

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



MONDAY, December 20th
7:00pm + Patti Beaumont

TUESDAY, December 21st
8:00am + Alegene Tela
+ Joseph Orobono
All Souls
Intentions of Theresa Tran
Peace in Our Family and The World

WEDNESDAY, December 22nd
8:00am + Ernesto Marjorie DiCarlo
7:00pm + Maria Manera
+ Bertie Bechtel
+ Agnes Korga
+ Dino Tonin
Deceased Members of Brombal and Whittaker
Families

THURSDAY, December 23rd
8:00am Intentions of Huong Dao and Family

FRIDAY, December 24th
4:00pm + Aideen O'Leary
6:00pm For Parishioners
8:00pm + Ronald Arnold Fannon
10:00pm Intentions of Rodgers and Forester Families
12Midnight + George, Regina and Frank Vettor and
Marisa Mattuci

SATURDAY, December 25th
8:30am Intentions of Kevin, Victoria, Nigel, Kyle and
Ryan
10:15am For Parishioners
12noon + Mary Jane Warner

SUNDAY, December 26th
8:30am For Parishioners
10:15am + Andre Giardino
12:00noon Intentions of Emily Kistemaker



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.

INTENTIONS FOR SANCTUARY CANDLES

Week of December 12, 2021

Candle #1 – ARMELLINI FAMILY

Candle #2 –

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

Due to deadlines for bulletins to be sent to printers, Collections will be posted when available.

Thank you for your contribution and God Bless!

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.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

My Dear Friends:

We are invited to see the manger where Jesus Christ is born as we journey toward Christmas Day. We say yes to the angel's invitation to the shepherds to come and adore with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the animals the great gift of God humbling himself to come to earth and become human like us. So then, in the darkness and stillness of that Holy Night, God has begun the final act to bring salvation to humanity and us.

The hope we have in Jesus gives us confidence that despite the darkness the coldness of the winter night, Jesus brings the warmth of his love and mercy to our lives. But, unfortunately, we are still in the darkness of the COVID pandemic, with new strains and all, that prevent us from seeing our loved ones and perhaps coming to celebrate and give thanks at Mass. For some, we may be in the cold darkness of the death of a loved one or the winter of feeling alone or lost. So let us bring this sadness to the stable to receive strength from the baby Jesus and God's love for us. We may feel alone or abandoned, but Jesus' birth reminds us that God has not abandoned us or humanity. Instead, he has come to share his life in Heaven with us. So let us experience the warm embrace of the Swaddling Clothes of Jesus, the warmth and love of Mary and Joseph to their newborn son in our lives. When we allow ourselves to come and see and experience that love on warmth in our lives, we allow ourselves to experience the intense love of God in our lives.

On behalf of Fr. Don, Tracy, Zofia, and Chad, May the warm love and mercy of Jesus be with you this Christmas, and may you have a Holy and Blessed Christmas and New Year. As always, you are in my prayers.

Fr. Bergsma

P.S. I invite you to listen to this hauntingly beautiful Christmas hymn.

Gustav Holst: In the Bleak Midwinter?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE0aQp9V4s>

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – REFLECTION

Today the Church celebrates the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We light the last candle on our Advent wreath and our preparation for Christmas is almost finished. We also reach the culmination of the O Antiphons. In previous antiphons our cry was directed to the Messiah as He manifested Himself to the Chosen People, to the Gentiles, and in nature; now He is addressed in person and asked to remain with us as Emmanuel.

Reading this final antiphon gives the feeling that a climax has indeed come. The very term Emmanuel, God with us, reveals the kindly, human heart of Jesus — He wants to be one of us, a Child of man, with all our human weakness and suffering; He wants to experience how hard it is to be man. He wants to remain with us to the end of time, He wants to dwell within us, He wants to make us share His nature.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

ALL Christmas masses will require a ticket to enter. **If you do not have a ticket, you will NOT be able to enter and you cannot use ticket for another Mass time. PLEASE PICK UP TICKETS BY TUESDAY DECEMBER 21, 2021** at the office.

Friday, December 24: 4:00pm, 6:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm and 12:00am – Midnight

Saturday, December 25: 8:30am, 10:15am, 12:00(noon)

Sunday, December 26th: 8:30, 10:15am 12noon

Mary Mother of God (New Year's) Mass Schedule - Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, December 31st 5:00pm

Saturday, January 1, 2021: 8:30am, 10:15am and 12noon

USHERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We are looking for usher who are able to help at all the Christmas and New Year's Masses. If you are able to help, please contact Peter Robinson at 519-836-9478. Thank you in advance for your support.

"SIMBANG GABI" AT ST. JOSEPH'S...

This Christmas tradition is coming to St. Joseph parish once again, and will be celebrated starting **Thursday, December 16th** during the 8:00 am mass up to **Friday, December 24th** during the 6:00 p.m. mass. Other masses designated for this novena are; **December 17th** at 7:00 pm, **December 18th** at 5:00 pm, **December 19th** at 12 noon, **December 20** at 7:00 pm, **December 21st** at 8:00 pm, **December 22nd** at 7:00 pm and Thursday, **December 23rd** at 8:00 pm.

"*Simbang Gabi*" is not just an old custom that is celebrated because we need to do so, but rather it is a way of asking "favor or blessings" from the Lord, as it is believed that if one completes the whole series of nine masses, prayers and/or intentions will be granted. The traditional Christmas custom of "*Simbang Gabi*" in the Philippines, is a devotional 9-day novena (series of masses), practiced by Roman Catholics in anticipation and preparation for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to honor our Blessed Mother.

There will be no fellowship this year due to the pandemic, however, it is hoped we can resume the fellowship next year, God willing. Everyone is welcome to join this 9-day mass novena/celebration at St. Joseph's to experience an old but popular Filipino tradition. Hope you can join us.

2021 - 2023 Synod of Bishops in the Diocese of Hamilton

In response to Pope Francis' invitation to each and every person to become involved in the synodal process, His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, OMI, and the Diocesan Committee for the 2021 – 2023 Synod of Bishops developed a few materials to encourage the participation

of the Faithful of our Diocese.

A video guide featuring Bishop Crosby and the members of the Diocesan Committee for the 2021 – 2023 Synod, along with multiple resources including: a link to our diocesan survey to be answered by all the Faithful of the Diocese of Hamilton and a prayer inviting the Holy Spirit to operate within us, have been encompassed in a special section of our diocesan website. Please for more information: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/synod/#resources>.

Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League Right to Life Raffle

Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League are



Knights of Columbus®

holding a Right to Life Raffle with all proceeds going to that organization. Raffle tickets can be purchased at \$5 each - November 10th to December 20. To purchase tickets, simply go to the Knights of Columbus website (kofcuelph10631.com) or by calling Ray Bolton at 519-261-1850 or Larry Colero at 519-827-9737. **Draw will take place on December 22. Only 500 tickets to be sold. 1 in 20 chances of winning a great prize!**

Knights of Columbus:

2022 Lottery Calendar - only 150 calendars to be sold each costing \$50. You have 23 chances to win with your calendar over the 12months. Please contact Attila Korga at 519-239-5727 or Harry Schnurr at 519-993-7989 or Ray Bolton at 519-261-1850 or Terry Grignon at 519-766-0608 or Jim Neville at 519-824-7615 to purchase your calendar.

ST VINCENT de PAUL – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

SVP is need of volunteer! Can you spare 2-4 hours of your time each month helping the less fortunate. We require caring people to assist the needy in our community in obtaining a food voucher or a store voucher. No child should go hungry or without a bed. That is why we need you! Being a SVP volunteer is an extremely rewarding calling. You will touch the lives of people on every visit while your eyes are opened to the great needs of many in our community. You will be providing hope to your neighbour, someone's son or daughter. Why not give it a try and come out with a volunteer to see what impact you can have in just a couple of hours? For more information, please contact Margaret Middleton at 519-821-1438 or Bob and Evelyn Crosby at 519-837-2627.

Year of Amoris Laetitia Family - Hamilton Diocesan Speaker Series

The kick off to the Diocesan speaker series, meant to celebrate the year, will be in January, with a special three-part presentation by Bishop Lobsinger, with input from the Pastoral Offices staff. The evening sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 12th, 19th and 26th, and will unpack the great wisdom in Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love in Families and Church. The presentations, by zoom, are meant to engage all members of the Diocese in looking at both the challenges and blessings of families in the world today. Check the Diocesan website at <https://amorislaetitia.hamiltondiocese.com/> for more information about both the year and the Diocesan Speaker Series. Online registration will be necessary to receive the link, where you can join in by phone or internet. For more information contact Teresa Hartnett at thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

Merry Christmas