



Monday, December 10 – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. – Evelyn Krusky, David Ferraro, Intentions of
Monsignor Yoannis Lahzi Gaid

Tuesday, December 11 – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. ó Tomas Smlak, Salvacion Hubilla,
Intentions of David Pink

Wednesday, December 12 – Feast: Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:30a.m. ó Tom Powers, Intentions of Massimo Marcone,
Intentions of Sean & Joan Kenny & Family

Thursday, December 13 – Feast: St. Lucy

7:00p.m. – Frances Walinga, Helen Kirvan, Orlando Ramos

Friday, December 14 – Feast: St. John of the Cross

7:30a.m. – Nada Wyman, Bill Barrett, Joseph, Amelia &
Albert Spinelli

Saturday, December 15 – Ferial

5:15p.m. – Gioan Do Quang Bui, Peter & Ethel Murphy &
Jack White, Living & Deceased Members of the
Bordignon Family, Steve Vasko

Sunday, December 16 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

Stewardship of Treasure:

Thank you for your gift of \$15,986.75 in support of your
parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.

+We offer our prayers and sympathy to the families of
Dale Ellis, Elizabeth Quintanar and George Keleher who
were called to eternal life. May they rest in peace.

PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU

Thank you for your donation of \$2929.00 to the Needs of the Canadian Church
Collection.

ADVENT SHARING

We invite you to bring your donations for the Drop-In-Centre and Michael House.

2018 CHURCH DONATIONS

All donations for the current year must be received no later than Sunday,
December 30th to be eligible for a 2018 income tax receipt.

ASSISTED SUICIDE

There are cards at the Information Desk to be sent by mail free of charge to our
local MP Lloyd Longfield opposing the extension of Assisted Suicide to those
dealing with psychiatric issues.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: ADVENT - THE INFANCY NARRATIVES

Surprisingly in the whole New Testament only Matthew and Luke speak to us about the conception and birth of Jesus. St. Mark begins his Gospel with the baptism of Jesus by John. He tells us nothing about Jesus' family life, never mentioning Joseph as His legal Father. St. John begins his Gospel with the Divine Word before creation, "in the beginning was the Word" ignoring the family circumstances in which the Word became flesh. Obviously people were curious about the origins of Jesus. Matthew and Luke stress the religious importance of the conception of Jesus.

Our Christmas creche or crib scene intermix details from the Gospel. Matthew gives a picture wherein Mary and Joseph live in Bethlehem and have a house there. The coming of the Magi guided by the Star caused Herod to slay children in Bethlehem and the Holy Family to flee to Egypt. The fact that Herod's son Archelaus rules in Judea after him makes Joseph afraid to return to Bethlehem and so he takes the child and mother to Nazareth in Galilee.

Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and went to Bethlehem only because they had to register there during a Roman census. The statement that Mary gave birth to her child and laid Him in a manger implies they had no house of their own in Bethlehem. Luke's account of the peaceful return of the Holy Family from Bethlehem through Jerusalem to Nazareth leaves no room for the coming of the Magi or a struggle with Herod.

Some scholars have tried very hard to reconcile the differences between Matthew and Luke but with little convincing success. A greater fidelity to Scripture, as intended by the inspired authors, would recognize that the Holy Spirit was content to give us two different accounts and that the way to interpret them faithfully, is to treat them separately. Sometimes the drive to harmonize them arises from the false idea that since Scripture is inspired, each Infancy account must be approached as if it were an exact historical event.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

The Catholic Women's League of the Basilica is asking for donations of warm socks for men, women and children and jars of peanut butter and boxes of crackers for the homeless in our area. Please put the donations into the plastic bins at the Information Desk before December 31st.

- It is time to renew your membership for the CWL. All women of the parish are invited to join this spiritual organization. Use the envelopes available for membership in your offertory box or an envelope labelled for the CWL Membership \$25 for God and Canada.+

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

If you have a child in JK to Grade 4 who would like to play a role in our Christmas Pageant please contact Laura Del Rosario at coolpageant@gmail.com or sign up at <http://bit.ly/ChildrenPageant>. If you have a child in Grade 5 to 8 who would be interested in reading the scriptures please email Laura. Rehearsals Sunday, December 9th following the 11a.m. Mass (everyone except angels); Sunday, December 16th and 23rd for everyone after 11a.m. Mass.

TREES OF LIFE FOR ADVENT

At the Sacred Heart Altar the Tree of Life is for those who died during the past year and were born to eternal life. You may put a paper ornament provided on the tree with the name, birth and death date of your loved one. The other Tree of Life at St. Joseph's Altar is for those baptized into new life in Christ during the past year. Take a moment to have a look and to say a prayer for them.

2019 PARISH ENVELOPES

Envelopes for your 2019 weekly donations are now ready for pick up behind the altar in the alcove. If you are using envelopes regularly you will automatically receive a new set of envelopes. Over 100 people asked for envelopes last year and never picked them up which is an extra cost to the parish. If you have moved within the past year please inform the office so that our records are updated and you will receive your proper income tax receipt. Your financial support is an important response to the call to Stewardship and is much appreciated as together we respond as good stewards for the financial support of our parish community.

OTHER NEWS**SIMBANG GABI**

St. Joseph Parish is hosting a nine-day series of Masses in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary starting Sunday, December 16th at the 12noon Mass; Monday to Friday at 7p.m.; Sat. at 5:00p.m. and concluding Sunday, December 23rd at 12noon. Reception to follow each Mass. This devotion is practised in the Philippines.

NOVENA TO THE INFANT JESUS

The Sisters of the Carmel of St. Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to the Infant Jesus December 16th to the 25th. Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate by sending your prayer request intention slip with your name and address to the Carmel of Saint Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, RR#1, St. Agatha, ON, N0B 2L0.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- Join Holy Rosary Parish Thursday, December 13th at 8p.m. for Klaude Walters & Johnny Gibson Christmas Magic Gala of Songs with the Holy Rosary Choir. Free will offering.
- Dublin Street United Church Sing Nowell+ December 16th at 3p.m. Free will offering. They are performing Schubert's Mass in G.
- On Friday, Dec. 21st Family & Children's Services of Guelph & Wellington with the Guelph Chamber Choir are presenting a sing along performance of the Messiah. Donations to the Children's First Fund. See www.fcsgw.org.

YOUNG ADULTS (19-39) CHRISTMAS PARTY

3rd Annual Christmas Party Saturday, December 16th at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 715 Centre Road, Waterdown at a cost of \$25 per person. Mass at 5p.m. Cocktail Social 6p.m. & Dinner/ Dance 6:45p.m. RSVP by December 12th to jpeter@hamiltondiocese.com.

CHRISTMAS DINNER/ DANCE

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Christmas Dinner/ Dance Saturday, December 16th in St. Joseph Church Hall beginning at 6:30p.m., Dinner at 7p.m./ Menu: stuffed chicken breasts, roasted potatoes and vegetables, salad, buns, dessert. Cash bar. Dinner followed by dancing. A silent auction fund-raiser will also take place. Cost is \$40. A \$20 charitable receipt will be provided. For tickets call Jim at 519-824-7515 or Gary at 519-824-6381.



The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the One Heart, One Soul Campaign to raise money from every Parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. The good work of the Diocese of Hamilton is widespread. Here are a few examples of the ways diocesan offices enhance the life of our Parishes and people

- advocating for the dignity of all life and supporting and promoting marriages and family life
- encouraging vocational discernment to priesthood and religious life
- programming and support for youth and young adult ministry
- adult faith formation, catechesis, religious education and sacramental preparations
- assistance in the relocation and resettlement of refugees
- advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized
- assistance for parishes in all aspects of sacred worship, including formation for liturgical ministries
- support for Parishes in the area of human resources, building maintenance, financial reporting, stewardship, charitable giving and Parish development

The Diocese is generous to many in need. For example, the Diocese has an ongoing financial commitment to help the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince Haiti, which is still suffering from the effects of the devastating earthquake there in 2010, and the Diocese of Churchill Hudson Bay, which includes Northern Manitoba and the territories of Nunavut. The Diocese also supports many worthy causes within and outside of the Diocese, such as organizations who support the poor and marginalized, like St. Vincent de Paul. The Good Shepherd and several others; health care initiatives, including hospice care and conscience protection for those in the medical field; community organizations such as the Catholic Youth Organization, Family Services and Catholic Children's Aid and several organizations and causes in need who do the work of the Gospel.

Additionally the Diocese is proud to have made a significant gift to St. Peter's Seminary in London, helping to ensure the seminary can continue its mission to form priests for our Diocese and Church in Canada. There is a longstanding and fruitful connection between St. Peter's Seminary in London and the Diocese of Hamilton. For more than a hundred years, St. Peter's has trained a majority of our diocesan priests . and those of so many Catholic dioceses. Of the current Hamilton seminarians, the majority are at St. Peter's which is one of only three English-speaking seminaries in Canada. Hamilton priests have also served on the seminary staff. The seminary is in need . these funds were required for St. Peter's to continue its mission of forming priests, deacons and lay ministers . and is vitally important to the long term outlook for vocations in Hamilton.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

For the past several years the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves in St. Peter's Square on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited this year to bring your Baby Jesus figurines to Mass on Sunday, December 16th for this blessing. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your Bambinelli+home and place it in a gift box and open it on Christmas Day as you lay Jesus in the Manger as a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas. There is a story book entitled Bambinelli Sunday about a little boy names Alessandro and the lessons he learns about family, faith and love on this special day. If you are interested in the story it can be ordered on Amazon.

SUNDAY (do not change anything here, we'll put a correct header each week)
