

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

Nativity of the Lord & Feast of the Holy Family

December 25 & 27, 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.

Christmas – December 25, 2020

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve (Mt 1:1-25); the Mass at midnight (Lk 2:1-14); Luke 2:15-20 is the reading for the Mass at dawn on Christmas morning (this year we will focus on this reading). Finally, the Gospel for Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel (J 1:1-18). It is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning of time and presents Creation as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis, **"In the beginning was the Word."**

The story of Jesus' birth (Lk 2:10-20), which begins with a reference to Caesar Augustus, concludes with the shepherds, people looked down on by most of society, visiting the infant. As the angels return to heaven, the shepherds decide to go see "this thing" that has happened in Bethlehem. Their visit confirms everything the angels had told them about the birth of the Savior and Messiah. They then spoke publicly about all they had seen, to the great astonishment of all who heard. **Mary ponders all this in her heart, and the shepherds return to their fields praising God. What had been told to them really happened.**

The Bethlehem story, of course, was told during Midnight 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.

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

It is a time when we can reflect on the quality of our own family life in the light of the Church's 'First Family'. The family had gone to Jerusalem, according to their regular custom, to celebrate the Passover with thousands of other pilgrims. As the caravan of pilgrims was on its way home, Mary and Joseph suddenly realise that Jesus is not with them. They went back to the Temple and were amazed to find their boy calmly sitting with the religious teachers and in discussion with them. And He was impressing them with His intelligence and the answers He was giving to their questions (Lk 2:22-40).

Mary, however, was not quite so appreciative. **"My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you."** **"Why were you looking for me?"** Jesus replied. **"Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?"** What did He mean talking like that? Mary had mentioned Jesus' 'father' but Jesus had spoken about 'my Father'. They did not yet fully grasp what He was talking about. Their Son had a very special mission which went far beyond the life in Nazareth. Only later would the Mother understand. For now, she stored the memories in her heart. From now on, Jesus would belong to a new family, the family of the world and especially of those who were committed to follow His Way.

Vocations**Feast of the Holy Family
December 27, 2020**

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person.

**Mary Mother of God
January 1, 2021**

Mary treasured all that God had done for her, and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God's gifts and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ

**Epiphany of the Lord
January 3, 2021**

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church.

If you think that God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton, 905-528-7988 ext. 2246.

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

**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 they have received. Amen.

**Diocese of Hamilton
Prayer Calendar 2020**

Prayer Calendar
December 28, 2020 – January 3, 2021

December 28 – Rev. Joseph Michel
December 29 – Rev. Kiwook Kim
December 30 – Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)
December 31 – Rev. Arpee Urquico
January 1 – Rev. Pawel Jamroz
January 2 – Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
January 3 – **Epiphany of the Lord**

Prayer Calendar
January 4, 2021 – January 10, 2021

January 4 – Rev. David Avila
January 5 – Rev. Tony O'Dell, O.M.I.
January 6 – Diocesan Priests
January 7 – Rev. Kiwook Kim
January 8 – Rev. Michal Kruszewski, C.R.
January 9 – Rev. Krzysztof Szkubera, C.R.
January 10 – **Baptism of the Lord**

Mass Intentions

**Mass Intentions
December 28, 2020– January 3, 2021**

Tuesday, December 29, 2020 – **7:00 p.m.**
+**Alfred Nadeau** – *The Rouleau Family*

Wednesday, December 30, 2020 – **7:00 p.m.**
+**Vincent Zettel** – *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*

Thursday, December 31, 2020 – **No morning Mass**

**Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
(New Year's Day)**

Thursday, December 31, 2020- **7:00 p.m.**
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Friday, January 1, 2021 – **10:00 a.m.**
+**Gil Lemieux** – *Stella Lemieux & Family*

Saturday, January 2, 2021
Memorial of Saints Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
9:00 a.m. – **Special Intentions of Jim & Lori Weber & Family** – *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*
7:00 p.m. – **Special Intentions of Laurie Kaufman** – *Jenny Williams & Family*

Sunday, January 3, 2021 – **10:00 a.m.** – **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord– Year B** – **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

**Mass Intentions
January 4, 2021 – January 10, 2021**

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**
Group Mass Intentions

Wednesday, January 6, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**
+**Vincent Zettel** – *The Zister Family*

Thursday, January 7, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**
Memorial of St. André Bessette
Special Intentions of Monica O'Hagin – *Marion Jagelewski*

Friday, January 8, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**
+**Greg Diebolt** – *Sue Weber Bell*

Saturday, January 9, 2021
9:00 a.m. – **Special Intentions of Marion Jagelewski** – *Jean Giles*
7:00 p.m. – +**David Tschirhart** – *Marie Miller*

Sunday, January 10, 2021– **10:00 a.m.** – **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – Year B** – **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

Masses will be available on Zoom -
<https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>; Password: 274733

****Please note the changes in Mass times****

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 on our parish website.

Statistics from 2020

New Parishioners – 14 Families (32 individuals)
Baptisms – 2
Funerals – 7
1st Communion – 11
Confirmation (Dec. 8, 2019) - 13

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. For those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, please ensure that you also pick up your box of envelopes for 2021.

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.

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.

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 20, 2020

Envelopes	\$4737.00
Loose	\$ 106.65
Building and Maintenance	\$ 100.00
Christmas	\$1145.00
2020/21 Sunday Missals	\$ 10.00

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

Christmas Eve – In the church

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

Christmas Day – In the church

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

No Public Masses beginning December 26, 2020

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Saturday, December 26, 2020 – 7:00 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

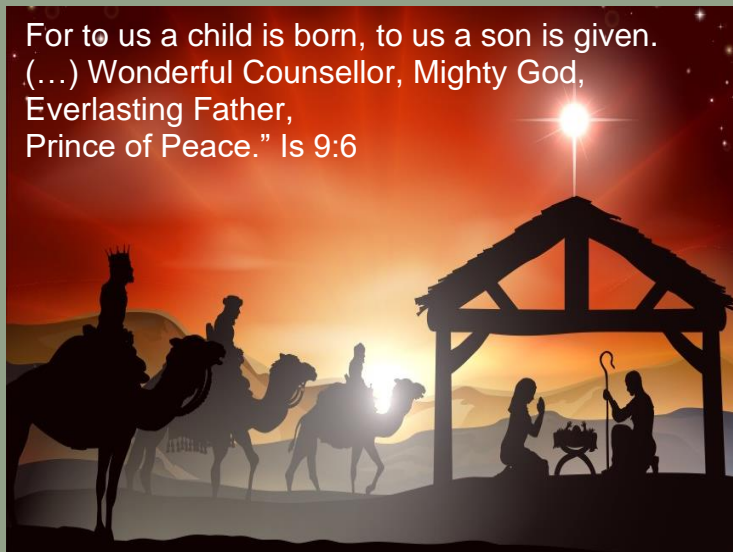
(Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 31, 2020 – 7:00 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

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

Please note: Beginning December 26, 2020, the schedule for Mass will change to try to accommodate as many as possible, enabling them to join us through Zoom. Please see schedule for Mass times.

The Parish Offices will be closed from December 24, 2020 through January 4, 2021, at which time, Mary will then be working remotely. Please leave a message or email the Parish Office for assistance.

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



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2021

Dear Parishioners & Visitors,

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 Saviour, and in the knowledge that we are loved by the one heavenly Father! May Jesus be really re-born in each one of us this Christmas. Merry Christmas!

With prayers,

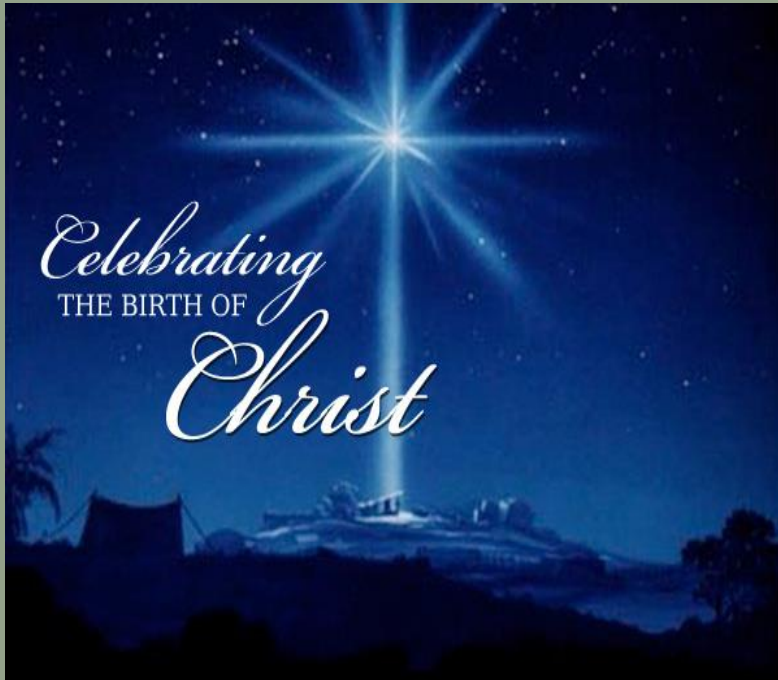
Fr. Marian Gil OMI
Fr. Marian Gil OMI



Christmas banners in the making...



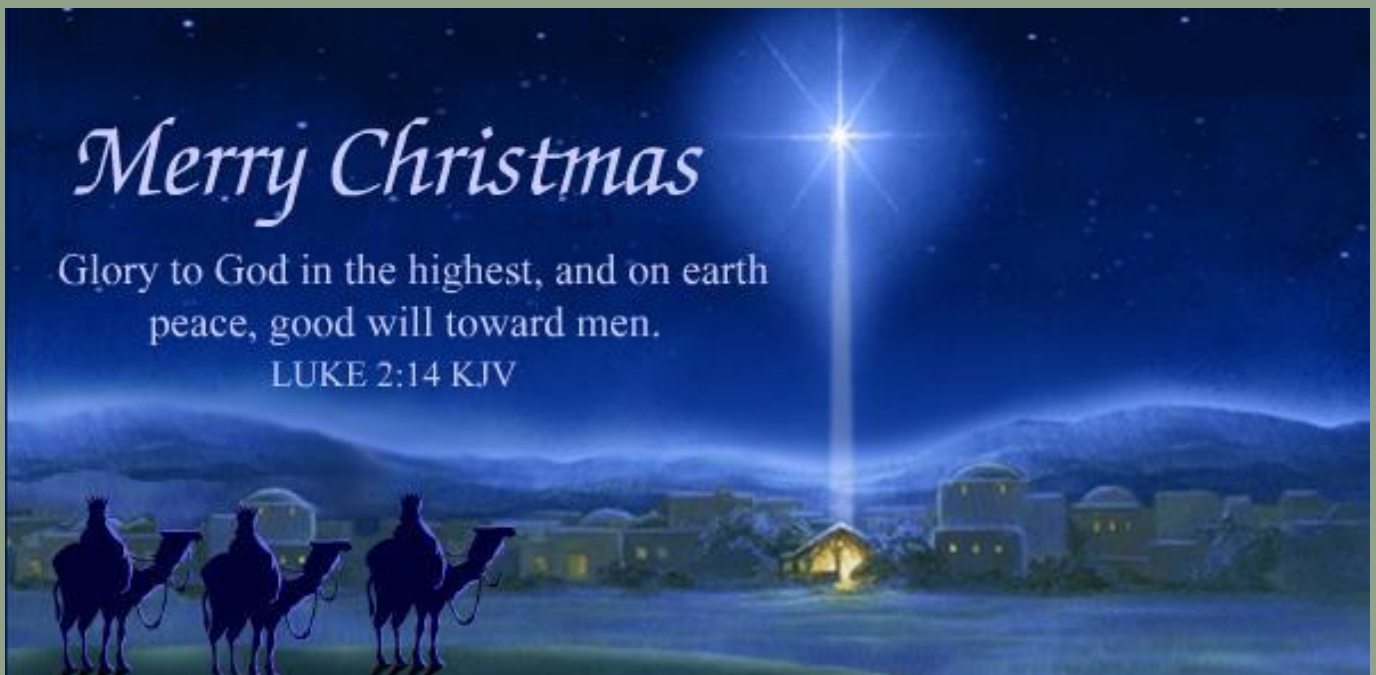
Christmas Traditions Around the World



Adam and Eve appear in many books besides Genesis, such as the Quran, the Life of Adam and Eve, the Talmud, and Gnostic texts. Jewish tradition sometimes includes reference to other wives of Adam. Adam and Eve were never officially recognized as saints by the early Church. However, they were honored as unofficial saints throughout the Middle Ages. December 24 was set aside for several centuries as their feast day and was often celebrated with a Paradise Play which told the story of humankind from the creation of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden up to the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem. The play featured a large evergreen tree called a Paradise Tree, with its branches laden with red apples. Eventually, small white discs were added representing communion wafers.

The Paradise Tree was especially popular in Germany where it was brought into peoples' homes and was decorated with dried apples that had been kept in the root cellar for the winter. In 1880, glassmakers in Thuringia discovered how to make blown glass balls and bells which soon replaced the apples and resulted in what we all know as the traditional Christmas tree all over the world.

The apple has traditionally been the most popular symbol of the forbidden fruit mentioned in the Bible, which did not describe the specific fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil eaten by Adam and Eve



in the Garden of Eden. "And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden you may freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." [Genesis 2:16-17]. There have been controversies over which fruit the Bible referred to with many scholars believing that the fruit was a pomegranate or a fig. There have also been speculations about the peach, apricot, quince, fig and banana.

The Polish have many traditions. However, one special tradition that originated in early Christian times is that of Oplatki (O-pwaht-kee) – Christmas Wafers {Singular: Oplatek (O-pwah-tek)}. These wafers are made out of flour and water, are very similar in consistency to Communion hosts, and are imprinted with Christmas images. The breaking of the Oplatek mirrors the Last Supper and the celebration of the Mass. The tradition originally came about because Bethlehem means “House of Bread.”

Oplatki are usually shared before the Christmas Eve meal. The eldest family member breaks off a piece of the wafer and hands it to another family member offering a blessing – a kind of Christmas wish for the other person. Since animals were among the first to greet Christ, even pets can share in the Oplatki. The wafers are generally white but most packs of Oplatki come with one or two pink wafers for family pets. This tradition is not only observed in Poland. Americans call them Christmas Wafers, Lithuanians have plotkele, and Slovaks have oblatky. The sharing of the Oplatek is a time for families to come together in love and forgiveness. To wish you a Merry Christmas the Polish would say *Wesołych Świąt!*

The Alpine Countries

In these European countries, there is a tradition of carrying a statue of Saint Joseph to a different home every night. The custom can be adapted by moving a statue of Saint Joseph to a different room in the house during Advent. On Christmas Eve, Saint Joseph joins the Nativity Scene with Mary, Jesus, and the shepherds.

In Germany, Christmas trees are a very popular tradition. In some cases, there can be a Christmas tree for every member of the family! The trees are decorated with lights and candy. The lighting of the Christmas tree is often a special part of Christmas Eve and children open presents afterwards. A roast goose can be part of the Christmas dinner. Merry Christmas is *Fröhliche Weihnachten!*





The French often celebrate Christmas throughout December. In some cases, gifts are given on December 6, the feast of Saint Nicholas, as well as Christmas, and sometimes on New Year's Day also. Shoes are placed by the fireplace instead of stockings. Figurines in manger scenes are sometimes dressed in traditional French apparel. Merry Christmas in French is – Joyeux Noël!

Italians in almost every town and village have contests for the best Nativity scene. Depending on the family and where in Italy they are from, gifts may be opened on December 13 (the feast of Saint Lucy), December 25 (Christmas), or January 6 (the Epiphany). Christmas is a very family and food centered holiday in Italy. The Christmas season begins on December 8 – when decorating and major Christmas preparations begin. A traditional Christmas bread is panettone which is shaped like a dome and made with raisins and candied citrus peel. Buon Natale is how to say Merry Christmas in Italian.

