



## MASSSES OF THE WEEK

**Monday, December 17** – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. – Antonio & Philomena Bendo, John & Marie Krusky, Zita Whetstone

**Tuesday, December 18** – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. ó Harry Perets, Helmut Drexler, Intentions of Sean & Kelly McCarthy

**Wednesday, December 19** – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. ó Maria Carmela Alpe, Robert Holliday, David McClenaghan

**Thursday, December 20** – Ferial: Weekday

7:00p.m. – Florence Agu, David Murray Hill, Intentions of the Friends & Family of Massimo Marcone

**Friday, December 21** – Ferial: Weekday

7:30a.m. – Violet, George & Paul Cartledge, Mary McDonald, Olga Maschio

**Saturday, December 22** – Ferial

5:15p.m. – Carlos Landivar, Sandy Fowlie, Lanny & Eleanor Sorbara, Paul Hammond, Reta & Peter Steffler

**Sunday, December 23** – Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

### **Stewardship of Treasure:**

Thank you for your gift of \$10,139.75 in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.

+We offer our prayers and sympathy to the families of Sharon Abbott and Ken Keleher who were called to eternal life. May they rest in peace.

## PARISH NEWS

### WELCOME

We welcome into our Catholic faith family through Water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism: Holden Trevor Bloemendal; Lily Danielle DeWolfe; Kinsley Michaela Kirby; Jaccob Bernacaki Lopez; Lucas Gabriel Phillips; Gage Timothy Rider and Seth Philip Rider. We congratulate their families.

### 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: THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

*The Catholic Church has taught firmly and clearly that the Bible is a library or collection of inspired books handed down to us by Israel and the early Church. In that collection there are many different types of literature including poetry, drama, history and fiction. Indeed between history and fiction there is a whole range of possibilities covering imaginative re-tellings that may have a kernel of fact. In this respect, the Infancy Narratives seem to differ from the New Testament accounts of Jesus' ministry and death where no eyewitnesses, the apostles, are presented as the source of traditional preaching embodied in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. Some may object that Matthew and Luke surely got their information about Jesus' birth from His parents. Yet this is never claimed in the New Testament or the earliest Church writings; and the great difference between the two Gospel Infancy stories make the solution improbable.*

*The major theme of Christmas can be summed up in the words of St. Luke's Gospel of Midnight Mass. "Today in the town of David, a saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." No matter how difficult our individual lives may seem, however worried we are about the state of world, the Church, our families, we are confronted with the promise and hope of a child. The coming of God to humanity as a child is an invitation to all of us. We are summoned to rediscover a hidden part of our ourselves – a place where we will still hope, where we are still capable of being surprised, where we still believe and love.*

### 2018 CHURCH DONATIONS

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

### 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 31<sup>st</sup>.

- 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.+

## OTHER NEWS



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 Diocesan financial picture is strong . the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. Meanwhile, the Diocese is generous with grants and loans to parishes and Catholic organizations within the Diocese. Parish assessments have been stable in recent years but have not kept up with increases in diocesan operating costs. Property sales have been used more frequently to keep the Diocese's operating budget balanced and strong and many assets (such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries) are restricted and not at the Diocese's disposal. This is not an emergency situation. The Diocese is looking ahead and acting before any kind of emergency could develop. Overall, the campaign is a way to ensure that more parishes will be able to be self-sufficient over the long term, building up themselves and the Diocese at the same time.

At the end of 2017 the Diocese reported assets of \$322 million. However, the majority of the assets are restricted assets, such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for the Cemeteries, money legally reserved for the maintenance of cemetery operations and funds held for pre-arranged funeral services and burials. Unrestricted assets are less than a third of the total capital. Of these unrestricted assets, more than 90% is used to generate investment income . when combined with parish assessments . pays for the annual diocesan operations (68 percent) and make funds available for grants and loans to help parishes and organizations within and outside the Diocese (32 percent).

### COMMUNITY NEWS

- Dublin Street United Church %Sing Nowell+ December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3p.m. Free will offering. They are performing Schubert's Mass in G.

- On Friday, Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.fcsgw.org).

### DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

On Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-9p.m. there will be a movie screening and a question and answer presentation entitled %Open Bethlehem+ at the Cotton Factory, 270 Sherman Ave. N., Hamilton dealing with the present day social and political landscape of the world's most famous small town.

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup> .5:15p.m.; 8:00p.m.; 12midnight beginning with Carols at 11:30p.m.

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup> .5:15p.m.

Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 8:00a.m. to 12noon 2:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

Saturday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> 3:00p.m. to 5:00p.m.

On Christmas Day Fr. Laszlo Amaszka will celebrate Mass in Italian at 9:00a.m. at St. John's Church, Victoria Road Guelph.

### JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN AT WELLINGTON CATHOLIC

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting registrations for Kindergarten beginning January 7<sup>th</sup>. To attend JK one must be four years of age on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and for SK one must be five years of age on or before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. Please bring . child's birth certificate; a parent or child's baptismal certificate; child's health card/ immunization record/ custody papers (if applicable); proof of tax support for families new to the system (ie most recent tax bill). Students currently in JK program in Wellington Catholic are NOT REQUIRED to register for SK. Any questions please call your school.

### OPERATION KEEP WARM

Donations of tents, tarps, sleeping bags and hiking backpacks are needed. They are being accepted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 9a.m. and 4p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday between 9a.m. and 8p.m. at 133 Woolwich Street, Guelph.

### MINI-BUS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Guelph & Area Right to Life is gathering change to support pro-life advertisements on the back of some city buses providing educational information about abortion, euthanasia and local crisis pregnancy support. There is a %mini-bus+ to fill with change in last week's bulletin. Buses can be returned to the church by the end of January. Thank you for your support.

### VOCATION NEWS

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious consecrated man or woman and announce the Good News to His people as John the Baptist did? If you think God is calling you to a priest, contact Father Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 1-905-528-7988 or email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) .

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

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