday of Advent - Year B**

- **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

### Thank you, Jim! Welcome, Jack!

On December 1, 2020, Jim Weber, our Facilities Manager will retire. We thank Jim for his dedicated and exceptional service to our parish and wish him God's richest blessings, good health and great joy in his retirement. We also welcome Jack Pigeau to the parish as our new Facilities Manager. We wish Jack well in his new position and hope that he may experience God's many graces, in his work for our parish community. Best wishes to you both!

**Records/New Parishioners** - If you are new to the parish - Welcome! Please call the office and we would be pleased to forward a Parish Registration form to you. If you are a parishioner, it would be greatly appreciated if you could notify the office of any changes.

**Items at the back of the church** - During this time of pandemic, we kindly ask Parishioners not to leave any food/items at the back of the church, in order to keep everyone safe and avoid any consequent challenges.

**Sunday Missals - 2020/2021** - The Sunday Missal for the 2020/2021 Liturgical Year is now available. We encourage parishioners to purchase a copy of the 2020/2021 Sunday Missal. The missal is \$5 and may be purchased at the Parish Office.

### *First Holy Communion 2020*

We would like to congratulate the following children who will receive their First Holy Communion on:

**November 29, 2020 –**  
Kaitlyn Evans, Mia Nowak,  
Eileen Nuhn, Jacob Schippling

We would like to congratulate **Philip Trznadel, Olivia Yamoah, Mikayla Onn, Keian Malley,** and their families, as on November 22nd, 2020 during the 10:00 a.m. Mass they received for the first time, the Eucharistic Jesus, into their hearts. Congratulations!







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

### Welcome Home! – Guidelines to attending Mass

If you haven't already come to Mass, you will notice there are a few changes from the usual way in which we celebrate the Eucharist. Please visit the parish website: [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca) for more details. You are required to wear masks/shields, while in the church. We ask that you follow these guidelines to provide for the well-being and safety of all. **Please also see Bishop Crosby's up-dated letter to Parishioners, on our parish website.**

**Special Collection** – Several Special Collections were missed during the COVID-19 Shutdown. In order to assist the beneficiaries of these collections, a Special Collection will be permitted throughout the Diocese of Hamilton. At our parish, the Special Collection Envelope will be distributed this weekend, **November 28-29, 2020**. Please pick up your envelope from the Ushers, as you leave the church and drop it in the collection basket as you leave the church on the weekend of **December 5-6, 2020**. This Collection will include: Share Lent, Pope's Pastoral Works, Holy Land (Good Friday), Cura Pastorum Association, Needs of the Church in Canada and World Mission Sunday. The funds received from this Special Collection will be divided according to percentages established by the results of last year's Special Collections. We encourage you to be as generous as possible, to this collection, which will benefit so many important causes.

### St. Teresa Parish Photo Contest AND THE WINNER IS ..... August Lake Holiday

Thank you to all who submitted photos and took the time to vote! The voting was extremely close and we congratulate Sue Weber Bell who submitted the winning photo. Sue will receive a \$50 Gift Certificate to Golf's Steak House & Seafood.



**\*\*\* Note \*\*\*** Thank you again to all who have participated and donated to our One Heart One Soul Campaign. Father wishes to acknowledge and thank you for your pledge. We have been sending out thank you notes to all who have made pledges/donations to the One Heart One Soul Campaign and would kindly ask that you contact the Parish Office if you have not received a thank you within 2 weeks of sending in your pledge, so that we can investigate further and ensure your pledge/donation is acknowledged. Thank you.

**St. Vincent de Paul** - Our Saint Vincent de Paul Conference is still unable to operate due to COVID 19 restrictions. In the spirit of helping where we can, we have made a \$2000 contribution to the Waterloo Region Christmas Bureau Program. This donation will be used by the Food Bank and the House of Friendship to buy gift cards for people in need in the Waterloo Region. If you would like to contribute something to this campaign you can still do so by using your regular Saint Vincent de Paul envelope and write on the envelope CHRISTMAS. If you do not have a Saint Vincent de Paul envelope then just use a plain envelope and write your name, address and Saint Vincent de Paul CHRISTMAS. We will use any extra money collected to top up our contribution. Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

**Prayer Vigil - Thursday, December 3, 2020**, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; in front of Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking - across the road, Schneider Park. Any queries, please contact Cathy at: [kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com](mailto:kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com)

\*\*\*Note: We will all observe 2 meters distancing.\*\*\*

### First Holy Communion 2021 Rite of Enrollment

The Rite of Enrollment for those children who have registered for catechetical classes will take place on December 6, 2020 at the 10 a.m. Mass

**HEALING MASS – FIRST FRIDAY**

**December 4, 2020**

**St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener**

Adoration begins at 6 p.m.

The opportunity for Reconciliation is available.

Mass at 7 p.m.

Please Note: We will adhere to all COVID-19 protocols and guidelines.

**Stewardship Report**

As a parish community, we are celebrating Mass in the church, with reduced capacity. At this time, I would ask you to continue to keep our parish in your prayers and prayerfully consider continuing your donations. For those attending Mass, in person, a box will be provided for you to drop off your donation, on your way out of the church.

**Pre-Authorized Giving** is now available for our parishioners. A digital copy of the form may be found on our website under Bulletins for 2020 (August). Simply print the form and complete it. For those unable to print the digital copy, please contact the Parish Office. This brochure will hopefully answer any questions you may have about this exciting new option for Stewardship, here at St. Teresa Parish. Completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office via the slot in the Parish Office door or can be left in the Collection Basket after the Saturday evening and Sunday Masses.

**We would like to thank those who have responded to this program. In order for Pre-Authorized Giving to work effectively in our parish, we will need a certain number of parishioners to sign up for this program. At the present time, we are not yet ready to activate the program and will advise parishioners of a start date as soon as this becomes available.**

You may also **send a gift directly** to our parish through the mail: **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON N2H 6C8** or you may drop off **cash or cheque**, securely, at the Parish Office, through the mail slot in the wooden door, behind the white storm door. Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number or use your donation envelope.

We are very grateful for any contributions you may be able to make at this time.

**Saint Nicholas** - We celebrate Saint Nicholas, a very popular saint, on **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. In honour of Saint Nicholas, we will have little treats for the children attending Mass on this Sunday.

**Novena of Masses for the Immaculate Conception**

In its capacity as our Diocese’s Shrine to the Blessed Mother the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph will be hosting a Novena of Masses leading up to the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. This Novena will be seeking the intercession and protection of the Mother of God, and Mother of the Church, on our Diocese in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Novena Masses will be held at **7:00 p.m.** from **November 29 to December 7** inclusive. Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 8. All the faithful of the Diocese are welcome to take part in this Novena. Please note that all Diocesan covid protocols must be observed while at the Basilica. Even if you cannot come to the Basilica of Our Lady in person please join this Novena in prayer from your home.

**Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, Pray for Us.**

**The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph  
will pray for you during the  
Novena to Infant Jesus,  
December 16th to December 25th, 2020**

Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support?  
You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus.

Send your prayer intention slip with your name and address  
to:

Carmel of Saint Joseph  
1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1  
St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0

**Stewardship Report – November 22, 2020**

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Envelopes .....              | \$ 1867.00 |
| Loose .....                  | \$ 92.00   |
| Building and Maintenance ... | \$ 45.00   |
| All Souls’ Day .....         | \$ 35.00   |
| Candles .....                | \$ 110.15  |
| 2020/21 Sunday Missals ..... | \$ 210.00  |