

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)

January 24, 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

Seminarian: Carlos Diaz

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: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Friday – 7:00 p.m.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)

Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead, Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and His temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling His first disciples. It was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. **In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites His disciples to learn from Him.** Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. **Jesus promises that He will make them "fishers of men."** James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Family Connection

Gather as a family and talk about circumstances in which you have had to "drop everything" (the call to pick up a sick child from school, the cry of a hurt or angry child). How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations?

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called His first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow Him. These fishermen put aside their nets so that they can follow Jesus and teach others about God. They choose to change their lives and walk, in faith. Today's Gospel shows how all believers are called to a new way of life, a life of faith.

- ☐ Why does Jesus want His followers to change their ways?
- ☐ What does it mean to be fishers of people?



Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar 2021

January 25 – Rev. Lawrence Parent
January 26 – Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz
January 27 – Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.)
January 28 – Rev. Ronald Voisin
January 29 – Rev. Meskel Abib Aibu, O.F.M.
January 30 – Rev. Miro Grubisic, O.F.M.
January 31 – **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Vocations

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2021

The call of the disciples is so familiar to us that we tend to miss the wonder of the disciples' response, which was immediate and complete; they leave everything and follow Jesus. Can we do less if we feel that God is calling us to the priesthood, religious life or diaconate? If you think God is calling you to a Church vocation, 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/>

Prayer for Vocations

God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve You through the life which is Your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

Parish Office

Due to the Province-wide lockdown which came into effect on December 26, 2020, the Parish Office at 44 Leonard St. will be closed until February 11, 2021.

Mary will be working from home and therefore, you can continue to reach our Parish Office at st.teresa@stteresakit.ca or telephone 519-743-4525.

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.

Mass Intentions for 2021 – We will now accommodate any available request, for as many Mass intentions as you wish. In 2020, a Mass with Multiple Intentions (in order to respond to the needs of our parishioners) was introduced. These will continue on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Thank you.

2020/2021 Sunday Missals – The Sunday Missal is still available. The missal is \$5 and can be purchased by calling the Parish Office.

2021 Offertory Envelopes – At this time, we would ask that you please call the Parish Office and arrangements will be made for you to obtain your envelopes. For those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, please ensure that you also pick up your box of envelopes for 2021.



Reminder to our CWL members – Membership dues of \$25.00 for 2021 are due. We have received dues from more than 1/2 of our members but hope that we can receive the remainder soon. The Early Bird Draw to have your dues paid for 2021 took place on Sunday, January 17, 2021 and the winner is: Joan Wismer. Congratulations, Joan! If you haven't done so, you can drop off your dues at the Rectory, using the mail slot in the wooden door OR call Mary Helen to make other arrangements. If you have questions, please call Mary Helen (Membership Convenor) at 519-570-4375.



Mass Intentions

Mass will be celebrated privately for the following intentions:

January 25, 2021 – January 31, 2021

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

Memorial of Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

+Don Williams – *Williams Family*

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

+John Novak – *Helene Meier*

Thursday, January 28, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

Memorial of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

Special Intentions of Joseph O'Hagin – *Marion Jagelewski*

Friday, January 29, 2021 – **7:00 p.m.**

+Bernard Tenbult – *Ann & Michael Onn*

Saturday, January 30, 2021

9:00 a.m. – **For conversion for Katherine, Anna and**

Elizabeth – *Mom*

7:00 p.m. – **+Tom Hennebry** – *Dan & Pat Weiler*

Sunday, January 31, 2021 – **10:00 a.m.** – **Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

Live-streaming on Zoom

The **Masses** will be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 7 p.m., Saturday at 9:00 a.m., Saturday Vigil in anticipation of Sunday at 7 p.m., and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m., on Zoom. Join Father by clicking on the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/5887658626>

The Password is: 274733 The Divine Mercy Chaplet will also be **live-streamed**, Tuesday to Friday at 3 p.m.

Up-date
Our new total is:
\$185,274

Thank you! A big thank you to Brenda and Don Monastyrski and Jack Pigeau for taking down the Christmas decorations, banners and Nativity scene and for putting up the banners for Ordinary Time. Thank you for your hard work, generous gift of time and dedication – it is greatly appreciated!

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally celebrated January 18th–25th, which, this year, is in the middle of a pandemic lockdown. The Biblical Text for 2021 is John 15:1-17. The theme, taken from that passage is: *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)*. The Monastic Community of Grandchamp prepared the texts. Each day focuses on a specific theme taken from the Biblical Text. See

<http://www.christianunity.va/content/unitacristiani/en.html>

A Walk Through Fratelli Tutti - We are created to be relational, to be in communion with God and one another. Pope Francis's new Encyclical *Fratelli tutti* expresses the Pope's deep concern that humanity is becoming more and more isolated from each other. He states, "If we take each other seriously, then we should be brothers and sisters and friends, and not just anonymous beings." Join us on Zoom for a free webinar on **Wednesday, January 27th at 7 p.m.** for a 90-minute look at this beautifully written document. Registration is required, since the zoom or phone link for joining the session will need to be e-mailed or provided to you by phone. You can register by clicking on the following link [Roman Catholic Diocese of Hamilton Workshops \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](https://www.hamiltondiocese.com/workshops)



QUALITY • INCLUSIVE • FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION

Online Pre-registration for Kindergarten is Open: It's Time to Sign Up for School!!

It's time to sign up for the 2021-22 school year – and registering to attend one of Waterloo Region's 43 **Catholic elementary schools** has never been easier.

- Children born in 2017 are eligible for Year 1 Kindergarten (JK).
- Children born in 2016 are eligible for Year 2 Kindergarten (SK).

Parents can access the Online Pre-Registration form by clicking on the **Register for School** link on the **WCDSB Homepage** and then choosing **Kindergarten Registration**.

To finalize your child's registration, please contact your local Catholic school directly, for individual registration dates and times.

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 48 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 185-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: @WCDSBNewsire – #WCDSBAwesome.

Further questions can be directed to Mary Lavigne, Administrative Assistant, St. Teresa School, 519-743-2131.

Pre-Authorized Giving We're ACTIVE

For those of you who have signed up for the Pre-Authorized Giving option for Stewardship here at St. Teresa Parish, we are please to tell you that we are now ACTIVE. The first withdrawal will be for January 2021 and the deductions will continue to be processed on the 28th day of each month.

We thank you for your patience, in getting this started. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office.

We are very grateful for your contributions and would encourage those who have not signed up for this option to prayerfully consider Pre-Authorized Giving, particularly in these times of uncertainty.

Thank you!

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 mailed to: St Teresa of Avila Parish, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON N2H 6C8

Stewardship Report – January 19, 2021

Envelopes	\$ 1809.00
Mary, Mother of God	\$ 137.00
Initial Offering	\$ 60.00
Building Fund	\$ 195.00
Christmas	\$ 70.00

Stewardship Report

Once again, we are not able to gather to worship as a Parish Community, in the church. We would ask you to continue to keep our parish in your prayers and prayerfully consider continuing your donations. Thank you to those who continue to remember the parish through financial donations - We appreciate your continued support!

To support our parish via **credit card**, please visit the special **Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19** page at the Diocese of Hamilton:

[COVID-19 Parish Fund - Diocese of Hamilton](#)

Once you are on the Parish Offertory Fund: COVID-19 page, there are 4 sections on the form to complete. They are as follows:

- DONATION DETAILS
- DONOR & TAX RECEIPT INFORMATION
- PAYMENT INFORMATION
- IF YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR PARISH, PLEASE SHARE IT HERE:

To ensure the funds get directed to our parish, it is imperative that you select **St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener** in the drop box in the **FUND** box of the Donation Details section.

Once you have completed the form, click on **COMPLETE DONATION NOW**. This method of giving will provide you with an **electronic tax receipt** immediately upon making your gift.

If you choose the above option, it would be greatly appreciated if you could email the parish office at st.teresa@stteresakit.ca to advise us of your donation.

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.

“Year of St Joseph”



Prayer to St. Joseph

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

My Vocation Story



Hello my name is Carlos and I am a seminarian studying to be a priest for the Diocese of Hamilton. I was born in Mexico and moved to Waterloo, ON, Canada when I was 12 years old. I grew up in a Catholic family going to Mass every Sunday. I grew up with three sisters, two older and one younger. I enjoy swimming, reading and learning new languages (I can only speak three - even though I would like to speak more). The languages I fully speak are French, Spanish and English.

I am currently in my fourth year of theology and God willing I will be ordained a deacon sometime this summer.

My path to the seminary started on the summer after my first year of university. My mother invited me to accompany her to an Adoration Chapel here in the city. I said yes because I wanted to get out of the house. **My mother drove to the Adoration Chapel here in this parish. We stayed there for a Holy Hour and it was there that I met Jesus alive in the Eucharist. He spoke to me personally and He showed me His love and mercy. He said at the end, forgive as I have forgiven you.**



For the next few years, I prayed and started to take my faith and relationship with God seriously. I got involved in campus ministry and the desire to be a priest grew within me.

After I finished my studies of Environmental Science and with the help of Our Lady, I decided to enter the seminary in 2016, the Year of Mercy. Our Lady's Rosary and Divine Mercy devotions on Fridays allowed me to know God intimately and to hear His voice inviting me to be a priest.

I am grateful that I was able to return to the parish where I first heard Jesus' voice calling me. This parish has a special place in my heart and rest assured I will be praying for all the parishioners of this parish.

We warmly welcome Carlos into our parish community and wish him a pleasant stay with us. May God bless him with many graces in his journey toward priesthood. Welcome Carlos!



THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Sunday of the Word of God, instituted by Pope Francis and to be held every year on the third Sunday of Ordinary Time,^[1] reminds us, pastors and faithful alike, of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the word of God and the liturgy: “As Christians, we are one people, making our pilgrim way through history, sustained by the Lord, present in our midst, who speaks to us and nourishes us. A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the Risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with Sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, inflicted as we are by so many forms of blindness”.

This Sunday, therefore, presents an ideal opportunity to reread some of the Church’s documents^[3] and especially the *Praenotanda* of the *Ordo Lectionum Missae*, which present a synthesis of the theological, ritual and pastoral principles surrounding the word of God proclaimed at Mass, but which is also valid in every other liturgical celebration (Sacraments, Sacramentals, Liturgy of the Hours).

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, He speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and His people. These stories and poems have nourished the lives of the people of Israel and the Christian Church right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. They tell the story of God’s love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit’s work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit’s inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

