

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Today's reading (Luke 2:16-21) is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. **First**, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. **Second**, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby Jesus as the angel Gabriel had directed. **Third**, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. **Her reflection upon the events** in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, **her faithfulness to a community** of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation. Mary was and will be for all time, **an authentic follower of the Christ**.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. **First, discipleship means prayer and reflection** on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. **Second, discipleship means obedience** to God and God's will. **Third, discipleship includes fidelity** to a community of faith.

Thank You!

As we begin this new year, we thank God for the many graces we have received this past year and pray for God's blessing upon each day of the new year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your Christmas cards, prayers, and support during Advent and this Christmas Season; and for your involvement in the life of our parish community during 2022. Wishing all of us a healthy, blessed and Happy New Year 2023!

Fr. Marian Gil OMI
Pastor

Mass Intentions
January 2, 2023 – January 8, 2023

Tuesday, January 3, 2023 – **7:00 p.m.**
For the intentions of and in thanksgiving for the ministry of Bishop Douglas Crosby - 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

Wednesday, January 4, 2023 – **8:30 a.m.**
Intentions of Magie Navaleza – Bill Barrett

Thursday, January 5, 2023 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ Mr. and Mrs. William Hoffarth – Ann Snyder & Family

Friday, January 6, 2023 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ Kim Ward

Saturday, January 7, 2023 –
Memorial of Saint André Bessette, Religious
9:00 a.m. – Intentions of Katherine, Anna & Elizabeth – Mom
5:00 p.m. – + Brenda Haskins – Leona Binkle

Sunday, January 8, 2023 –
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
10:00 a.m. – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

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

January 2 – Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
January 3 – Rev. Piotr Machnacki, S.A.C.
January 4 – Diocesan Priests
January 5 – Rev. Ranjan D'Sa, O.C.D.
January 6 – Rev. Joseph Ahilan, C.R.S.P.
January 7 – Rev. Louis Lenssen, C.R.S.P.
January 8 – **Epiphany of the Lord**

Serra 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.

Vocations

Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother, sister or 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

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

Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination

Bishop Crosby celebrates his 25th Anniversary of Episcopal Ordination on January 2, 2023. In thanksgiving for his ministry, a Mass will be celebrated here at St. Teresa Parish on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 7 p.m. All are invited to come to Mass, to give thanks for and to pray for His Excellency.

HEALING MASS – FIRST FRIDAY - January 6, 2023
Adoration begins at 6 p.m. Confession will be available. Mass at 7 p.m.

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.

Stewardship Report December 18, 2022	
Envelopes	\$ 3084.00
Loose	\$ 174.90
Votive Candles	\$ 76.65
Flowers	\$ 304.00
Building Fund	\$ 695.00
Building Fund – In Memory of	
L. O'Donnell	\$ 20.00
Christmas	\$ 820.00
Pierogies Fundraiser	\$ 2165.00
Steve & Mary Gaida Ohar Foundation ...	\$ 5000.00
Thank you for your support of our parish.	

Stewardship Report – The Stewardship Report for December 25, 2022 will be in next week's bulletin.

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

Pierogies Fundraiser
Thank You!!

A special thank you to all of our volunteers (Ellie and Ken Fields, Elizabeth Heydel-Quintanilla, Krystina Krolak, Magie Navaleza, the Raj family, the Sebastian family and Bill Zister), who helped make our parish fundraiser such a wonderful success!! We are especially grateful to **Supreme Pierogies (Mr. Joseph Wilk)** for donating the pierogies for this fundraiser – we couldn't have done this without their generosity. Thank you!
Thank you also to everyone who attended and enjoyed a delicious meal and/or supported this parish event. As of December 20th, a total of **\$2165.00** has been raised.

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

Mental Wellness Support Group - Mental wellness is a challenge for many people. In addition, great pressure has also been placed on the people who care for and support their struggling loved ones. If you are having difficulty assisting a loved one with mental health issues please know you are not alone. **Every 1st Wednesday of each month**, there will be a support collective for those supporting loved ones afflicted with mental health issues. The group will meet in St. Teresa Parish Hall, at 7:00 p.m. **Please note:** This is a peer directed group and support comes from peers sharing lived experience, information and resources with each other. The discussion is not guided by a professional.

Prayer Shawls - Prayer Shawls are made with prayer and love and have been blessed by a priest. Many beautiful shawls and lap blankets are available for those in need of comfort and prayer due to illness, surgery, loss of a loved one, everyday difficulties, etc. If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or as a gift, please contact Mary Alice – 519-578-2019.

Catholic Women's League Nominations and Elections – All members who have paid their membership for 2023 are eligible to hold office. Please prayerfully consider letting your name stand for a position on the executive. An information letter and nomination form will be emailed or handed to members who don't have email this week (January 1 - 6). Return filled nomination forms in a sealed envelope marked 'CWL Nominations' and put in the collection basket on the weekends of January 7/8 and 14/15.