

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



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTION

Monday, December 20 – No Mass

Tuesday, December 21

9:00 AM † Grace Schmidt – Beaton Family

Wednesday, December 22

9:00 AM † Eileen Fischer

Thursday, December 23

9:00 AM † Bob Ruetz – Fran Ruetz

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:00 PM For Children of St. Louis Parish

8:00 PM For People of St. Louis Parish

Saturday, December 25 – Christmas Day

9:30 AM For Past & Present Pastors of St. Louis Parish

11:30 AM For Benefactors of St. Louis Parish

Sunday, December 26 – The Holy Family

9:30 AM † Krystyna Kowalska – Malton Family

† George Krause – Delattre Family

† Joseph Sigmunt – Justine Sigmunt

† Linda Carson – Malton Family

11:30 AM † Colonel & Jean Moser – Kim Moser

† Gerald & Audrey Moser – Reid Family

Reflections on the First Reading: Micah 5:2-5A

Although little is known about the life of the Prophet Micah, his writings suggest that his ministry was directed toward the Southern Kingdom of Judah during and after the Assyrian conquest of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. Like most prophetic books, Micah is composed of oracles, or prophecies, of doom and oracles of promise. Today's reading is an example of an oracle of promise, but this one is especially noteworthy because early Christians saw it as a prophecy about the birth of Jesus.

The oracle of promise that comprises today's first reading is preceded by another powerful oracle about Daughter Zion, which is Jerusalem personified. It promises that God's house will be established on the highest mountain – Jerusalem is on a mountain - and that swords will be beaten into plowshares, meaning that there will be no more war. On that day, the Prophet declares, the lame, the weak, and the outcasts will be restored. But the Prophet, speaking for God, also asks why Jerusalem cries out as if in labour. Is it because you have no king? Is it because you are besieged by your enemies?

This is the context for today's first reading. The Prophet issues God's promise that a ruler for Israel will come from Bethlehem, which was the hometown of Jesse and his son David, but this is not a new prophecy. The Prophet says that the promise of a ruler for Israel has its origin in ancient times. Although Jerusalem's children will continue to suffer for a short time – this is the meaning of "he shall give them up" – Daughter Zion will soon be ready to give birth. Her child will become king by God's authority, and Jerusalem's inhabitants will return to her. Further, we are told, this king will be a shepherd of the people. This imagery was often used in early Judaism to refer to a good and just king. Moreover, this king will be peace. The Prophet does not say he will bring peace, but rather he will be peace! What does it mean to be peace?

(From the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word)

St. Louis Youth Group (Grade 6 & up): Our next meeting: **January 7th** from 7 - 9 PM in the Large Hall. All are welcome to come.



CHRISTMAS AND HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Fri.	December 24	Christmas Eve – 5 PM & 8 PM (No 9 AM Mass)
Sat.	December 25	Christmas Day – 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM (No 5 PM Sunday Vigil Mass)
Sun.	December 26	Holy Family – 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Mon.	December 27	No Mass
Tue.	December 28	9 AM Mass
Wed.	December 29	9 AM Mass
Thu.	December 30	9 AM Mass
Fri.	December 31	NY Eve – Vigil of Mary, Mother of God – 5 PM
Sat.	January 1	NY Day – Mary, Mother of God – 9:30 AM only (No 11:30 AM or 5 PM Sunday Vigil Mass)
Sun.	January 2	Epiphany – 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Mon.	January 3	No Mass
Tue.	January 4	9 AM Mass - Regular schedule resumes

Reservations are required for Dec. 24th & 25th Masses.

Contact parish office for more details.



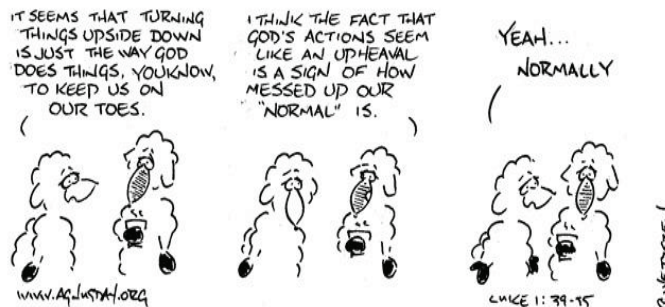
*O Child of promise, come!
O come, Emmanuel!
Come, prince of peace, to David's throne;
Come, God with us to dwell!*

*The Lord's true Servant, come,
In whom is his delight,
On whom his holy Spirit rests,
The Gentiles' promised light!*

*O come, Anointed One,
To show blind eyes your face!
Good tidings to the poor announce;
Proclaim God's year of grace!*

(From magnificat.net. Text by James Quinn, SJ)

"O" Antiphons: During the final days of Advent, anticipation heightens as the birth of the Saviour draws nearer. This anticipation is marked by something special in the prayers of the Liturgy of the Hours. (Antiphons are short sentences sung or chanted before the recitation of a psalm or canticle.) The antiphons of Evening Prayer (Dec. 17 – 23) welcome the birth of the Saviour by heralding one of His resplendent Biblical titles: **Wisdom, Lord of Israel, Root of Jesse, Key of David, Radiant Dawn, King of All Nations, and Emmanuel**, as foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the prophet Isaiah. Each antiphon begins with the exclamation "O", which is why they are called the "O Antiphons." Additionally, the ancient monks who first assembled the O Antiphons were very creative with the order in which they were prayed. If you take the first letter of each antiphon (in the Latin) and read them from last to first, the word ERO CRAS is spelled, which translates: "Tomorrow I will come." (Excerpt from catholiccompany.com)



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



St. Louis Children's Babysitting during 9:30 AM Mass. We are looking for more volunteers for Babysitting. You would be committing to helping once a month. If you are able to help, please contact Kelly Krause at the parish office: 519-743-4101.

First Communion classes will begin in the New Year, starting Wed., January 26th from 6 PM - 7:30 PM. First Communion will take place on May 1st. If you have a child who is in grade 2 and would like to have their sacrament here at St. Louis parish, please phone the office and register with Kelly Krause.



Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? Contact Most Rev. W. Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop and Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton 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.

Year of Amoris Laetitia Family - Hamilton Diocesan Speaker Series - The kickoff to the Diocesan speaker series, meant to celebrate the year, will be in January, with a special three part presentation by Bishop Lobsinger, with input from the Pastoral Offices staff. The evening sessions will be held from 7-8:30 PM on January 12th, 19th and 26th, and will unpack the great wisdom in *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love in Families and Church*. The presentations, by zoom, are meant to engage all members of the Diocese in looking at both the challenges and blessings of families in the world today. Check the Diocesan website at amorislaetitia.hamiltondiocese.com for more information about both the year and the Diocesan Speaker Series. Online registration will be necessary to receive the link, where you can join in by phone or internet. For more information contact Teresa Hartnett at thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

Youth Ministry Certification and Adult Faith Formation Opportunities - The Diocese of Hamilton is pleased to have The University of Dayton: Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF) as a partner in adult faith formation. The VLCFF is a living adult faith community offering online learning opportunities to address the learning needs of adults in our Diocese. Whether taking courses for professional development in ministry or for personal nourishment, the VLCFF provides a breadth of opportunity for learning including full certificate programs, five-week online courses and three-week intensive online seminars. The Youth Ministry office is now accepting applications for Youth Ministry Certification with courses beginning in January. For more information visit the Hamilton Diocese Learns web page: hamiltondioceselearns.com or contact the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis: 905-528-7988 X 2339 or catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com.

St. Peter Canisius (1521 – 1597) (Feast day: December 21) - In 1565, the Vatican was looking for a secret agent. It was shortly after the Council of Trent and the pope wanted to get the decrees of the Council to all the European bishops. What would be a simple errand in our day, was a dangerous assignment in the sixteenth century. The first envoy who tried to carry the decrees through territory of hostile Protestants and vicious thieves was robbed of the precious documents. Rome needed someone courageous but also someone above suspicion. They chose Peter Canisius. At 43 he was a well-known Jesuit who had founded colleges that even Protestants respected. They gave him a cover as official "visitor" of Jesuit foundations. But Peter couldn't hide the decrees like our modern fictional spies with their microfilmed messages in collar buttons or cans of shaving cream. Peter crisscrossed Germany successfully loaded

down with the Tridentine tomes - 250 pages each - not to mention the three sacks of books he took along for his own university!

Why was Peter Canisius chosen for this delicate task?

Born in Holland in 1521, Peter had edited and written several volumes on Church history and theology, been a delegate to the Council of Trent, and reformed the German universities from heresy. Called to Vienna to reform their university, he couldn't win the people with preaching or fancy words spoken in his German accent. He won their hearts by ministering to the sick and dying during a plague. The people, the king, and the pope all wanted to make Peter bishop of Vienna, but Peter declined vigorously and administered the diocese for a year.

For many years during the Reformation, Peter saw the students in his universities swayed by the flashy speeches and the well-written arguments of the Protestants. Peter was not alone in wishing for a Catholic catechism that would present true Catholic beliefs undistorted by fanatics. Finally King Ferdinand himself ordered Peter and his companions to write a catechism. This hot potato got tossed from person to person until Peter and his friend Lejay were assigned to write it. Lejay was obviously the logical choice, being a better writer than Peter. So Peter relaxed and sat back to offer any help he could. When Father Lejay died, King Ferdinand would wait no longer. Peter said of writing: "I have never learned to be elegant as a writer, but I cannot remain dumb on that account." The first issue of the Catechism appeared in 1555 and was an immediate success. Peter approached Christian doctrine in two parts: wisdom -- including faith, hope, and charity -- and justice -- avoiding evil and doing good, linked by a section on sacraments.

Because of the success and the need, Peter quickly produced two more versions: a Shorter Catechism for middle school students which concentrated on helping this age group choose good over evil by concentrating on a different virtue each day of the week; and a Shortest Catechism for young children which included prayers for morning and evening, for mealtimes, and so forth to get them used to praying.

As intent as Peter was on keeping people true to the Catholic faith, he followed the Jesuit policy that harsh words should not be used, that those listening would see an example of charity in the way Catholics acted and preached. However, his companions were not always as willing. He showed great patience and insight with one man, Father Couvillon. Couvillon was so sharp and hostile that he was alienating his companions and students. Anyone who confronted him became the subject of abuse. It became obvious that Couvillon suffered from emotional illness. But Peter did not let that knowledge blind him to the fact that Couvillon was still a brilliant and talented man. Instead of asking Couvillon to resign he begged him to stay on as a teacher and then appointed him as his secretary. Peter thought that Couvillon needed to worry less about himself and pray more and work harder. He didn't coddle him but gave Couvillon blunt advice about his pride. Coming from Peter this seemed to help Couvillon. Peter consulted Couvillon often on business of the Province and asked him to translate Jesuit letters from India. Thanks to Peter, even though Couvillon continued to suffer depression for years, he also accomplished much good.

Peter died in December 21, 1597. He is known as the Second Apostle of Germany and was named a Doctor of the Church.

(From catholic.org)

Date	Sunday	Christ.	Loose	Diocesan	Pre Auth.
Dec. 19	\$ 2055.00	\$ 45.00	\$80.00	\$10.00	\$ 2515.77

Thank you !



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