

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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

Parish Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday – Office Closed

Weekday Schedule

Please check inside for weekly schedule

Saturday Liturgy:

9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

Sunday Liturgy:

10:00 a.m.

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

St. Teresa School

Principal: Mr. Brian Goodyear

Secretary: Mary Lavigne

519-743-2131

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

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent

This Sunday we read the story (Lk 1:26-38) of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus: **"Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God."**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary; a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her fiat, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able to respond with obedience.

On this final Sunday of Advent, our Gospel invites us to consider how our preparations for Christmas have made us more aware of God's grace working in our lives. What enabled Mary to say yes to God? Which of your Advent activities have made you more aware of God's grace in your life?



Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2020

December 21– Rev. Janusz Roginski, S.A.C.

December 22– Rev. Robert Sims

December 23 – Voluntas Dei Institute

December 24 – Rev. Michael Downey

December 25 – **Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord)**

December 26 – Rev. Msgr. Martin Vallely

December 27– **Feast of the Holy Family**

Vocations

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2020

From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!"... and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Father Michael King, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton, 905-528-7988 ext. 2246.

Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2020

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon. If God is calling you, call Father Michael King, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton, 905-528-7988 ext. 2246.

vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>



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 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.

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.

2020/2021 Sunday Missals - The Sunday Missal is still available. The missal is \$5 and can be purchased at the back of the church or from the Parish Office. Please leave the exact change in the box provided.

Advent with Children – Thank you to all the children who responded to our Advent with Children program and brought your Activities to church. This Sunday, we will have a special gift for you. Do not miss your chance to get your gift and get ready for Christmas!

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

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.

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

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

Mass Intentions

December 21 – December 27, 2020

Tuesday, December 22, 2020 – 7 p.m. –

Group Mass Intentions:

Special Graces for Magdalena Sendeka – Ewa

+**Jerome Bastian** – Helen Bastian & Family

+**Irene Fudger** – Helen Bastian & Family

Wednesday, December 23, 2020 – 8:30 a.m.

+**Larry Wismer** – Joan Wismer

Thursday, December 24, 2020 – **No morning Mass**

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Thursday, December 24, 2020- 5 p.m.

For the Gil Family

Friday, December 25, 2020 – 10 a.m.

Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Saturday, December 26, 2020

Feast of St. Stephen, The First Martyr

9 a.m. – +**Stephen Altman** – Family

5 p.m. – +**Elaine, George & David Tschirhart** –

Pat Wilkins

Sunday, December 27, 2020 – 10 a.m. – **Feast of the Holy**

Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year B –

50th Anniversary of Hugh & Mary Helen Stroeder

2021 Offertory Envelopes – The 2021 Offertory Envelopes are now ready for pick up. Please pick up your envelopes at the back of the church after Mass or call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions for 2021 – In order to provide an equal opportunity to all members of our parish, who would like to request Mass intentions in 2021, I would propose the following: Each family may reserve 1 Saturday Mass and 1 weekday Mass. This is based on the number of registered families. Please make your requests over the next several weeks. After January 22, 2021, we will accommodate any available request, for as many Mass intentions as you wish. In 2020, I introduced a Mass with Multiple Intentions, in order to respond to the needs of our parishioners. These will continue on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. 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. All parishioners are invited to nominate a worthy candidate.

Diocese of Hamilton Christmas Resource – Evangelization and Catechesis have teamed together to *produce a resource and video, in offering to the domestic church, to help families everywhere, pray and celebrate the experience of Christmas in a meaningful way, this year.*

We pray this resource will draw families together for a time of quiet prayer, reflection and thanksgiving over the days of Christmas – especially those who may not feel comfortable attending Christmas Masses in the Parish.

Targeted for families, not only does this resource help guide a parent to lead a simple Celebration of the Word, but also invites His Excellency, Bishop Crosby into the homes of the faithful to proclaim the Christmas Day Gospel and share a reflection from the heart.

To access all materials, including Bishop Crosby's reflection, click [HERE](#)

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.

Stewardship Report – December 13, 2020

Envelopes	\$3363.00
Loose	\$ 65.00
Building and Maintenance	\$ 460.00
Christmas	\$ 150.00
Flowers	\$ 200.00

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.



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

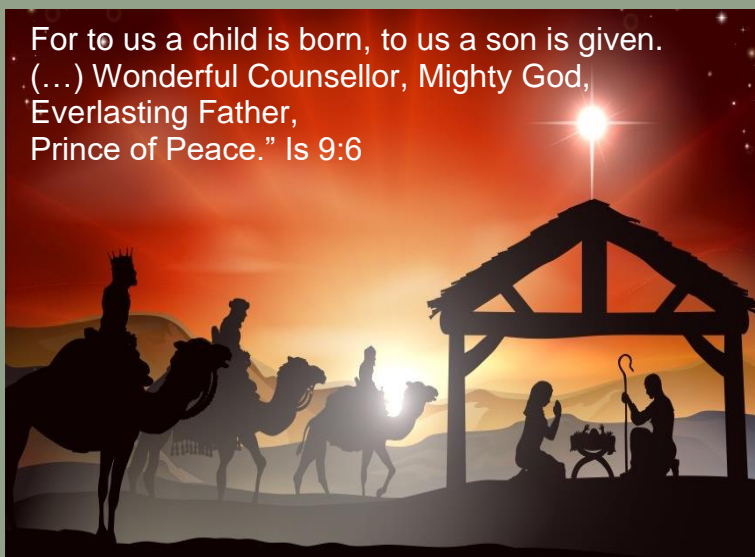
(Holy Day of Obligation)

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

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 4, 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.

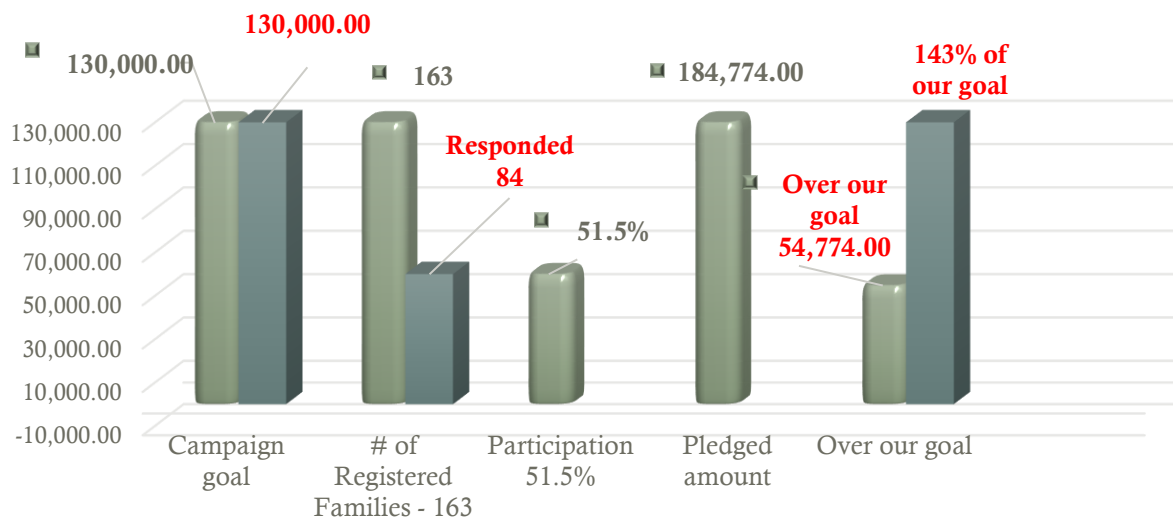
Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!



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



Preparing for Christmas

