

St. Teresa of Avila Parish

44 Leonard St., Kitchener, Ontario, N2H 6C8
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Phone: 519-743-4525
www.stteresakit.ca

St. Teresa of Ávila

“To have courage for
whatever comes in life -
everything lies in that.”



Parish Staff & Organizations

Pastor: Fr. Stefano Lee

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Taek-Jong (TJ)
Maximus Han

Parish Secretary: Mary Steffler

Business Administrator: David Agnew

Custodian: Scott Piggott

Baptism Preparation Team:

CWL President:

Lector Co-ordinator: Mary Steffler

Eucharistic Minister Co-ordinator:
Kim Voelzing

Adoration Chapel Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Heydel-Quintanilla –
519-590-5348

Secondary Chapel Co-ordinators:
Herb Altman – 519-893-4793
Rosemary Mussar – 519-743-5656

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. Chris Luciani
Secretary: Connie Rawski
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. (except in August)
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.
No Sunday Confession

Parish Priest - In cases of Emergency – If you have an emergency and are unable to reach someone in the parish office and urgently need a priest, please call Father Stefano at 647-960-4078 (cell phone).

Adoration and Mass: First Friday of each month
Adoration – 6:00 p.m.; Mass – 7:00 p.m.



First Sunday of Advent

Today we begin a New Year in the liturgical calendar. This first period is appropriately called “Advent”. It comes from the Latin word *adventus* which simply means ‘coming’. But who’s coming are we talking about? We are beginning to prepare to remember God coming to be a human being among us, with us and like us.

Today’s Gospel (Mk 13:33-37) reminds us that Advent is about more than our preparation for the Church’s celebration of Christ’s birth at Christmas. Advent is also about preparing ourselves for Christ’s return in glory at the end of time. Like the disciples and the faithful in Mark’s community, we must also stay alert and watchful. Our faithfulness to God, through the good times as well as the difficult times, shows us to be ready for the coming of the Son of Man.

To be alert and to keep watch are the keywords of this passage from the Gospel of St. Mark. They are repeated with an almost excessive insistence: “Be alert and watch!” (v. 33), “he orders the doorkeeper to stay awake” (v. 34), “so stay awake” (v. 35), “I say to all: stay awake!” (v. 37).

What does it mean to ‘be alert’? There is a secret to keeping oneself awake, it is prayer understood as a constant dialogue with the Lord. The one who does not pray dozes off. He will eventually end up resigned and will adapt, like unbelievers, to the darkness that envelops the world (Mk 14:37-40).

We can speak of three comings of God.

The first, is when Jesus, the Son of God came to be born in the stable at Bethlehem. **The second is the final coming of Jesus at the end of the world.** And there is still **a third kind of coming** we need to be aware of, namely, when God enters our lives every day. Concentrate on today, on the present hour, the present situation and respond to it in truth and love and the future will take care of itself. Then we do not have to fear no matter when Jesus makes His final call.

Advent Wreath

Shape: The circular shape of the wreath, without beginning or end, symbolizes God’s complete and unending love for us—a love that sent His Son into the world to redeem us from the curse of sin. It also represents eternal life which becomes ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

Number: The Advent Wreath traditionally holds four candles (symbolizing: **Hope, Peace, Love and Joy**), which are lit, one at a time, on each of the four Sundays of the Advent season. Some Advent wreath traditions also include a fifth white “Christ” candle, symbolizing purity, that is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas day.

Color: Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, is also called “little Lent”.

Mass Intentions

December 4, 2023 – December 10, 2023

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

Group Intentions Mass

+ **Tom Nakluski** – Family

+ **Pete Richard** – Bill

+ **Albert Taka Fotou** – Anny Taka & Family

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

+ **Sue Bihun** – Sue’s Calorie Club

Thursday, December 7, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

Memorial of Saint Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

+ **Lou Romano** – Wendy Schuster

Friday, December 8, 2023 – 8:30 a.m.

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Saturday, December 9, 2023 –

9:00 a.m. – + **Stella Hoffarth** – Ann Snyder & Family

5:00 p.m. – + **Ludwig Ceh** – Theresa Ceh & Family

Sunday, December 10, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B – Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish.

Vocations

First Sunday of Advent – December 3, 2023

The season of Advent calls us to be vigilant in anticipation of the Master’s return so that we live each day according to the teachings of Christ. Could God’s “particular task” for you be a call to a Church vocation? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact:

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

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

December 4 – Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.

December 5 – Grandparents & Elderly

December 6 – Order of Preachers (Dominican, O.P.)

December 7 – Rev. Donald Sanvido

December 8 – **The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

December 9 – Rev. David Perrin

December 10 – **Second Sunday of Advent**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Flower Donations – Flower donation envelopes are at the back of the church. Any donation towards the cost of the flowers in the sanctuary would be greatly appreciated!!

PARISH ADVENT SPIRITUAL WEEK

*St. Teresa of Avila Parish
44 Leonard St., Kitchener, ON*

Family Advent Mass and Jesse Tree Celebration

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. Mass

On December 12, 2023 we invite all parishioners; parents, students and staff of St. Teresa School to join us for the 7 p.m. Mass as we celebrate a family Advent Mass and a Jesse Tree Celebration with families. All are welcome and we hope you will join us!!

Advent Education with Sister Eileen Schuller, O.S.U.

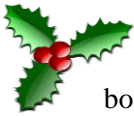
Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 7 p.m. – Parish Hall

We hope you will join us on December 14th at 7:00 p.m., in the parish hall, as we welcome Sister Eileen Schuller, who will speak to us on the psalms and Advent. Sister Eileen is a member of the Ursuline Sisters of Chatham and a retired professor. Her research and writing are in Biblical Studies, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Judaism at the time of Jesus. Her work was particularly on the psalms, hymns and prayers, and women in early Judaism and Christianity. We hope you will join us as Sister shares her wealth of knowledge with us!

Advent Reconciliation – 3 priests available

Father Stefano Lee
Father Brian Quigley
Monsignor Earl Talbot

December 15, 2023 – 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Christmas Cards

Please see the sample attached to the bulletin board. The Christmas Cards are now available for purchase. There are 2 designs. Each set will contain 10 cards - 5 of each design with envelopes. They are \$25 per set and can be purchased through the parish office.

Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter’s Square in Rome. The blessing generally takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the ‘Bambinelli’ – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy.

All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass on **Sunday, December 17th** at the **10:00 a.m.** Mass to be blessed as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your ‘Bambinelli’ home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day and as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

The Knights of Columbus Council 8192 is hosting **JOHN B. MILLER AND FRIENDS ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MUSIC** on **December 8th** at 7:00 p.m. at St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 19 Flamingo Drive, Elmira. A perfect way to kick off the Advent/Christmas Season. Reception to follow in the Church Hall. No tickets are needed, freewill offering.

**Christmas Schedule
St. Teresa of Avila Parish, Kitchener**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Saturday, December 23, 2023 – Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023– 10:00 a.m.

Octave of Christmas – Weekday Schedule

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

**Saturday, December 30, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.**

Mary, The Holy Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)
**Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.
Monday, January 1, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**

Epiphany of the Lord

**Saturday, January 6, 2024 – Mass at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 7, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**



**St. Teresa School
Angel Tree Campaign**

St. Teresa has a rich history of supporting our students and



their families as well as supporting those in need in our community. Our Social Justice Club has taken on efforts to support our families who may need a “hand-up” this holiday season through our Angel Tree Campaign. Our Social Justice Club, the students, the staff, and the community of St. Teresa ask for your help. We feel strongly that each student deserves to have a joyful holiday, and we know that this is a challenging time for so many in our communities. The Angel Tree initiative will help to support our Tiger families by collecting unwrapped toys and gifts for children ages: 0-3, 4-6, 7-9, 10-14 and gift cards. The Social Justice Club supervisors will ensure that these items are in the hands of families who need them before Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact the school, 519-743-2131.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Stewardship Report – November 27, 2023

Sunday Offerings	\$ 2512.50
Building Fund	\$ 703.00
Votive Candles	\$ 33.50
Flowers	\$ 40.00

We are most appreciative of your ongoing prayerful and financial support.