

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

When John wrote this Gospel, his community was influenced by a set of religious beliefs called Gnosticism. It appears that one of John’s intentions was to distinguish Christian belief from the beliefs held by the Gnostics. Evidence of this can be found in today’s Gospel.

One of the tenets of Gnostic teaching was the importance of knowledge, or gnosis, as the determining aspect of faith. We read today’s Gospel as a response to this teaching. In John’s Gospel, we hear Jesus affirm that he is known by the Father and that his disciples will know the Father by knowing Jesus. In this passage, however, Jesus reminds his disciples that this knowledge is to be expressed in love. Those who know Jesus well—and Jesus says that his disciples do know him—will love one another. Knowledge leads to love, which leads to action. John reminds his community that Jesus taught that love is the sign of a true disciple and, thus, a true Christian. Even more, a true disciple shows a particular kind of love, sacrificial love.

In the Greek, there are two words for love that are used in this passage. The first is agape. The second is philia. The first word is most often used to describe love for other persons and for God. It is understood as the highest and most perfect kind of love. The second word is used to describe the affection of friendship. In this context, John appears to use these words as synonyms. The root of the Greek word for friend comes from this second term for love, philia. By using this word, Jesus transforms the terms of his relationship with his disciples and redefines for them their relationship with God. In the Hebrew Scriptures, faith in God made one a servant of God.

Here Jesus teaches that his relationship to his disciples is based on friendship, not servitude.

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar	
May 6 –	<b>St. François de Laval</b> <b>Patron of the Bishops of Canada</b>
May 7 –	Very Rev. David Wynen
May 8 –	Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul of Zagreb (S.O.C.)
May 9 –	Rev. Mark Morley
May 10 –	Very Rev. Adrian Lee
May 11 –	Rev. Fadi Rizk
May 12 –	<b>The Ascension of the Lord</b> ( <i>Mother’s Day</i> )

**Vocations**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 5, 2024**

The greatest love story that ever happened: God’s continuing love for His people. All God asks is “Love one another as I have loved you”. The world really needs to see people who are trying to love others with all their hearts. Priests, religious and deacons can be excellent examples of this love. If you are willing to answer God’s call, call: **Fr. Mark Morley**, Director of Vocations 905-528-7988; [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

Mass Intentions May 6, 2024 – May 12, 2024	
Tuesday, May 7, 2024 –	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
Wednesday, May 8, 2024 –	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> + <b>Janet Hammar</b> – <i>Theresa Hammar</i>
Thursday, May 9, 2024 –	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> + <b>Amaro Rodrigues</b> – <i>Rodrigues Family</i>
Friday, May 10, 2024 –	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> + <b>Delmar Ferreira</b> – <i>Citelia Ferreira</i>
Saturday, May 11, 2024	<b>9:00 a.m.</b> – <b>Intentions of Debbie Barrett</b> – <i>Bill Barrett</i> <b>5:00 p.m.</b> – + <b>Leona &amp; Sheldon Grobe</b> – <i>Peter Grobe</i>
Sunday, May 12, 2024 –	<b>10:00 a.m.</b> <b>Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish</b>

Stewardship Report – April 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	
Sunday Offerings .....	\$2,911.00
Votives.....	\$ 16.70
Flowers.....	\$ 20.00
Donations for Ambry & Holy Oils.....	\$ 550.00
Special Donations.....	\$1,050.00

**Parish Announcements**

**For those who wish to plan First Communion for public school students, please contact the parish office to schedule the First Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Stefano Lee.**

**First Communion Interviews with Families**

First Communion interviews with First Communion students and their families will take place throughout May. A letter to parents has been sent out with more details. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

**Confirmation – May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Teresa of Avila Parish on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Very Reverend Monsignor Murry Kroetsch, Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton will preside at the celebration. Prior to Confirmation, **there will be a retreat and rehearsal on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024** in the church of St. Teresa of Avila at 7:00 PM. It is necessary to attend these events before Confirmation.

For any questions, please contact the parish office.

<b>Baptism</b>	
On Saturday, May 4 <sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome:	
<b>Elijah Javier,</b> son of	
<b>Paul John T. Javier and Bea Zyrene Del Rosario</b>	
Congratulations on your Baptism, Elijah!	

**Mothers' Day Coffee Sunday**

Join us for refreshments, fellowship AND entertainment by Sue Weber Bell on May 12<sup>th</sup> after 10 am Mass. This is a wonderful way to remember and celebrate mothers. Donations help to make Coffee Sundays a fundraising event.

**Movie Night – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

We are excited to announce our first Saturday Parish Movie Night! Join us for a viewing of The Mission (1986), on May 11<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 p.m. Mass in the parish hall. Dinner will be provided.

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

Divine Mercy Chapel hours have been updated to Monday to Friday - 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

We are looking for a volunteer to fill the 10:00 a.m. Tuesday time slot! If you would like to register, please contact Sandra Nakluski – (226) 789-1259, or the parish office.

**New Parish Photo Directory – Join Us in Creating a Lasting Memory at St. Teresa of Avila!**

We are excited to embark on a special project—a new parish photo directory! This cherished keepsake will capture the spirit and faces of our parish family at this moment in time, and we need your participation to make it a success! It is a wonderful way to celebrate and remember our parish community.

**Why is this important?**

- **Strengthen Community Bonds:** This directory celebrates our parish community and will help everyone feel more connected and engaged.
- **Free Personal Directory:** Each participating household will receive one complimentary photo directory.
- **Complimentary Portrait Sitting:** Enjoy a free sitting provided by IPC Photo, with the option to purchase additional portraits—perfect for sharing with loved ones.

**Sign Up Today!**

Starting this weekend, you can sign up for your photo session by contacting the parish office or at the sign-up table in the narthex of the church before and after Mass on weekends. Don't miss this opportunity to be included in our parish family album.

**Dates to Remember**

Photographers will be available on the following dates:

- June 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM
- July 5<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM

**Call for Committee Volunteers**

Many hands make light work, and we need your help! If you are interested in contributing to this historic endeavor, come join the Parish Photo Directory Committee! For more

details or to sign up, please contact the parish office or speak with Arinze at 548-333-2015.

Thank you for your participation and support. Let’s come together to make the St. Teresa of Avila photo directory a beautiful reflection of our vibrant parish community!

**CWL General Meeting**

All women of the parish are invited join us on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall to plan our events for the coming months.

**Diocese Announcements**

**Exploring God's Call:**

**Join Our Religious Life Vocation Retreat**

How do I discern a vocation to Religious Life? If you're looking to understand God's plan for you, join us for the 'Come and See' day retreat on May 25<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Parish. This retreat offers a chance to join community prayers, engage in discussions with three Resurrectionists, and meet other young people on a similar journey. For further details, please visit our website: <https://resurrectionists.ca/vocations/come-see>

**Wedding Anniversary Mass**

The Hamilton Diocese Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 1:30 PM. Please see the Hamilton Diocese website for details and to register. You will also be able to register at the parish.

**We are most appreciative of your ongoing prayerful and financial support for our parish, St. Teresa of Avila.**

**Donations to the parish can be made through the use of Sunday Offertory envelopes, and the following:**

- **Pre-Authorized Giving** – Forms found at the parish office or parish website.
- **E-Transfer** – use: [stteresakitchener@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stteresakitchener@hamiltondiocese.com)
- **CanadaHelps** – <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110450R0053-st-teresas-parish/>  
Donations made through CanadaHelps will receive a tax receipt directly from CanadaHelps, via email.

If you require any further information, please contact the parish office.

<b>Wisdom of the Saints</b>	
“Act and God will act; work and he will work.” -- St. Joan of Arc	

<b>Pope Francis' Prayer Intention May 2024</b>	
Please join Pope Francis in praying for the formation of religious and seminarians during the month of May.	