

# 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



## THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH

# Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



### MONDAY, January 1<sup>st</sup> – Mary Mother of God

9:00am + Florindo Scapin  
11:00am + Gracellia Tellechia

### TUESDAY, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

8:00am Intentions of Tam and John Tran  
Intentions of Pearson Family  
Intentions of Rueben Hector Rodrigues  
Intentions of Alicia Pearson and Silvia Velez  
+ Necita Estorco  
+ Maria Hoang Thi Hoa

### WEDNESDAY, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:00am + Jason James Pearson  
8:30-11:00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
7:00pm Intentions of Jesse Gemez  
+ Jozef Femiak  
+ John Mandolesi  
+ Marlina Tamara  
Birthday Blessings for Dara Lucic

### THURSDAY, January 4<sup>th</sup>

8:00am + Nguyen Manh Tuat

### FRIDAY, January 5<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Intentions of John Tran  
7:00pm + John Mandolesi

### SATURDAY, January 6<sup>th</sup>

9:00am Intentions of Therese Tran  
5:00pm + Thomas Tam Tran

### SUNDAY, January 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30am + Cadjitan Perera  
10:15am + Pietra and Eugenio Rotondi  
12noon + Mike Grosicki



*May God's peace be with those who have recently died, especially **NECITA ESTORCO** 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.*

### SANCTUARY CANDLES

Week of December 31, 2023

Candle #1 – RAMON PRADAS +

Candle #2 – ANTHONY TRAN +

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, 24/25, Dec 29/31 and January 1, 2023 will be posted at later dates due to deadlines for submissions of our bulletin over the next few weeks. Thank you for your contribution and God Bless!  
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.



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

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: 5:00pm  
Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 9:00am and 11:00am



### SUNDAY REFLECTION

Today is the **Seventh Day in the Octave of Christmas**: Scripture tells us practically nothing about the first years and the boyhood of the Child Jesus. All we know are the facts of the sojourn in Egypt, the return to Nazareth, and the incidents that occurred when the twelve-year-old boy accompanied his parents to Jerusalem. In her liturgy the Church hurries over this period of Christ's life with equal brevity. The general breakdown of the family, however, at the end of the past century and at the beginning of our own, prompted the popes, especially the far-sighted Leo XIII, to promote the observance of this feast with the hope that it might instill into Christian families something of the faithful love and the devoted attachment that characterize the family of Nazareth. The primary purpose of the Church in instituting and promoting this feast is to present the Holy Family as the model and exemplar of all Christian families. —Excerpted from *With Christ Through the Year*, Rev. Bernard Strasser, O.S.B.



### THE HOLY FAMILY

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, *'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.'* (First Homily on the 'Missus Est'). Today's celebration demonstrates Christ's humility and obedience with respect to the fourth commandment, whilst also highlighting the loving care that His parents exercised in His keeping. The servant of God, Pope John Paul II, in 1989, entitled his Apostolic Exhortation, *'Redemptoris Custos'* (Guardian of the Redeemer) which was dedicated to the person and the mission of Saint Joseph in the life of Christ and of the Church. After exactly a century, he resumed the teaching of Pope Leo XIII, for who Saint Joseph *'shines among all mankind by the most august dignity, since by divine will, he was the guardian of the Son of God and reputed as His father among men'* (Encyclical *Quamquam Pluries* [1889] n. 3). Pope Leo XIII continued, *'.. Joseph became the guardian, the administrator, and the legal defender of the divine house whose chief he was. [...] It is, then, natural and worthy that as the Blessed Joseph ministered to all the needs of the family at Nazareth and girt it about with his protection, he should now cover with the cloak of his heavenly patronage and defend the Church of Jesus Christ.'* Not many years before, blessed Pope Pius IX had proclaimed Saint Joseph, 'Patron of the Catholic Church' (1870) *Excerpt from Catholic Culture*

### 800<sup>th</sup> 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 800<sup>th</sup> 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.

### CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

The Monthly Meetings for January, February and March will take place on the Second Sunday of each month after the 12:00 Mass commencing at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Hall. The January meeting is on January 14, 2024; followed by February 4 and March 10, 2024.

All members are reminded to pay the \$35.00 Membership Dues for 2024 which can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the Collection baskets.

### KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS

#### Christmas Cake and Cookie SALE

The Knights of Columbus Christmas cakes, shortbread cookies and truffles are available for purchase at the Parish Office during office hours: Tuesday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm.

### VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS' NIGHT

The Serra Club of Hamilton invites all parishioners to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord** (280 Limeridge Rd W, Hamilton, ON L9C 2V2). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com).

### 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](mailto:st.johnbaptistmg@catholicmomsgroup.com). St. John the Baptist, 45 Victoria Rd. N, Guelph





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