

St. Joseph Catholic Parish

409 Paisley Road, Guelph, ON N1H 2R4 519-822-4614
stjosephguelph@rogers.com • www.stjosephguelph.com

PARISH STAFF

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MONDAY, December 25th – Nativity of Our Lord

8:30am All Parishioners
10:15am + Jack Obiala
12noon + Anna Maria Ta Tuyet Mai

TUESDAY, December 26th

9:00am Intentions of Stephanie Quintano
Intentions of Daniel Hurlbut
+ John Mandolesi
+ Jay Martin Inojales
+ Dr Sabino Baluyot Jr

WEDNESDAY, December 27th – St Stephen

8:00am Intentions of Tam Tran Family
8:30-11:00am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7:00pm + Siva Anton Pararajasingham
+ Vincent Toan Dinh
+ Giuseppe Aimola
+ Annamma Varghese
+ Arturo Piacampo

THURSDAY, December 28th – St John, the Apostle

8:00am + Norberto Simpao

FRIDAY, December 29th – The Holy Innocents

8:00am Thanksgiving for Reena and Family
7:00pm + Leon Suzon

SATURDAY, December 30th

9:00am Intentions of Emily Grignon
5:00pm Intentions of Peter Tran and Family

SUNDAY, December 31st – Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30am Intentions of Peter and Moira Edwins
10:15am + Maria Pham Thi De
12noon + Cadjitan Perera

SUNDAY, December 31st – Mary Mother of God

5:00pm Intentions of Tran Family

MONDAY, January 1st – Mary Mother of God

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

SANCTUARY CANDLES

Week of December 24, 2023

Candle #1 – INTS of VINH and HANG TRAN

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 December 9/10	\$7,998.76
Christmas Flowers	\$1,961.00

Sunday Offering December 16/17, 24/25 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.



Christmas Eve- Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 24th: 5:00pm, 7:00pm and 12:00am (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day – Nativity of Our Lord

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

Mary Mother of God (New Year's) Mass Schedule

Holy Day of Obligation

Sunday, December 31st: 5:00pm

Monday, January 1st, 2024 9:00am and 11:00am



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

God's Plan is filled with surprises that may be different from our own expectations. In today's Gospel, the Angel Gabriel appears to Mary to announce Jesus' birth. The Annunciation is one of these moments in God's plan and Mary's response is a perfect example of how we should welcome God's surprises. In our first reading, David expected that God's promise would involve an earthly kingdom, but God instead had in mind an everlasting kingdom. His

promise to David would be ultimately fulfilled through a humble soul, that of Mary, who trusted completely in the Lord. Mary is bewildered when she first hears the Angel's message. Gabriel reveals to her that she will bear a son who will be both Son of God and Son of David, the promised Messiah. When reassured that the Angel is God's messenger, Mary responds in faith, with a generous and open heart. Mary is the model believer whose deep faith and trust in God are an example for us all to imitate.

When Mary heard the Angel speak, she heard God's voice in that of his messenger. AS we await the birth of our Lord, we are invited to quiet our hearts and listen, as Mary did, for God's voice in our daily lives. Let us walk in her footsteps and be surprised by the ways of God. *Excerpt from Living with Christ.*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FORM OUR PASTOR

I never thought it was such a bad little tree. It's not bad at all, really. Maybe it just needs a little love.

- Linus - A Charlie Brown Christmas:

My dear friends, we are celebrating Christmas and the gift of God's love to humanity, the birth of his son Jesus. Over the past few years, the world has seemed obsessed with finding fault in everything and everyone who disagrees with my way of thinking. We start to lose sight of the true, good, and beautiful God created in the world. The above quote from A Charlie Brown Christmas had me thinking about how humanity sees the world and how God sees the world. While we tend to look at all that is wrong with the world or an individual, God sees the present beauty. God sees humanity as "not bad at all." In reality, God does not create bad. God knows we need a "little love" to make us beautiful. God shows us his love for us at Christmas by coming to earth in Jesus Christ. In the birth of Jesus, God shows us by putting in the work to make us beautiful for him. It is in the baby Jesus that we see that God has not given up on us but instead is willing to make the ultimate sacrifices for us, to love us to the end, so we understand that we are not bad, we make mistakes, yes, but God is ready to give us a little love to bring out the true good and beauty in us and humanity. Let us make the same effort with those we come into contact with this Christmas season and during the year. As St. Paul says, let us put on the mind of God, let us put on Christ and see that those who cross our paths are not bad; they need a little love.

For those who are experiencing their first Christmas after the death of a loved one and all who are saddened by a loved one not being present because of death, please know that God's love is present to you to bring you consolation and peace. For those who may be alone or abandoned, let the birth of Jesus remind us that God has not abandoned us or humanity. Instead, he has come to share his life in Heaven with us, and this is the "little love" that God offers with the birth of Jesus.

On behalf of Fr. Don, Tracy, Zofia, and Kevin. May God give you many blessings this Christmas. I wish you all a very Holy Christmas and a blessed New Year. Fr. Bergsma

P.S. What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
It's Christmas, Eve!

Christmas—The First Day

The purest of Virgins gave us our God, who was this day born of her, clothed in the flesh of a Babe, and she was found worthy to feed him at her Breast: let us all adore Christ, who came to save us.

Ye faithful people, let us all rejoice, for our Savior is born in our world: this Day there has been born the Son of the great Mother, and she yet a pure Virgin.

O Queen of the world, and Daughter of a kingly race! Christ has risen from thy womb, as a Bridegroom coming from the bride-chamber: He that rules the stars lies in a Crib. —Antiphon from the ancient Church of Gaul

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.fsps.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 11 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.

All members are reminded to submit the Nomination Forms in preparation for Election of our New Executive. Forms may be returned to Mary Stuart or dropped off at the Parish Office. The Deadline for submissions is December 31, 2023.



Joyeux Noel - Froehliche Weihnachten -
Felice Natale Christi - Buon Natale -
Wesołych Świąt - Maligayang Pasko - Feliz
Natal - Feliz Navidad - Shèngdàn jí kuàilè -
Giáng sinh vui vẻ



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david@cameletti.ca

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548 Woolwich St 519-823-1157
david@cameletti.ca

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