

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

Today we hear the magnificent passage from the opening of John's Gospel: "In the beginning was the Word ... and the Word was God... The Word was the true light that enlightens all men and he was coming into the world ... The Word was made flesh, he lived among us and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of God." There is no mention of Bethlehem, of Mary, of shepherds, or the stable and the manger, so why do we read this Gospel for Christmas Day?

The Bethlehem story, of course, was told during last night's 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.

Dear Parishioners & Guests,

I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas, filled with many moments you will always remember. May we allow ourselves to be evangelized by the humility of Christmas and the humility of the manger, by the poverty and simplicity with which the Son of God entered into the world. May the little Child whom we contemplate in the manger, watch over all the children of the world, as well as vulnerable and rejected 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!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*Fr. Marian Gil OMI
Pastor*

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 30, 2022 – 8:30 a.m. Mass

On the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, there will be a special blessing for families. The family is important to the Church and to civil society, for it is the primary life-giving community. In our prayer we call down the Lord's blessing upon you, so that you may continually be instruments of God's grace to one another and witnesses to faith in all the circumstances of life.

The Parish Offices will be closed from
December 26th, 2022 through January 2, 2023.

Mass Intentions

December 26, 2022 – January 1, 2023

Tuesday, December 27, 2022 – **7:00 p.m.**

Feast of St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

+ **Mila Navaleza – Bill Barrett**

Wednesday, December 28, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**

Feast of the Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Special Intentions of Sophie Piller – Helene Meier

Thursday, December 29, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**

Intentions of Lito Navaleza – Bill Barrett

Friday, December 30, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

+ **Madeline Kuepfer – Dorothy & Arnold Lorentz & Family**

Saturday, December 31, 2022 –

Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

5:00 p.m. – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Sunday, January 1, 2023 –

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

(World Day of Prayer for Peace)

10:00 a.m. – + Gil Lemieux – Stella Lemieux & Family

Following the Diocesan Initiative to "Come Home for Christmas" we have suspended live-streaming from our church at this time.

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

December 26 – Rev. Peter Nwachukwu, O.C.D.

December 27 – Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.

December 28 – Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)

December 29 – Rev. Nishil Varghese, C.M.I.

December 30 – **Feast of the Holy Family**

December 31 – Very Rev. Cornelius O'Mahony, E.V.

January 1 – **The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God**

Vocations

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, deacon, religious brother or sister, or a consecrated virgin, contact:

Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations
(905-528-7988); vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

or

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Vocation Office
71 Indian Trail, Toronto, ON M6R 2A1
vocations@omiap.org

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preparing For Confirmation & First Communion & Reconciliation

Gift Bearers: We welcome our Reconciliation/First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates and their families as they bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following dates:
January 8 – 10 a.m. – Tanner Sereda and family

Christmas Flowers – Envelopes are available at the back of the church for those wishing to make a contribution to assist with the cost of flowers, trees and decorations. Your donations will help to beautify the church during the Christmas Season and are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your generosity!

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - The Eucharist is the center and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel). We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish your spiritual life. To sign up, please contact Elisabeth at 519-590-5348. **"If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?"** St. Jean-Marie Vianney

Mass Intentions for 2023 – In order to provide an equal opportunity to all members of our parish, who would like to request Mass intentions in 2023, 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 27, 2023, 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.

2023 Offertory Envelopes – The 2023 Offertory Envelopes are now available for pick up. Please pick up your envelopes after Mass, this weekend, on the table at the back of the church. There are boxes for those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, as well. To ensure our parish records are up-to-date, we ask that you please put your name, address and phone number on the first envelope you use. Many ID/ENV#s have changed for 2023 - please use the envelope for the current year to ensure your donation is processed correctly. Thank you for your assistance.

Building Fund Collection – The second collection for the Building Fund, will take place next weekend, **December 31st/January 1st**.

Stewardship Report December 11, 2022

Envelopes	\$ 1200.00
Loose	\$ 420.25
Votive Candles	\$ 65.60
Flowers	\$ 105.00
Building Fund – In Memory of	
L. O'Donnell	\$ 285.00
Christmas	\$ 5.00

Thank you for your support of our parish.

Stewardship Report – The Stewardship Report for December 18, 2022 will be in next week's bulletin.

Donations for the year 2022 – As we approach year end, we wish to remind you that the diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31, 2022. Any donations you wish to make for the 2022 taxation year must be submitted by December 31, 2022. If you have moved in 2022, please inform the parish office so that we can ensure your receipt is sent to the correct address and our parish records are updated. Thank you for your generosity to the parish!

Euchre – The games are scheduled for every second and fourth Wednesday of the month starting December 14th at 7:00 p.m. and will take place in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. For information, call Chris - 519-575-1692.



St. Teresa Quilting Group

The St. Teresa Quilting Group continue to remain active. Recently they donated 216 quilts (baby/toddler quilts, lap quilts, bed quilts) to senior homes, the 3 hospices in this area and to Ukraine.



DIocese of Hamilton

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH - Christmas is an exciting and busy time of year, a time when it is vital for parents to counter the secular side of the holiday, so heavily promoted, by helping their children understand the real 'reason for the season'. Ensuring you have a nativity set and Advent wreath in your home are important reminders that it is Christ we celebrate. Attending Mass, placing Jesus in the manger before opening presents on Christmas morning, giving to charity and reminding your children Baptism calls all of you to do so, are ways to give a place of importance to the birth of Jesus. If Christmas becomes only about Santa, it is a real loss for your children and their faith. From: Family Ministry Office.