

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 Lent (Lactare Sunday)

March 14, 2021

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 Lent (Laetare Sunday)

The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare Sunday*. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.” Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter.

Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel (J 3:14-21). It consists of two parts. The first part is the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night: **“Jesus said to Nicodemus: ‘Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.’”** Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Jesus’ mission isn’t about condemning people but saving them. Jesus reveals God’s love so that people can accept it and be saved by it. Those who deny that Jesus is from God can’t be saved because they’ve chosen darkness rather than the light.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.

“For God so loved ^{the} world,
that he gave his only Son,
^{that whoever believes in him} should not perish
but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2021

March 15 – Rev. Msgr. Ivan Vuksic
March 16 – Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.
March 17 – Lay Parish Ministers
March 18 – Rev. Louis DeVaugelas, L.C.
March 19 – Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.
March 20 – Rev. Issac Tharayil, C.M.I.
March 21 – **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Vocations

Fourth Sunday of Lent March 14, 2021

St. Paul reminds us that we are “created in Christ Jesus for good works”. If you think God’s plan for you could be to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call Most Reverend Wayne Lobsinger, VG, EV, Auxiliary Bishop & Vocations Director, Diocese of Hamilton at (905) 528-7988 x2222.

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

Serra Prayer for Vocations

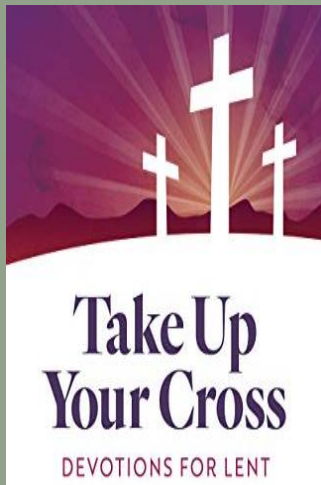
O God, Who wills not the death of a sinner, but rather that he be converted and live, grant we beseech You, through the intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Saint Joseph her spouse, Saint Junipero Serra, and all the saints, an increase of labourers for Your Church, fellow labourers with Christ to spend and consume themselves for souls, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever.

Amen.

CHURCH IS OPEN FOR MASS AND PRAYER

We have now resumed our usual Mass schedule. Please refer to the bulletin for any changes. You are also invited to visit Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Narthex. The Adoration Chapel remains closed. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to come and spend some time with the Lord! Jesus is waiting for you!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being offered, once again, at the usual times, in the confessional in the church. Tuesday to Friday – 30 minutes prior to Mass. Saturday – 30 minutes prior to the 9 a.m. Mass and at 4:15-4:45 p.m. Please follow the safety rules. **Note:** due to renovations, location changes may be necessary and will be posted.



Stations of the Cross at St. Teresa Parish - We would like to invite all parishioners to join us for the Stations of the Cross during our Lenten season, on Fridays at 7:00 p.m., except first Fridays. If you would like to read the meditations during this devotion, please contact the parish office to let us know which Friday you would like to read.

Mass Intentions for 2021 – We are now accommodating any available request for Mass Intentions. Please call the Parish Office.

OFFICE IS OPEN!

We are all so happy that the Parish Office is now open! Admittance to the Parish Office is by appointment only. To book an appointment, please call 519-743-4525 or email: st.teresa@stteresakit.ca. **Please help us keep everyone safe by adhering to the safety guidelines.**

At this time, we are not able to provide the social distancing required within the Office itself. To ensure the safety of all, should you arrive at the Parish Office, and wish to speak with us, we will need to communicate through the outside storm/screen door. We apologize for any inconvenience, but trust you will understand that our priority is to keep everyone safe! Thank you for your assistance and cooperation!

Mass Intentions**March 15, 2021 – March 21, 2021**

Tuesday, March 16, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.

Group Mass Intentions

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.

Special Intentions of Mila Navaleza – *Magie & Marlowe*

Thursday, March 18 – 8:30 a.m.

+Bill Bernhardt – *Bill & Mary Alice Zister*Friday, March 19, 2021 – **Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary****8:30 a.m. – Intentions of Bill & Joyce****Stankiewicz** – *Bill & Mary Alice Zister***7:00 p.m. – Stations of the Cross**

Saturday, March 20, 2021

9:00 a.m. – +Franz Novak – *Helene Meier***5:00 p.m. – +Joe Zister** – *Mary Alice & Bill Zister*Sunday, March 21, 2021 – **10:00 a.m. – Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year B – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish****Live-streaming on Zoom**

The **Sunday Mass**, at **10 a.m.** will be **live-streamed** on Zoom. If you are not attending this Mass, and you wish to join Father online, please click on the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>**The Password is: 274733****Daily Readings:**

Lectors may find daily readings at this link:

<https://readings.livingwithchrist.ca>**MASS OF CHRISM****DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate the Mass of Chrism on Monday, March 29th, 2021 in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. This year, due to COVID capacity limitations and social distancing requirements, **attendance at the Chrism Mass will be limited to Priests only.** Each year at the Mass of Chrism, the Bishop blesses the Oil of the Sick, and the Oil of Catechumens, and consecrates Sacred Chrism. Let us pray for all who minister to God's holy people in our Diocese – our Bishops, Priests, Deacons, lay leaders, and all God's holy people.

The Reel Justice Film Festival is back for another year! A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the *Reel Justice Film Festival* shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustice. Films are screened once a month and provide an opportunity for community discussion about ways we can all support actions for change. Details and the full schedule can be found at: reeljusticefilmfestival.wordpress.com. This year the festival is going virtual! All of the films will be available online. **Special family friendly screening March 25th 6:30pm – 8:00pm - *To the Arctic***, narrated by Oscar winner Meryl Streep. The film takes audiences into the lives of a mother polar bear and her twin seven-month-old cubs, as they navigate the changing Arctic wilderness they call home. RSVP online or by email at library@hamiltondiocese.com. Join the discussion!

Pornography: The Threat, Impact and Catholic Remedy - Pornography is one of the most important issues to understand in our world today. With the ease of its availability on the internet, it affects people of all ages and backgrounds, whether male or female. Pornography today is violent and degrading and often involves young people who have been sex-trafficked. **Join us on Zoom (by internet or phone) March 25th from 7-8:30pm** and hear more about the threat and impact of pornography on children and adults, how we can educate ourselves and our children to counter its negative influence and how our Catholic faith provides hope to those impacted. Presented by Mrs. Teresa Hartnett and Deacon Joseph Di Loreto. Registration is required but the session is free of charge. Register at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/pornography-help>.



In response to the COVID-19 restrictions, the Lectures in Catholic Experience—like all on-campus, public gatherings—were put on hiatus this past year. We are excited to sponsor a series of online lectures during the upcoming months called Hope in the Time of COVID. Please see sju.ca/lce for more information and links.

David Perrin, PhD

THE COLLAPSE OF SELF-TRANSCENDENCE: COVID-19 AND MEANING-MAKING IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Wednesday, March 17, 2021 | 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.



**WE ARE
HIRING!**

We are currently accepting applications for the following opportunities:

- **Occasional Teachers**

Please visit our website for job details and application criteria: www.wcdsb.ca

QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

COME RETREAT WITH LOYOLA HOUSE VIRTUALLY!

Are you looking to break away and spend some time in silence? See our website at loyolahouse.com for more information on these upcoming retreats & programs:

Holy Week Retreat - March 27-April 3 - Walk with Jesus along his journey to the cross and his rising from death, and allow Christ to join his journey to yours.

Easter Triduum - April 1-3 - Visual presentations for engaging the Holy Week rituals.

The Psalms Weekend Retreat - April 16-18 - with Greg Kennedy, SJ

8-Day Directed Retreat - April 22-30

These virtual retreats may include video links and/or Zoom (or telephone) gatherings, and optional individual meetings with your spiritual director where indicated.

Register online at loyolahouse.com or contact registration@ignatiusguelph.ca or call 519 824 1250 ext 266.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to Bill Zister for making and installing the oak shelf by the Sacristy which was made out of one of the old pews that had been removed from the church. The shelf is a work of art! Great job, Bill!

Thank you to all those who replaced the light bulbs in the church. We are awaiting the arrival of some bulbs from the manufacturers and then the work will continue. Let there be light!

A special thank you to Bill Tucker, Bill Zister and our Facilities Manager, Jacques Pigeau for their hard work in the choir loft. There was an existing opening from the choir loft to the Narthex, which was a major safety concern. To provide a secure and safe area and to assist in preventing children from falling through this existing opening to the Narthex, they extended the flooring to the exterior wall. Thank you Bill, Bill and Jack for providing a safe place for all!

Stewardship Report March 7, 2021

Envelopes	\$3294.00
Loose	\$ 75.00
Initial Offering	\$ 10.00
Building Fund	\$ 380.00
Seminary Education	\$ 25.00
Share Lent	\$ 20.00
Easter	\$ 50.00

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 basket will be provided for you to drop off your donation, on your way out of the church.

Pre-Authorized Giving

Pre-Authorized Giving is now available for our parishioners. A digital copy of the form may be found on our website under Bulletins for 2021. Simply print the form and complete it. For those unable to print the digital copy, please contact the Parish Office. Completed forms can be returned to the Parish Office via the slot in the Parish Office door or can be mailed to: St Teresa of Avila Parish, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON N2H 6C8

E-Transfer

Exciting news – We are now able to provide E-Transfer to our parishioners. For E-Transfers, please use the following email account: stteresakitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

CanadaHelps

To support our parish via **credit card** or **PayPal** please visit canadahelps.org You can access our parish directly by following this link:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110450RR0053-st-teresas-parish/>

For those who do not get the bulletin electronically, go to canadahelps.org and then follow the instructions below:

Once you are on the homepage, you can access St. Teresa of Avila Parish by going to the Donate tab and clicking on Find a Charity. Click on the blue box that says Pick a category that is close to your heart. Now click on religion. Once you have done this you will have another tab appear that says All Locations. Click on this tab and change region to Ontario and city to Kitchener. You will now be able to scroll down until you find **STTERESAS** (Kitchener, ON appears below). Click on this link and you can then proceed with your donation.

Please note that donations made through the CanadaHelps website, will receive a tax receipt directly from CanadaHelps, via email.

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.

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.



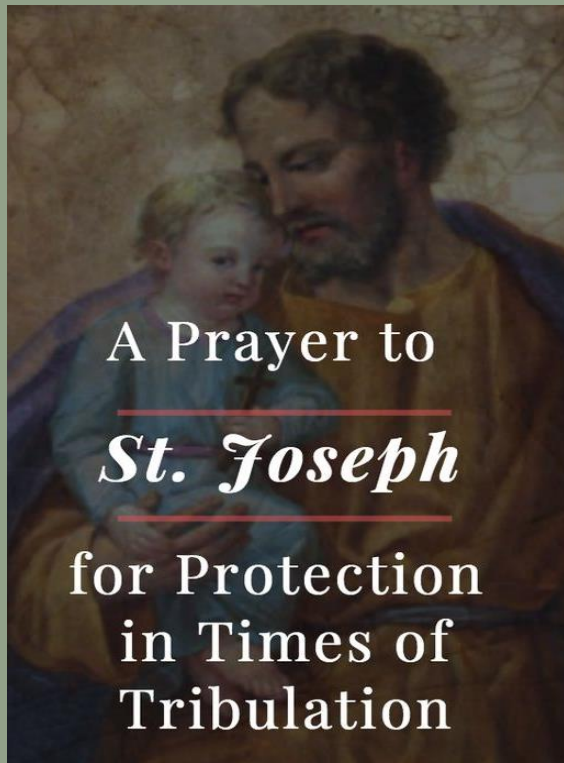
March: The Month of St. Joseph

Pray the Novena to St. Joseph

<https://www.maryvale.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-March-Novena-to-St.-Joseph.pdf?swcfpc=1>

**Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter on the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of
St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church**

[Apostolic Letter Patris Corde of the Holy Father Francis on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of
Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church \(8 December 2020\) | Francis \(vatican.va\)](#)



Prayer to St. Joseph

Remember, O St. Joseph,
loving and powerful protector,
that according to the testimony
of your faithful servant, great St. Teresa,
no one who is truly devoted to you
has seen his petition rejected.
Filled with confidence and hope
I come to you, worthy Spouse
of Mary Immaculate.
Do not close your ears to my prayer,
you who have the glorious title
of father of Jesus,
but graciously hear and intercede for me.
Amen.

How to prepare all of us for the Christian Initiation of our Elect during this upcoming Easter. Please read this article.

Christian Initiation of Adults

Rite of Election

TeamRCIA.com

"God is always faithful to those he calls."
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 133

Chosen By God

Witnessing God at Work

Our country knows a lot about elections. Each year, we're bombarded with candidates telling us why they would be the best choice for our vote. There's a lot of self-promotion, but not a lot of testimony, at least not in the way the Church thinks of being elected.

In the Bible, we hear many stories of God choosing a person or even an entire people. The Israelites were God's "chosen people." David, the shepherd, was chosen by God to be king of God's people. The angel Gabriel brought Mary the news that she had found favor with God and had been chosen to be the mother of God's Son. And of course, Jesus is called the Messiah, the "chosen one" of God.

It is God who chooses. God takes the initiative and claims a person or a people as his own. Yet God's choice is always witnessed by another. God's choice is witnessed by the Church, God's own people. We know whom God has chosen because we can see God's influence clearly in that person's life. In that person, we see God at work.

Election begins with God and is witnessed by the Church. To be elected means to be chosen by God to be the way God wants to act in the world now. It is one way God continues to be present in our world, and it is how the Church continues to proclaim God's faithful presence to his people today.

When have you felt chosen? What were you chosen to do? Who testified on your behalf that you were the right choice? How did their testimony make you feel?

Chosen for Baptism

When an adult seeks to be baptized, the Church is always looking for signs in that person's life of God at work. Here are some signs we look for: Does the person listen to God's word and respond to it? Have they changed their way of life to match the way of life presented in the Gospel? Do they pray with the Church and do the things the Church does? Do they live a spirit of charity in their family and work life? Have they learned to sacrifice themselves for the good of others? When we see these signs in the person's life, we can affirm that God has chosen them to be baptized.

This discernment, testimony, and election are formally ritualized in the Church's ancient Rite of Election. This rite is the turning point for those who are seeking to be baptized. It is when their months and years of preparation

take the final turn because the Church recognizes that God has chosen them to be baptized at the next Easter Vigil. This rite, which takes place at the beginning of Lent, propels them and the Church into the final preparations for the great Easter celebration. After they celebrate the Rite of Election, the catechumen's baptismal preparation is less like catechesis and more like a retreat. It's a bit like the time before a couple's wedding when their concern is less about getting to know their soon-to-be spouse and more about preparing themselves to make this lifelong commitment.

The Rite of Election has several important symbols and actions that help to communicate the importance of this moment in the life of the Church. Let's look at some of these symbols. If you get to participate in your diocese's Rite of Election, watch for them.

(continued on next page)

Words to know

Book of the Elect: a book that serves as both a record of those elected each year and a symbol of God's chosen people

catechumen: Greek, meaning "one in whom the word echoes"; one who celebrated the Rite of Acceptance

Elect: name given to catechumens chosen by God and affirmed by the Church as ready to celebrate baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist at the next Easter Vigil

election: the formal liturgical act of choosing those who have been called by God to celebrate the initiation sacraments; the election is proclaimed by the Bishop of a diocese

enrollment of names: another name for the Rite of Election; the formal liturgical act of gathering and recording the names of those ready to be initiated at the next Easter Vigil

godparent: a person chosen by a catechumen to be a lifelong companion and mentor in the Christian faith

Rite of Election: a liturgical rite that takes place at the beginning of Lent which formally names those who will be baptized at the next Easter Vigil

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Have you ever prepared for a significant moment in your life? What were the days and weeks beforehand like? How was that time different from your everyday life?

Testimony of the Church

Before the Rite of Election, a parish decides who among their catechumens have shown the signs of readiness for baptism. These catechumens are then asked to choose one or two godparents who will be their lifelong companions in the Christian faith. These godparents go to the Cathedral with their catechumens for the Rite of Election. There, the godparents testify and swear before the Bishop that they have seen God at work in the lives of their companions and therefore they are ready to be initiated into the Church. The Church assembly affirms the godparents' testimony, and the Bishop, on behalf of the Church, accepts the godparents' witness.

Enrolling One's Name

The Bishop then asks the catechumens if they are ready to accept God's election of them as verified by the Church. If they are, they are then to give the Church their names.

Your name is very important. God has called each person by name, and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says "the name is the icon of the person" (2158). Your name is sacred. When you give your name, you are giving your life. Those deemed ready to celebrate baptism are asked to give their life to God by giving their name to the Church for enrollment in the list of God's chosen ones. These names are inscribed into a book called the Book of the Elect. Sometimes, the godparents will also put their name in the Book of Elect next to their companion's name as a kind of "surety" or endorsement. These names and books are presented at the Rite of Election.

What does your name mean to you? Do you know how you got your name? Have you ever put your name on something important?

Act of Election

Having received the catechumens' names, the Bishop makes a powerful proclamation: "I now declare you to be members of the elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil." This Act of Election officially gives the catechumens a new name. From then until their baptism at Easter, they will be known as the Elect. They are the ones of whom we speak before Communion: "Happy are those who are called to his supper." The Elect are those called by God to be his own, to be washed in the waters of baptism, anointed by the Spirit in confirmation, and nourished by Christ in the Eucharist.

Handing Over to the Godparents

This is a very subtle but important part of the Rite. The Bishop asks the godparents to place their hands on the shoulders of their Elect. This gesture shows that the Elect are now in their care. The Bishop tells the godparents that they are to support them by their love and example, especially during these final days before Easter. As their first act of care for them, the Church prays for the Elect in intercessions and a final prayer.

Who are your godparents? How have they supported you in your faith? Are you a godparent for someone? How can you help the Elect strengthen their own faith?

All the baptized are God's chosen people. In each of our lives, Christ continues his mission of bringing peace and light into the world. We do this in very simple ways—by living as Christ in our families and in all our daily interactions. The Elect are chosen not simply for baptism but for mission, Christ's mission. The Elect are signs that God is still indeed with us, blessing our world and recreating it with his Spirit.

After the election, [the entire community] should surround the elect with prayer, so that the entire Church will accompany and lead them to encounter Christ. (RCIA 121).

Rite of Election or Enrollment of Names

Gathering Rites

Gathering song
Sign of the Cross and Greeting
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

(usually taken from the First Sunday of Lent)
First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Reading
Homily

Presentation of the Catechumens

Affirmation by the Godparents (testimony)
Affirmation by the Assembly (testimony)
Invitation and Enrollment of Names
Act of Admission or Election
Intercessions for the Elect
Prayer over the Elect
Dismissal of the Elect

Liturgy of the Eucharist (optional)

