

St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

Pastor: Father Phil Reilly, C.R. preilly@hamiltondiocese.com

Parish Secretary: Anna Malton stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com

Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministries: Kelly Krause kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com

Custodian: Doug Lichty



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS and EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 19 – No Mass

9 AM – NOON *Pickle Ball* Gym

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 AM † Bob Ruetz – Fran Ruetz
 6:30 PM 11:30 Choir Rehearsal Church
 6:30 PM CWL EXEC Meeting L. Hall

Wednesday, December 21- St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:00 AM † Eileen Fischer
 9 AM – NOON *Pickle Ball* Gym

Thursday, December 22

9:00 AM † Grace Schmidt – Beaton Family

Friday, December 23 - St. John Kanty, Priest

9:00 AM † Carol Dubeau – Family
 9 AM – NOON *Pickle Ball* Gym
 9:30 AM *Decorating the Church for Christmas* Church

Saturday, December 24

Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

5:00 PM For Children of St. Louis Parish

8:00 PM For People of St. Louis Parish

Sunday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

9:30 AM For Past and Present Pastors of St. Louis Parish
 11:30 AM For Benefactors of St. Louis Parish
 5:00 PM *OOTC Community Supper* Gym
 2:45 PM – 8 PM *Set-up to Clean-up*

Reflection on the First Reading: Isaiah 7:10 -14

The story of Ahaz is situated in an eight-century BC political conflict. As king of Judah, Ahaz needs to make a critical choice: whether to submit to Assyria and be counted among one of its territories or to join an alliance with the northern tribe of Israel. With the help of Isaiah's prompting, Ahaz makes the decision to rely on the help of God and to act independently of Israel, because Isaiah prophesies that acting together will lead to destruction.

Isaiah is once again at work with Ahaz as we enter into today's reading. Ahaz has another difficult decision to make: to ask God for a sign of His providence or not. Isaiah suggests that if Ahaz asks for a sign that God is supporting him, it could come in the form of something truly spectacular; it could be something deep within the sea or something as lofty as skies. Ahaz should not be hesitant to ask for such a sign. However, Ahaz has made up his mind that he will not ask God to provide a sign.

Nevertheless, despite the king's trust in God, Isaiah knows the heart of the people, who yearn for God to prove Himself to be providential. Thus, he informs the kingdom of Judah that it will be given a sign, and the sign is to be a virgin giving birth to a son who is to be named "Emmanuel." This name itself, meaning "God-with-us," suggests that God will continue to be with His people. Because this prophecy has been made to the house of David, it takes on a messianic nature that is linked with the Davidic kingdom found in 2 Samuel 7:2-16.
 (Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, & Proclaimers of the Word.)

Thank you for your donations!

| Sunday | Loose | Mainten. | Diocesan | Pre Auth. |
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| \$ 2874.00 | \$147.00 | \$100.00 | \$0.00 | \$ 2506.27 |

Decorating our Church for Christmas – Friday, December 23 right after the Mass at 9:00 AM. Come and help to make our Church beautiful.



First Communion - Anyone who has a child in gr. 2 and would like to do their First Communion here, at St. Louis Parish, classes will begin on Wednesday, January 18th at 6 PM. Please sign up with Kelly Krause at the parish office.

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him.” Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, 905-528-7988, vocations@hamiltondiocese.com, or Fr. Raphael Ma, Congregation of the Resurrection Vocation Director, at crvocations@gmail.com, or Carmel of St. Joseph, St. Agatha at 519-884-6700. Pray for vocations!



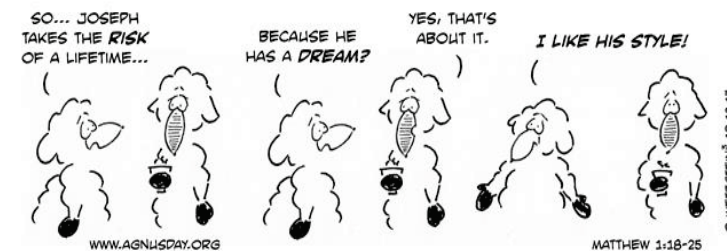
The Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass Is Back! Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2023? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, April 16, 2023 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if you require assistance). Registration will be available in early January at www.hamiltondiocese.com.

ALPHA 2023 ... Coming soon to St. Mark Parish
 All are welcome to join this 11-week program, bringing people together for conversations about life, faith and Jesus; helping to answer questions like: Who is Jesus? Why and how do I pray? Does God heal today? Join us Thursday evenings, **February 16 to April 27**, from 6:45 to 9:15 PM at St. Mark Parish Hall (55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener). For more info, or to sign up, please contact Ron Denomme at rdennomme@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.



Resurrectionist Vocation Minute - The amazing thing is that God gives us signs anyways. They are often not what we asked for, but these signs are just what we need, because they help us learn to let go of our demands and our desire to do things all by ourselves, and instead to walk **with** God. That is after all, what Emmanuel means, “God is with us.” Visit www.resurrectionists.ca to read more!

Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

MATTHEW 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

| | | | |
|----------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| SATURDAY | DECEMBER 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE – FAMILY MASS | 5 PM |
| SATURDAY | DECEMBER 24 | CHRISTMAS EVE | 8 PM |
| SUNDAY | DECEMBER 25 | CHRISTMAS DAY | 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM |

CONFESSION & PENITENTIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Sunday, | December 18 | at Sacred Heart Church from 3 - 4 PM |
| Tuesday, | December 20 | at St. Michael’s Church from 8 AM to 8 PM |
| Wednesday, | December 21 | at St. Anthony Daniel’s Church at 7 PM |
| Thursday, | December 22 | at Blessed Sacrament’s Church at 7 PM |

Confessions at St. Agnes’ Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 AM
& on Thursdays and Fridays at 7:30 PM
Confessions at St. Louis’ Church on Saturdays at 4:00 PM



Saint Peter Canisius’ Story (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) - The energetic life of Peter Canisius should demolish any stereotypes we may have of the life of a saint as dull, or routine. Peter lived his 76 years at a pace which must be considered heroic, even in our time of rapid change. A man blessed with many talents, Peter is an excellent example of the scriptural man who develops his talents for the sake of the Lord’s work.

Peter was one of the most important figures in the Catholic Reformation in Germany. He played such a key role that he has often been called the “second apostle of Germany,” in that his life parallels the earlier work of Boniface.

Although Peter once accused himself of idleness in his youth, he could not have been idle too long, for at the age of 19 he received a master’s degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards he met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced Peter so much that he joined the recently formed Society of Jesus.

At this early age Peter had already taken up a practice he continued throughout his life—a process of study, reflection, prayer, and writing. After his ordination in 1546, he became widely known for his editions of the writings of St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great. Besides this reflective literary bent, Peter had a zeal for the apostolate. He could often be found visiting the sick or imprisoned, even when his assigned duties in other areas were more than enough to keep most people fully occupied.

In 1547, Peter attended several sessions of the Council of Trent, whose decrees he was later assigned to implement. After a brief teaching assignment at the Jesuit college at Messina, Peter was entrusted with the mission to Germany—from that point on his life’s work. He taught in several universities and was instrumental in establishing many colleges and seminaries. He wrote a catechism that explained the Catholic faith in a way that common people could understand—a great need of that age.

Renowned as a popular preacher, Peter packed churches with those eager to hear his eloquent proclamation of the gospel. He had great diplomatic ability, often serving as a reconciler between disputing factions. In his letters—filling eight volumes—one finds words of wisdom and counsel to people in all walks of life. At times he wrote unprecedented letters of criticism to leaders of the Church—yet always in the context of a loving, sympathetic concern.

At 70, Peter suffered a paralytic seizure, but he continued to preach and write with the aid of a secretary, until his death in his hometown of Nijmegen, Netherlands, on December 21, 1597.

Reflection: Peter’s untiring efforts are an apt example for those involved in the renewal of the Church or the growth of moral consciousness in business or government. He is regarded as one of the creators of the Catholic press, and can easily be a model for the Christian author or journalist. Teachers can see in his life a passion for the transmission of truth. Whether we have much to give, as Peter Canisius did, or whether we have only a little to give, as did the poor widow in the Gospel of Luke (see Luke 21:1–4), the important thing is to give our all. It is in this way that Peter is so exemplary for Christians in an age of rapid change when we are called to be in the world but not of the world.

Saint Peter Canisius is a Patron Saint of: Germany. (From franciscanmedia.org)

Saint John of Kanty’s Story (June 24, 1390 – December 24, 1473) - John was a country lad who made good in the big city and the big university of Kraków, Poland. After brilliant studies he was ordained a priest and became a professor of theology and lectured for 50 years at Jagiellonian University. The inevitable opposition which saints encounter led to his being ousted by rivals and sent to be a parish priest at Olkusz. An extremely humble man, he did his best, but his best was not to the liking of his parishioners. Besides, he was afraid of the responsibilities of his position. But in the end he won his people’s hearts. After some time he returned to Kraków and taught Scripture for the remainder of his life.

John was a serious man, and humble, but known to all the poor of Kraków for his kindness. His goods and his money, earned as a copyist or lecturer, were always at their disposal, and time and again they took advantage of him. He kept only the money and clothes absolutely needed to support himself. He slept little, ate sparingly, and took no meat. He made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, hoping to be martyred by the Turks. Later John made four subsequent pilgrimages to Rome, carrying his luggage on his back. When he was warned to look after his health, he was quick to point out that, for all their austerity, the fathers of the desert lived remarkably long lives.

Reflection - John of Kanty is a typical saint: He was kind, humble, and generous, he suffered opposition and led an austere, penitential life. Most Christians in an affluent society can understand all the ingredients except the last: Anything more than mild self-discipline seems reserved for athletes and ballet dancers. Christmas at least is a good time to reject self-indulgence. (From franciscanmedia.org)

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