

St. Joseph Catholic Parish

409 Paisley Road, Guelph, ON N1H 2R4 519-822-4614
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PARISH STAFF

Reverend Jeff Bergsma, Pastor
Tracy Bolzon, Office Administrator
Zofia Gadzinska, Bookkeeper



Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



TUESDAY, January 9th

8:00am + Brigitta Tam Tran
 Intentions of Mirhet and Mulubrham
 Intentions of Daniel Hurlbut
 Intentions of Ed and Susan Reyes
 Intentions of Deanna

WEDNESDAY, January 10th

8:00am Thanksgiving to Mary Defender of Virtue
 8:30-11:00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7:00pm For Good Health of Eugenia and Tadeusz Lyko
 Intentions of Nguyen, King and Duong Family
 Intentions of Rose and Gino Amalberti
 Intentions of Robert Bauer
 + John Mandolesi
 + Lia Martinello

THURSDAY, January 11th

8:00am + Jeanne D'Arc Truong Thi Sen

FRIDAY, January 12th

8:00am Intentions of Theresa Tran
 7:00pm Intentions of Ving and Hang Tran

SATURDAY, January 13th

9:00am + Arturo Piacampo
 5:00pm Intentions of Jim and Karen Duffy

SUNDAY, January 14th

8:30am + Nilo Fogal and Danielle Fogal-Smith
 10:15am + Joseph Orobono
 12noon All Parishioners



May God's peace be with those who have recently died, and those being persecuted for their faith & race, and those killed in natural disasters & their families. Please remember our parishioners who are sick and homebound and those in our Prayer Network in your prayers.

Epiphany - January 7, 2024

The Son of God was first manifested to the world through the visit of the magi. Today, God's Son is brought into the world and is present to the world through His Church. If you think that God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, call **Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email at vocations@hamiltondiocese.com**

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Week of January 7, 2024

Candle #1 – ANTHONY TRAN +

Candle #2 – INTS of NANCY LITWAK and FAMILY

Please use the envelopes provided or one of your own to request intentions for the Sanctuary Lamps, which are lit at the tabernacle. The requested offering is \$10 each. You may place the envelope in the collection or drop it in the Parish Office.



COLLECTIONS FOR THE PAST WEEK

Sunday Offering December 16/17	\$6,768.35
December 23/24	\$9,481.75
Christmas Offering Dec 25	\$15,187.05
December 30/31	\$7,200.60
New Year's Day Jan 1	\$3,455.05
Initial Offering	\$1,055.00
Building Fund for December 2023	\$1,866.00

If you would like a receipt for your contribution, we need your name & full address. If you would like envelopes or to sign up for Pre-Authorized Donations, please call the Parish Office at 519-822-4614.

THANK YOU

On behalf of Fr Don, Tracy, Zofia and Kevin, I would like to thank those who sent Christmas greetings and gifts during this time. Your kindness and generosity is truly appreciated by all of us. May the blessings of this Christmas season be with you always, Fr Jeff Bergsma.

SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today's Gospel tells of the wise men journeying to meet the infant king. We are told they were following a star and when they found Jesus, they rejoiced and responded with worship and gifts. We can do the same in our lives today. We must notice the star – the call from God that beckons us – and respond as they did. These wise men no doubt had busy and demanding lives, but they dropped everything and followed a star to something, to someone, beyond their imagining. At the beginning, they could not have known what the journey would hold for them, only that they should follow wholeheartedly. They must have made space in their hearts, to respond so fully. In the season of Advent, we were called to make space for Jesus to come. Not that Jesus was not already present, but to brush away the clutter and make space again for what – for who – is most important.

Once Jesus has arrived in the space we have made in our hearts, how do we respond to his arrival? To this new awareness? Are we overwhelmed with joy as the wise men were? Can we too respond by sharing our time, our attentive presence and our gifts? What is God calling us to do and to share? Can we respond as the wise men did, with hope and without reservation? *Excerpt from Living with Christ.*

800th ANNIVERSARY of the Crèche (Manger Scene)

In our Parish we have a wonderful crèche (Manger scene) that has been set up by the DiPaolo brothers over many years, with help from other volunteers as well.

“This year is the 800th anniversary of the crèche, which was given to us In 1223, desiring to make the experience of the Christmas

story more tangible and accessible, St. Francis sought permission from Pope Honorius III to set up a live nativity. His intention? To eschew the rising materialism of the time and bring focus back to the simple and divine nature of the Christmas story. By using real animals and a manger in a cave setting, he created a physical representation of the events of that holy night <https://www.fspa.org/news/the-800-year-legacy-of-the-cr-che>

The Vatican has announced that: From December 8 to February 2, 2024, a plenary indulgence will be granted to anyone who prays in front of a nativity scene, detaches themselves from all sin and takes part in sacramental confession, holy communion and prayer for the intentions of the Pope. At St. Joseph this year we will follow the custom in Europe and not remove the crèche until Fri, Feb 2, 2024 which is the presentation of the Lord.

2024 ENVELOPES NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2024 envelopes are now available after all masses in the church hall. **NUMBERS HAVE BEEN RE-ORGANIZED please look for your last name alphabetically not by your number.** If you do not see your envelopes or would like envelopes, please call the office and speak to Tracy.

HELP NEEDED: FUNERAL USHERS

We are in need of volunteers to assist Fr Bergsma with funerals. There are usually three servers needed at each funeral Mass, which occur typically weekday mornings, - each with special responsibilities to ensure that the funeral runs smoothly. Training will be provided. If you are to help, please contact Tracy the Parish Office at 519-822-4614.

TELL ALL SOULS ABOUT MY MERCY- DIVINE MERCY PRESENTATION by Nestor Buendia (Divine Mercy Apostolate of Canada) "A great treasury of revelations, teachings, insights, and prayers of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy." In addition to the many significant revelations of Our Lord about trust and mercy, there are major teachings on several subjects including the Holy Eucharist, Confession, Blessed Mother, spiritual life and suffering of others. **WHOLE DAY SEMINAR at The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph on Saturday January 13, 2024: 9am Holy Mass 9:45-3:00pm seminar (bring your own lunch).**

CALLING ALL MOMS!

Are you looking for a Free, Fun, Faith Filled afternoon for you and your Little Ones this Winter? **Meet Up Every First Wednesday of the Month 4:30pm - 6:00pm.** We have a retired Teacher, who will host a Saint Lesson and Craft; While you Gather with Like-Minded Moms, to share a Hot Chocolate and Ideas on how to live out your Catholic Faith. This is a great opportunity to connect with other incredible Catholic Moms; It Takes a Village. To RSVP please email: st.johnbaptistmg@catholicmomsgroup.com. St. John the Baptist, 45 Victoria Rd. N, Guelph

Kindergarten Registration at Wellington Catholic DSB

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 8, 2024!

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2024 to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2024 to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

During the registration process, school administration is available to assist you with any questions you may have. To assist administrators with registering your child for kindergarten, we ask that you have the following documents available;

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parent Or Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Tax Support for Families New to the System (i.e. Most Recent Tax Bill)
- Proof of Address (Government Document, Mortgage or Rental Agreement, Hydro Bill, Credit Card Statement)
- Immigration Documentation (If Applicable)
- Custody Documents (If Applicable)

Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten.
- Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please contact your local Catholic school.

MEDITATIONS – HENRI NOUWEN SOCIETY – Move Toward the Light

You are constantly facing choices. The question is whether you choose for God or for your own doubting self. You know what the right choice is, but your emotions, passions, and feelings keep suggesting you choose the self-rejecting way.

The root choice is to trust at all times that God is with you and will give you what you most need...God says to you, "I love you. I am with you. I want to see you come closer to me and experience the joy and peace of my presence. I want to give you a new heart and a new spirit. I want you to speak with my mouth, see with my eyes, hear with my ears, touch with my hands. All that is mine is yours. Just trust me and let me be your God."

This is the voice to listen to. And that listening requires a real choice, not just once in a while but every moment of every day and night. It is you who decides what you think, say, and do. You can think yourself into a depression, you can talk yourself into low self-esteem, you can act in a self-rejecting way. But you always have a choice to think, speak, and act in the name of God and so move toward the Light, the Truth, and the Life.

Look on me and answer, O Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. PSALM 13:3,5 (NIV)

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

We hope you are still taking advantage of your FREE subscription to the online Catholic platform FORMED – below are picks for this week.



What Do You Seek? | The Search | Episode 1 What is that deep longing in our hearts all about? We're all living for something, and we all strive for that something out there that is ultimately going to make us happy. But what is it? Watch Episode 1 of The Search to begin to answer this question.



Who Are the Magi? In this FORMED Now! special episode, Dr. Michael Barber sits down to reflect on the Magi from the Gospel accounts and what spiritual lessons can be learned from this

historical event recorded in Scripture.



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