



## MASSES OF THE WEEK

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

**9:00a.m.** – George, Violet & Paul Cartledge, Mary McDonald, Olga Maschio, Giuseppe Trecapelli & Deceased Members of the Trecapelli Family

**Tuesday, December 22** – Ferial: Weekday

**9:00a.m.** – Anton Semlak, Patrick Heffernan, Oliva Tersigni, Sandy Fowlie, Joan Lawlor

**Wednesday, December 23** – Ferial: Weekday

**7:30a.m.** – Frances & Maurice Zadro, Lanny & Eleanor Sorbara, Peter Hewer, Vincent & Anne Scherer  
**12:15p.m.** – Intentions of the Kotlarz & Holland Families

**Thursday, December 24** – Feast: Vigil of Christmas

**5:00p.m., 7:00p.m., 9:00p.m., 12:00midnight** – Living & Deceased Parishioners

**Friday, December 25** – Feast: Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord

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

**Saturday, December 26** – Feast: St. Stephen

**9:00a.m.** – Garnet & Marguerite Duffy, Margaret Skowron, Intentions of Rose Newbigging  
**5:15p.m.** – Intentions of Jim & Judy Harrison, Mary Huxley, Beatrice “Betty” Cecilia Weiler, Sophia Schurter, Intentions of Karen Holliday

**Sunday, December 27** – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

**9:00a.m., 10:30a.m. & 12noon**

### **Stewardship of Treasure:**

*Thank you for your gift of \$5,609.00 support of your parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.*

## **PARISH & OTHER NEWS**

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

Please refer to our parish website ([www.basilicaofourlady.com](http://www.basilicaofourlady.com)) or the diocesan website ([hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com)) for the current and updated directives regarding COVID-19 from Bishop Crosby and the Diocese of Hamilton.

### **PASTOR'S DESK:**

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

*This Christmas will be very different indeed for most of us. Many people will be unable to spend Christmas with family, relatives and friends, some will be alone. We are all spending Christmas in a time of uncertainty, and a bit of fear. There is a real temptation to see this as a somewhat less than “Merry Christmas.”*

*However, the central message of Christmas for the Christian is the message of “God With Us”. The Prophet Isaiah tells us “Behold a Virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel.” The name Emmanuel literally means “God with us.” That message does not change whether we live in good times or bad, in prosperity or poverty, in joy or sorrow. We sometimes have a tendency to think that if we plough through difficult times on our own, then we will meet Christ as our reward at the end of it. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus our Emmanuel promises us that “I will be with you always.” Perhaps this message needs to be heard this Christmas like never before. Even in the midst of the uncertain times that we are living in our God is with us in the very person of Jesus Christ whose birthday we celebrate. We are not alone in the midst of this crisis, rather Emmanuel, God With Us, tread this path before us and beside us.*

*On behalf of Bishop Ustrzycki, Father Bill Foote, Deacon Quinto Tami, Seminarian Luis Inacio and the Parish Staff I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you and your loved ones a very Blessed Christmas, and may the new year be filled with hope. May Jesus our Emmanuel be with you throughout this blessed season and the coming year.*

*I remain faithfully yours in Christ,  
Father Ian Duffy, Rector*

### **TICKETS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES MANDATORY**

This year, due to the restrictions limiting the numbers in the Basilica because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be issuing tickets for the Christmas Masses. Tickets are now only available weekdays, Monday-Friday from 9a.m.-4:30p.m. at the Parish Office (closed between 12-1p.m.) Attendance at each Mass will be limited to 200 people so that we stay under our socially distanced number for occupancy. **Christmas Masses will be celebrated on Christmas Eve at 5:00p.m., 7:00p.m., 9:00p.m. and at Midnight. On Christmas Day Masses will be at 9:00a.m. and 11:00a.m.** Please note that, in accordance with public health guidelines, we are only able to issue you tickets for people who live in your home; other friends or relatives will have to obtain their own. **Tickets are free of charge but will be mandatory for entrance into the Basilica on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE PRIOR TO PICKING UP TICKETS TO SEE WHICH MASSES ARE STILL AVAILABLE TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT (519-824-3951).**

**ADVENT MASS AND DEVOTIONAL SCHEDULE 2020**

*During the Advent Season Masses will be celebrated at the following times:*

**Lord's Day Masses**

*Saturdays at 5:15p.m.*

*Sundays at 9:00a.m., 10:30a.m. and 12:00noon*

**Weekday Masses**

*Monday – 9:00a.m.*

*Tuesday – 9:00a.m.*

*Wednesday – 7:30a.m. & 12:15p.m.*

*Thursday – 9:00a.m.*

*Friday – 9:00a.m.*

*Saturday – 9:00a.m.*

**Confessions**

*Saturdays – 8:00a.m.- 8:45a.m. & 3:30p.m.- 5:00p.m.*

*Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> – 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.*

*Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – 5:00p.m.-7:00p.m.*

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

*Wednesdays – 8:15a.m.-12:00noon*

*Fridays – 9:30a.m.-12:00noon*

**Perpetual Help Devotions**

*Following the 7:30a.m. Mass on Wednesday mornings*

*December 31<sup>st</sup> Mass – 9a.m.*

*January 1<sup>st</sup> Masses – 9a.m., 11a.m., 5:15p.m.*

**2021 PARISH ENVELOPES**

Envelopes for your 2021 weekly donations are now prepared. They are available for pick up in the Basilica after Masses in the tower entrance. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, please be sure to pick your envelopes up as soon as possible. If you are using envelopes regularly you will automatically receive a new set of envelopes. If you have moved within the past year, please inform the Parish 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 of Stewardship and is much appreciated, as together we respond as good stewards for the financial support of our parish community.

**SISTERS OF THE CARMEL OF SAINT JOSEPH**

The Sisters of the Carmel of Saint Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Jesus, December 16<sup>th</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus. Send your prayer intention slip with your name and address to: Carmel of Saint Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Road, R.R. #1, St. Agatha, ON, N0B 2L0.

**MINISTRY OF COMPASSION – NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS**

Grief is a very difficult road to travel and winding one's way through Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, or any other holiday comes with many obstacles. It can be overwhelming. Please visit the Ministry of Compassion link on the Parish website

(<https://www.basilicaofourlady.com/ministries/ministry-compassion>) for some simple suggestions to help you and your family honour your loved one this Christmas and throughout the year.

**HOLIDAY PARISH OFFICE CLOSURES**

Please note the Parish Office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>, December 25<sup>th</sup>, December 28<sup>th</sup>, December 31<sup>st</sup> (closed at 12noon) and January 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

**2020 CHURCH DONATIONS**

All donations for the current year must be received at the PARISH OFFICE **no later than 4:30p.m. Tuesday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020** to be eligible for a 2020 income tax receipt.

**ONLINE DONATIONS – CANADA HELPS**

For those parishioners who are choosing to make their weekly or monthly Offertory donation online (through **Canada Helps** via the parish website or directly with Canada Helps...It would help us greatly if you would enter the word "Offertory" in the **Message** field on the Canada Helps page. Also, please note, if you opt to donate in this way you will be receipted directly through Canada Helps for these donations for tax receipt purposes and not the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Parish.

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS – CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF CHRIST THE KING, HAMILTON**

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30p.m. Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on Salt & Light Media and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8a.m. on Christmas morning. Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!

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

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