



St. Mary Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows Roman Catholic Church

56 Duke Street West, Kitchener ON N2H 3W7

Under the Administration of The Congregation of the Resurrection

www.resurrectionists.ca



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Welcome to St. Mary's Parish!

No matter who you are or where you're from, we extend you a warm welcome and hope that you feel at home. For information on registration and to find out how you can get more involved with parish activities, please contact us at:

Phone: 519-576-3860

Email: stmarys@rogers.com

Website: www.stmarysrcchurch.ca

Our Parish Team

Fr. Toby Collins, C.R. – Pastor
Fr. Raphael Ma, C.R. – Associate Pastor
Fr. Paul Szymanowski, C.R. – Priest in Residence
Deacon Richard Olson
Penny Laurette – Administrative Assistant
Robert Tasse – Music Director
Amy Cyr – Chef, Kitchen Project Manager
Enrique Matute – Outreach Coordinator
Andrew Olinski – Caretaker

Parish Office Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Friday: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm

Parish Outreach

Are you interested in getting involved? Do you have ideas about how we might better serve our neighbours? If so, please contact Enrique at enriquem.stmarys@gmail.com.

St. Vincent de Paul

For assistance with groceries and other needs call 226-988-5915 Monday - Friday, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. For information on volunteering, please email Don McClure at don@teambilton.com.



Sunday Masses

Saturday: 5:00 pm
Sunday: 8:30 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday – Friday: 12:00 noon
(See inside for any possible changes)

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Thursdays: 11:30 – 11:50 am
Saturday: 4:00 – 4:30 pm

Eucharistic Adoration & Rosary

Adoration: Tuesday after Mass until 1:00 pm
Rosary: Wednesday after noon Mass

Baptism and Marriage

Registered parishioners, please email the parish office at least 6 months before the required date for details.

Visits to the Sick

Please contact the parish office to arrange for Holy Communion and Sacrament of the Sick.

Tiny Home Takeout

Everyone deserves a great meal! Visit us Tuesday – Saturday from 5:00 – 6:30 pm and 'grab a bite, give if you can'. Visit tinymhometakeout.com or email tinymhometakeout@gmail.com for more information.



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Mass Schedule and Intentions

December 17 - 22, 2024

TUESDAY – ferial

Genesis 49.2, 8-10 Matthew 1.1-17

12 noon For the Intentions of Mike O'Reilly

12:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration until 1:00 pm

WEDNESDAY – ferial

Jeremiah 23.5-8 Matthew 1.18-24

12 noon †Rick Schuster

12:30 pm Rosary

THURSDAY – ferial

Judges 13.2-7, 24-25a Luke 1.5-25

11:30 am Confession until 11:50 am

12 noon For the Intentions of Pat Damaren

FRIDAY – ferial

Isaiah 7.10-14; 8.10d Luke 1.26-38

12 noon For the Intentions of the Goral Family

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5.2-5a Hebrews 10.5-10 Luke 1.39-45

SATURDAY

4:00 pm Confession until 4:30 pm

5:00 pm ††Donat & Veronica Babin, For the Intentions of Garry Visneskie, Josip Fabina, The James Family, The Doctors & Nurses at St. Mary's Hospital

SUNDAY

8:30 am Deceased Members of the Piller & Berschl Families

11:00 am For Our Parishioners

PIC OF THE WEEK

Thank you all for your prayers and various forms of support as we move through difficult yet hope-filled times at A Better Tent City. Our lighting and security on site continue to be upgraded and any donations to help the 50 residents there will help keep them safe. With much gratitude and holiday greetings from all of the residents, staff, and leadership at A Better Tent City. www.abettertentcity.org



ITEMS NEEDED



We are in need of **men's and women's winter coats and boots**. Bring them down to the church hall between 10 am – 7 pm Tuesday to Saturday or put them in the bin at the back of the church. Your generous donations are what keeps our resource room open and available for the most vulnerable of our neighbours.

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES



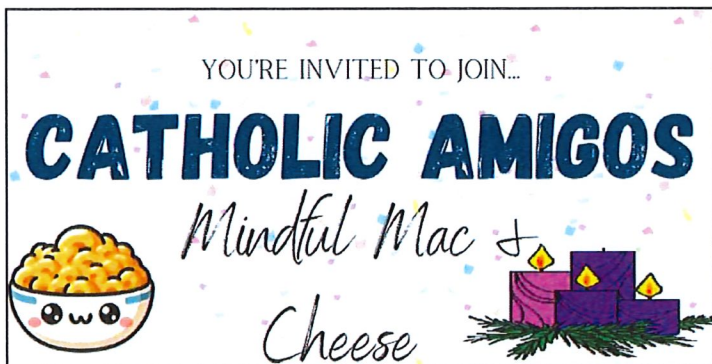
Envelopes are still available for pick up at the back of the church! If you would like to begin using envelopes or if you are presently using envelopes and have any changes to your address or other information, please contact the parish office as soon as possible so we can update our records. **Please DO NOT use these envelopes until 2025** as numbers have changed. If you do use the 2025 envelopes, they will be held until the first collection in January. Thank you.

IMPORTANT: CWL MEMBERS MEETING



A special meeting is being called **this Sunday, December 15th following the 11 am Mass, to discuss the future of St. Mary's CWL Council, and your membership in**

the League. Sadly, the Council has reached an impasse and must meet to discuss a motion to either become inactive or to disband. **Please make every effort to attend as your attendance and vote are very important.** Diocesan President Teresa DiFalco and members of her Diocesan Executive will be attending this meeting to provide us with support and guidance as we, the members of St. Mary's CWL, decide the fate of our CWL Council. May of Lady of Good Counsel Guide Us.



Calling Catholics in their 20's and 30's you are all invited to the next Catholic Amigos event on **Tuesday, December 17th at 7 pm.** We will meet you at the parish hall . We'll be looking to answer, "What's the meaning of Advent" and enjoying Mac & Cheese.

2024 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Donations to St. Mary's Parish for the 2024 calendar year, must reach the parish office no later than 12 noon on Monday, December 30th to be included on a 2024 income tax receipt. This enables us to process all donations before closing on the 31st. Donations received after December 30th will be receipted in 2025. Donations received at the Masses for Mary, the Holy Mother of God (December 31st & January 1st), will be credited in 2025. Thank you for your generosity.

TOQUES & GLOVES DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our toques and gloves campaign. As a result of your generosity we are able to provide warmth to men and women in need with toques and gloves!

PLEASE NOTE

There will be no weekday noon Masses or Confessions between Christmas and New Year's, December 26th and 27th.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The parish office will be closed from 12 noon December 24th through to the 27th and will reopen on Monday, December 30th. We will also be closed at 12 noon on December 31st through January 1st and reopen on Thursday, January 2nd.



RESURRECTIONIST VOCATION MINUTE



The people didn't just ask for advice; they were ready to respond. Discerning a religious vocation means not only asking God, "What should I do?" but also having the courage to follow through. Like those who came to John the Baptist, you must be willing to take concrete steps: find a spiritual director, serve those in need, commit to regular prayer. Will you find the courage to move from questioning into a commitment? Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR; resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have begun the Advent Season, a time of active and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent pass quickly and, almost before we know it, Christmas is upon us: the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem.

During Advent, we meet, in Sacred Scripture, figures who help us understand the importance of the Christmas event and point out the way for us to prepare well. The Angel Gabriel assures us that “with God all things are possible”! The Virgin Mary sets the high standard of openness and obedience to God’s will in our lives. St. Joseph acts on revelations in his dreams. John the Baptist calls us to prepare spiritually and practically for the coming of Christ into our lives. The shepherds listen to the revelation of angels and hurry to meet the Lord. The Magi follow a star to find Him. For each, the experience is different. For all, it leads to an important encounter with Jesus.

For the past number of years, the *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* has prepared an on-line series called *Journey Through Advent*. The weekly reflections in English and French open our hearts and minds. This year, Cardinal Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, is the presenter in English. His profound spiritual reflections are gifts to us, available on the CCCB website. They nourish our faith and help us prepare well.

In our Diocese, Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Ministers, choirs and musicians, sacristans and decorators and cleaners – a bevy of gifted and generous people – help assure that all is ready for the Christmas celebrations. We are blessed that dedicated Priests, Deacons and lay-faithful care enough to do the necessary work of planning and preparing so that we might *Come Home for Christmas* and celebrate well. I am grateful to all who serve and I pray that, as our cloistered Carmelite Nuns so often say, “*God reward you!*”

Advent is a good time to celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. We get ready “outwardly”. It is wise to prepare ourselves “interiorly” as well. A good Confession does wonders for the soul and for our hearts. It frees us and lifts us up. Pastors make time to welcome you and are happy to celebrate this liberating Sacrament.

I like to send and receive Christmas cards at Christmas. The Canada Post strike has precluded that pleasure this year. It means prayers for my family and friends must be evermore intentional. As I pray for them, I pray also for you, brothers and sisters, co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and parishioners throughout this vast Diocese. As we open the *Jubilee Year of Hope* on December 29, and live the experience of being *Pilgrims of Hope*, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that provides meaning and purpose to our lives – and hope for a future in union with the One Who Comes!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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