

# 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)

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

December 13, 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:** Jack Pigeau

**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

**St. Teresa School**  
Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear  
Secretary: Mary Lavigne  
519-743-2131

**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.

## Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

“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 Baptist 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 Baptist, 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.

The evangelist John presents John the Baptizer as the fulfillment of Isaiah 40:3, "a voice in the desert" calling for Israelites to prepare a way for the coming of Jesus. John in his Gospel takes special care to stress the fact that Jesus surpasses John the Baptist. The Baptizer declares: **"I am baptizing only with water; but there is One among you - you don't recognize him - and I am not worthy to untie the straps of his shoes."**

There was a Rabbinic saying which stated that a disciple might do for his master anything that a servant did, except only to untie his sandals. That was too menial a service for even a disciple to render. So John said: "One is coming whose slave I am not fit to be." John's mission was only to “prepare the way.” Any greatness he possessed came from the greatness of the one whose coming he foretold. John is thus the great example of the man prepared to obliterate himself for Jesus. He lived only to point the way to Christ.



## Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020

December 14– Rev. Godwin Pinto,  
O.C.D.

December 15 – Rev. Ronald Hodara

December 16 – Congregation of the Most  
Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.)

December 17 – Rev. Edward Henhoeffler

December 18 – Rev. John Schnurr

December 19 – Rev. Jacek Kryn, S.A.C.

December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

## Vocations

### Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Father Michael King, Director of Vocations, 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.



**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.

**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. We mailed out about 50 packages with the Advent Program to families with children. **Thank you** to all the children who have responded to our Advent with Children program and brought your Activities to church. We would like to encourage all our children to take advantage of this program, to bring your artwork and be present at Mass on Sunday. If you did not receive the package, please contact our parish office. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we will have a special gift for you. Do not miss your chance to get your gift and get ready for Christmas!

**Spread the "Advent Virus"** – I would like to encourage our parishioners to display the Nativity Scene in front of your homes (or if you are living in an apartment and this is not a possibility, some other Christian symbol), so that during this Season of Advent, we can give witness to Christian faith and values.

### Mass Intentions

**December 14 – December 20, 2020**

Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – **7 p.m.**

+**John Daly** – *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – **8:30 a.m.**

+**Mary & Joseph Kiss** – *Ted & Lynne Stil*

Thursday, December 17, 2020 – **8:30 a.m.**

**In Thanksgiving** – *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*

Friday, December 18, 2020 – **8:30 a.m.**

+**Fran & John Kiss** – *Ted & Lynne Stil*

Saturday, December 19, 2020

**9 a.m.** – **Eva Kiss** – *Ted & Lynne Stil*

**5 p.m.** – +**Ludwig Ceh** – *Theresa Ceh & Family*

Sunday, December 20, 2020 – **10 a.m.** –

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year B**

**- Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

**Bambinelli Sunday** – For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome. The blessing takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent, and is known as 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 this **Saturday, Dec. 12 at 5:0p.m.** and **Sunday, Dec. 13th at 10:00 a.m.** to be blessed, as we too celebrate our own 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.

## Stewardship Report

**Parish 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.

**Christmas Cleaning Crew** – We are looking for volunteers to help clean the church on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> following the morning Mass. We would welcome you to help us, as we prepare for Christmas. Hope to see you here!

**Christmas Lights** – If you have any outdoor Christmas lights (LED lights in good condition) and you don't need them, we would request that you please bring them to the Parish Office. We will use them to decorate the Nativity Scene and the surrounding area of the church. Thank you!

**Christmas Mass Registration** – If you have not already done so, please remember that you will need to register for the Christmas Masses. The Christmas Masses are as follows:

- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Please use the following link to register:  
[http://stteresakit.ca/?page\\_id=1832](http://stteresakit.ca/?page_id=1832)

For those who are unable to register online, please call the Parish Office.

**Volunteers Needed** – We are in need of volunteers to help with the screening process for the **Christmas Eve Mass at 5 p.m.** and **Christmas Day Mass at 10 a.m.** If you are able to assist us, please call the Parish Office. Thank you.

**Special Collection** –The Special Collection Envelopes for the special collections missed during the Covid-19 shutdown were distributed the weekend of **November 28-29, 2020**. If you did not return your envelope last weekend, please do so as soon as possible. Envelopes can be dropped in the collection basket as you leave the church or at the Parish Office. Thank you.



**Catholic Women's League Bursary 2020** – St. Teresa's CWL offers a bursary of \$200 to a graduating student from our parish who has attended a Catholic Secondary School in

Kitchener-Waterloo and who is an active member of our Parish. If you are a 2020 graduate or know a graduate who you think deserves the 2020 bursary please put his/her name in a sealed envelope marked CWL and drop it off at the Parish Office or email to [stteresacwl@gmail.com](mailto:stteresacwl@gmail.com). All parishioners are invited to nominate a worthy candidate.

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.

### Stewardship Report – December 6, 2020

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Envelopes .....                   | \$2277.00 |
| Loose .....                       | \$ 223.00 |
| Building and Maintenance .....    | \$ 20.00  |
| Combined Special Collection ..... | \$ 930.00 |

**2021 Offertory Envelopes** – The 2021 Offertory Envelopes are now ready for pick up. Please pick up your envelopes after Mass this weekend in the Parish Hall. Due to Covid-19 protocols, we would ask that you keep social distancing and follow the instructions of those assisting in the Parish Hall. For those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, please ensure that you also pick up your box of envelopes for 2021.

**COVID-19 Protocols** – We have received further instruction recently from the Diocese of Hamilton. We ask that you adhere to the following updated guidelines:

- \* **Reception of Holy Communion Mask Protocol** - A mask is worn by both the minister of Holy Communion and recipient when within two metres (six feet) of one another. The communicant is to wear the mask when receiving the Sacred Host from the priest or Extraordinary Minister of Communion. After stepping aside (six feet) they are to remove their mask momentarily to consume the Eucharist. Replacing their mask, they return to their place. At this time Communion may only be received in the hand.
- \* **Mask Exemptions** - As confirmed by legal counsel, a priest may require that those seeking an exemption from wearing a mask bring evidence of same, that when seated that they be placed in a designated area, and that masks be worn in order to receive Communion. The exemption may be provided by a physician or other medical professional. The designated area for those unable to wear a mask will be the first two pews closest to the Sanctuary, on your right hand side as you face the tabernacle and altar.

**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



## Christmas Mass Schedule 2020

St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener, Ontario  
Tel.: 519-743-4525

**Saturday, December 19, 2020**

from **6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** – Adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament & Confession

### Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

### Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.  
([Mass on Zoom](#))

### St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Saturday, December 26, 2020 – 9:00 a.m.

### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 26, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.  
([Mass on Zoom](#))

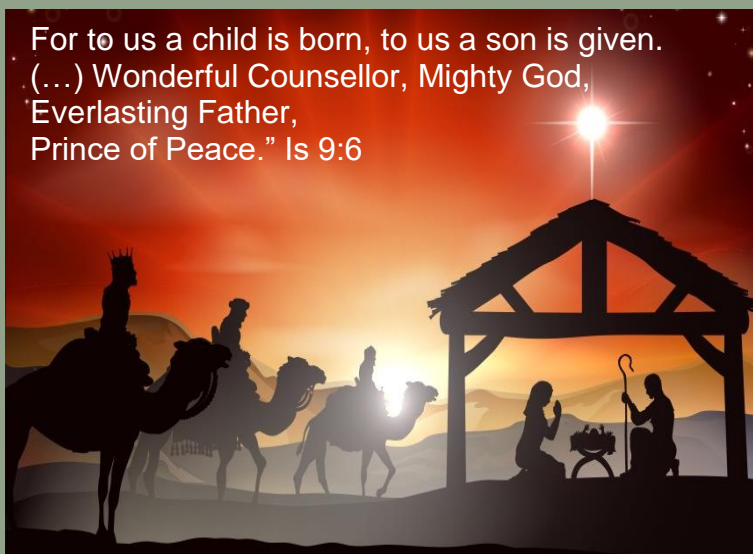
On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, there  
will be a special blessing for families.

### Mary, The Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 31, 2020 – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.  
([Mass on Zoom](#))



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.  
(...) Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace." Is 9:6

The Magic of  
*Christmas*  
is not in the presents  
but in *His*  
presence

Are you planning on attending Mass during Christmas?

Please register on our website: [www.stteresakit.ca](http://www.stteresakit.ca)

If you wish to join us online, please click on  
the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>; Password: 274733

**The Parish Offices will be closed from December 24, 2020 through January 2, 2021.**

### Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30 p.m. Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on Salt+Light Media and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

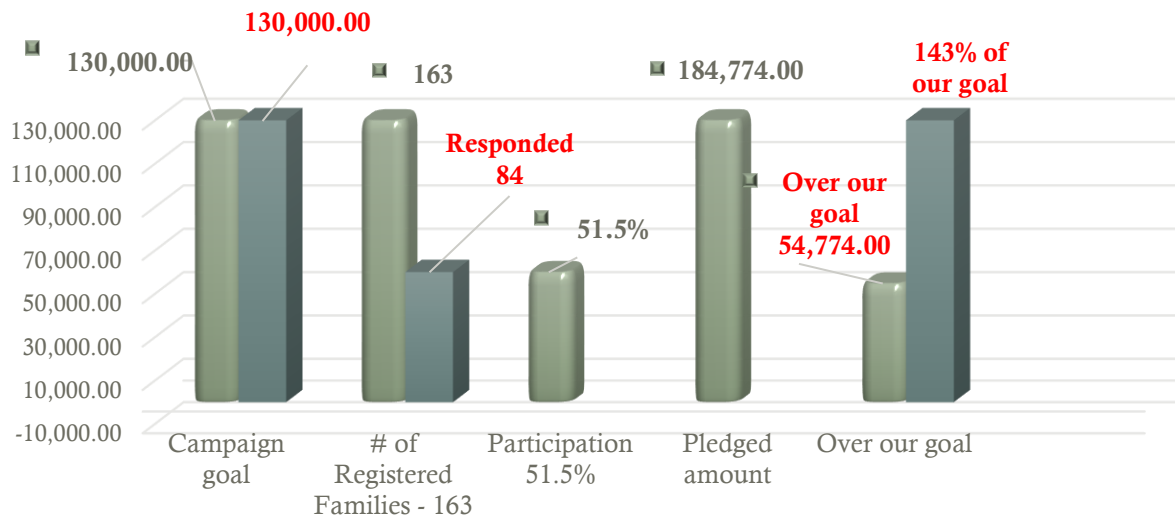
Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!



**Thank you** again to all who have participated and donated to our One Heart One Soul Campaign. Father Marian 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!**

### Progress of One Heart One Soul Campaign



**Thank You!** – A special thank you to Ken and Betty Skinner for sponsoring our **Advent Banners** in the Sanctuary. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!