

BASILICA OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE Parish Community



PARISH ESTABLISHED IN 1827

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Pastoral Team:

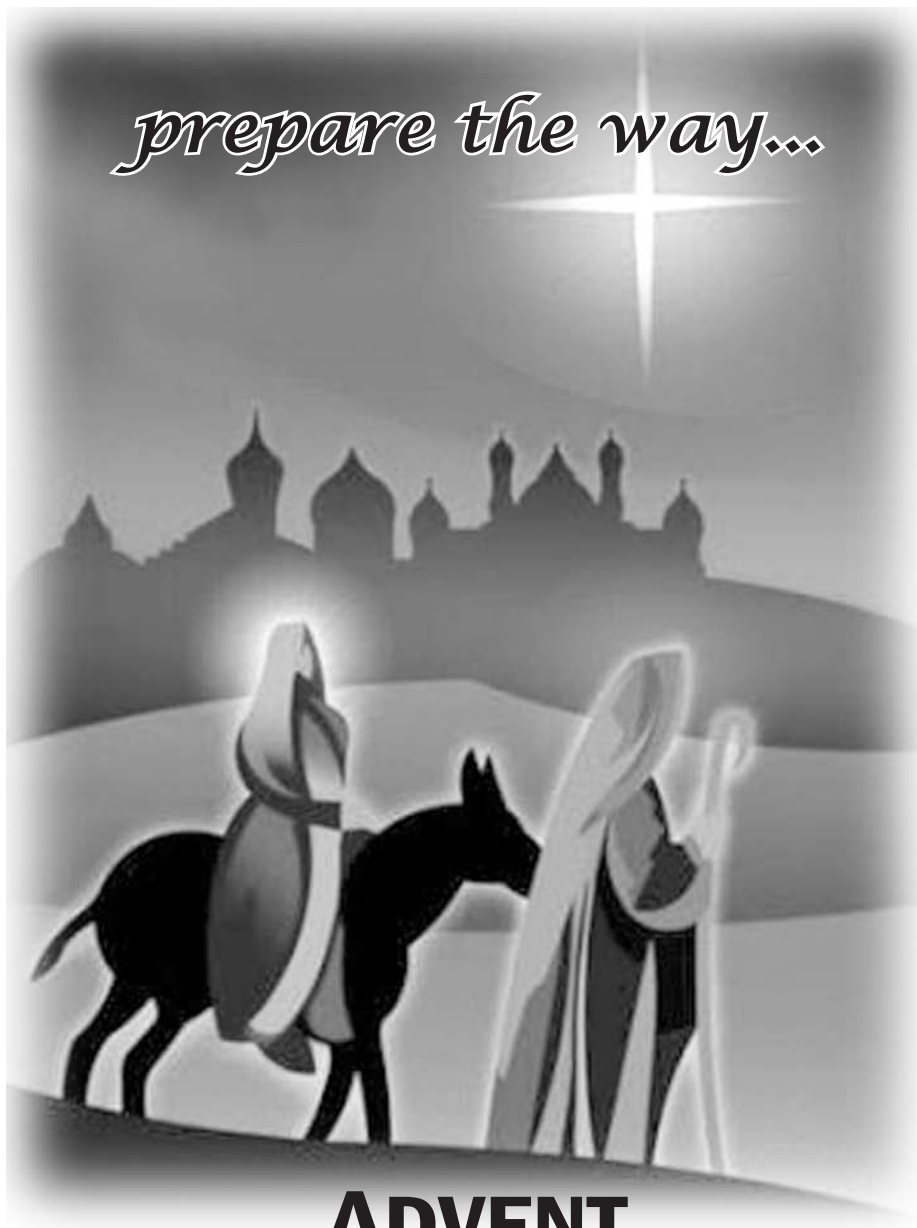
Father Ian Duffy, VF, KHS, Rector

Father Bill Foote, Honourary Assistant

Father John Iyekowa

Deacon Quinto Tami, Deacon Moices Caballero

prepare the way...



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASSES OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 23th

8:30 a.m. – The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 a.m. – Mass – Ellen Hughes, Intentions of Tracy & Gareth Poole, Bishop Ustrzycki, Mary Muller

Tuesday, December 24th – The Nativity Of The Lord

8:30 a.m. - The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 a.m. - Mass
5:00 p.m. – Mass
7:00 p.m. – Mass
11:30 p.m. – Carols
12:00 a.m. – Midnight Mass

Wednesday, December 25th – The Nativity Of The Lord

7:00 a.m. - The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
8:00 a.m. - Perpetual Help Devotions
8:30 a.m. - Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament
9:00 a.m. – Mass – Christmas Day
11:00 a.m. – Mass - Christmas Day

Thursday, December 26th – Feast of St. Stephen

8:30 a.m. – The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 a.m. – Mass – Margaret & Jerzy Skowron, Roy & Clare Ferraccioli

Friday, December 27th – Feast St. John

8:30 a.m. – The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 a.m. - Mass – Joseph Holody

Saturday, December 28st – Feast Of The Holy Innocents

9:00 a.m. – Mass
4:00 p.m. - Confessions
5:15 p.m. - Mass – Nicola Stefano, Ethan Fernandes, Intentions of Rosalie DiPaolo, Isabella Cotroneo, Adalyn Poole

Sunday, December 29nd – The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary And Joseph

8:30 a.m. – The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)
9:00 a.m. – Mass
11:00 a.m. – Mass

PARISH NEWS

Regina Caeli Shrine Lamps

During the 4th week of Advent, beginning on Sunday December 22nd 2024, the lamps of the Regina Caeli Shrine burn in loving memory of Andrea Duffy, and for the Intentions of Father Ian Duffy.

To request that one of the lamps be lit for your intentions, or in memory of a loved one, please call or visit the Parish Office. A donation of \$10.00 per lamp is requested.

Message From Our Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year. Drawing on the scriptural tradition of a Jubilee Year, the Church celebrates a Jubilee Year once every twenty-five years. This year the Pope has wisely chosen “Hope” as the theme for our Jubilee, which he will open in Rome on Christmas Eve 2024. Here at the Basilica, which will be one of our Diocese’s Pilgrimage Churches for the Jubilee Year, we will open the Holy Year on the Feast of the Holy Family, just after Christmas.

I can’t think of a better theme for a jubilee at this time, as hope is a virtue of which we are greatly in need of in our world, and in most of our lives. Hope is not an artificial pretending that the evils of the world, and the suffering around us are not real, rather hope is the sure and confident expectation of receiving what God has promised, the confidence that God will be faithful to His promises to us, as He has been throughout history. Furthermore, the Scriptures remind us that our hope is in the Lord who made heaven and earth, not in an earthly power or authority. Christ, and Christ alone, is our one true hope!

There is something very fitting about the fact that, in God’s wisdom, hope which conquers all things, came into this world as a tiny baby. I find that every time I look at a baby I am filled with hope, wondering what will become of this child, just as we are told Mary and Joseph did with the child Jesus. As we gaze upon the Babe in the manger, and adore Him together with the shepherds and the wise men, as we raise our voices in praise in our Christmas carols, and as we share the warmth of Christmas with our loved ones, let us all be filled with hope, remembering the beautiful words of St. John, “The Light has shone in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

May Christ, the source of our hope fill your hearts and minds with his light at Christmas and throughout the coming Jubilee Year of Hope.

On behalf of Bishop Ustrzycki, Father. Bill, Father. John, Deacon Quinto, Deacon Moices, and the entire parish team I would like to wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of this Holy Season.

I remain faithfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Ian Duffy

Stewardship of Treasure

† Thank you for your gift of \$11,927.00 in support of your parish community and in gratitude for God’s blessing.

Vocations

By Baptism we are God's Holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a Single, Married, Ordained, or Consecrated Person. If God is calling you, contact **Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988**

Email:

Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

Parish Envelopes 2025

The 2025 Envelopes are now available at the back of the Church. They have been sorted into Alphabetical Order, if you are unable to find your envelope or are a new Parishioner that would like to use the weekly envelopes, please drop by the Parish Office to register and receive a box.

A Christmas Scripture Challenge

On the following days of the Christmas Season sit before your Christmas Tree, or your Nativity scene, and take a few minutes alone, or as a family to reflect upon the following passages of Scripture.

Christmas Eve	St. Luke 2:1-20
Christmas Day	St. John 1:1-14
Epiphany (Sun. Jan. 5 th)	St. Matthew 2:1-12

Pilgrimage June 2025 to Spain and France

You are invited to take part in a Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Spain and France from June 3rd to 13th, 2025. Fr. Ian Duffy, Rector of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, Guelph, will be the Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage. The price will be \$5,690.00 CDN per person including airfare, accommodation, ground transportation and most meals. To register or for more information please contact Edgar at Gateways International (edgar@gateways-international.com or 1-800-268-0900 Ext 233).

Parish Gift Shop

The Basilica Gift Shop is offering 20% off selected Christmas items. The sale items include Nativities and Christmas related statues. This offer will last until January 5, 2025. We are now located in the Newstead Room in the Church Hall: Just follow the footsteps as you get off the elevator. We look forward to seeing you at our SALE event. We, the volunteers for the Basilica Gift Shop, wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas and thank you for visiting our Gift Shop over this past year.

OTHER NEWS

Sanctuary Outreach's Hospital Bag

The Sanctuary Outreach Pregnancy Support program assists pregnant women facing difficult circumstances. One practical way we provide this support is through the **Sanctuary Outreach Hospital Bag Fund**. This fund supplies hospital-recommended essentials, packed in a travel bag, for the hospital stay immediately after delivery.

By providing these items, we not only help mothers as they prepare for delivery, but we also show them that they and their babies are valued. Please place your donation in the box located by the main entrance into the Basilica. Mama items currently needed: Travel size shampoo, soap, conditioner, toothpaste, slippers, socks and pyjamas. Newborn items currently needed: newborn size diapers and wipes. **For hygienic reasons we accept brand new, unused unopened items only.** For more information, please visit sanctuaryoutreach.com/hospitalbagfund.html.

Scotland & Northern England Trip (May 4-17, 2025)

Join us for an almost all-inclusive 12-day trip to Stirling, Durham, Lake District, and the surrounding countryside. Open to members of the parish community and their friends and family. The cost of the trip is \$4,695.00 and a deposit is due mid-July. See the St. Teresa of Avila parish website (www.stteresaelmira.ca) for the events page and itinerary details. Organized by Joan Coutu with Fr. Peter Meyer.

Kindergarten Registration at Wellington Catholic DSB

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 6, 2025!

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- Must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- Must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

To register we ask that you visit;

https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/registration/kindergarten_registration and complete the online student pre-registration form. Once you have completed this form you will receive a follow-up email to complete the registration process. We ask that you have the following documents available:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parent or Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Tax Support for Families New to the System (ie, Most Recent Tax Bill)
- Proof of Address (Government Document, Mortgage or Rental Agreement, Hydro Bill, Credit Card Statement)
- Immigration Documentation (If Applicable)
- Custody Documents (if Applicable)

During the registration process, school administration are available to assist you with any questions you may have.

Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten
- Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please contact your local Catholic school.

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