

# 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](mailto:preilly@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Anna Malton [stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministries:** Kelly Krause [kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Custodian:** Doug Lichty



Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT- CHRISTMAS – ST. STEPHEN'S

## MASS INTENTIONS and EVENTS

<b>Monday, December 25 – The Nativity of the Lord</b>			
9:30 AM	For Past and Present Pastors of St. Louis Parish		
11:30 AM	For Benefactors of St. Louis Parish		
<b>Tuesday, December 26 – St. Stephen's – No Mass</b>			
<b>Wednesday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</b>			
9:00 AM	† Krystyna Kowalska – Malton Family		
	9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
<b>Thursday, December 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs</b>			
9:00 AM	† Yolanda Margarita Rincon – Lorena Suárez		
<b>Friday, December 29</b>			
9:00 AM	† Yolanda Margarita Rincon – Lorena Suárez		
	9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
<b>Saturday, December 30</b>			
<b>Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>			
5:00 PM	† Yolanda Margarita Rincon – Lorena Suárez		
	Intentions of Dan Steinman – Giselle Potvin-Enns		
<b>Sunday, December 31 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>			
9:30 AM	† Louise Lefebvre – Paul & Betty Gross		
	† Yolanda Margarita Rincon – Lorena Suárez		
	10:30 AM	Sunday Social	L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish		
	5:00 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym
<b>Vigil of The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God</b>			
5:00 PM	People of St. Louis Parish		

### Second Reading from Titus 3:4-7 (Christmas Mass at Dawn)

In the reading from Titus, Paul highlights God's love and mercy in saving humanity and at the same time connects our salvation to our Baptism. Moreover, God's salvific work provides a positive motivation for our behaviour as baptized Christians. While we did nothing to merit our salvation, we are still called to live out our renewed life in the Spirit through good works and righteous acts. God's love for us is the perfect model we must follow in loving others.

In this passage, both God and Jesus are referred to as "Saviour," and the Holy Spirit renews the baptized members of the community. Thus, Paul emphasizes here the Trinity's role in our salvation and the role of our Baptism. He also goes on to tell us the reason for our salvation. Contrary to what some may think, God pours forth His love and salvation on us, not because of anything we have done or might do, but "according to His mercy." His purpose in so doing is that we might "become heirs according to the hope of eternal life." God's past interventions in human history lay the foundation for our hope of His continued presence in our lives that leads us to eternal life with Him. *(From the workbook for Lectors)*



### The Fourth Week of Advent Represents: Love

Candle Name: the Angel's Candle. Color: Purple  
During this final week of Advent we rejoice in the endless love that God has for us, which is made apparent in the birth of his Son. We reflect on the good news of God's love brought to us from the angel Gabriel.

Gabriel.

**Scripture Reflection:** "And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, may the light of your love always shine in our hearts. As Christmas draws closer, we marvel at your great love for us. Let your love transform every aspect of our lives and touch everyone we encounter. Our hearts are open to you, Jesus. Amen. *(dynamiccatholic.com)*

*"Do not be afraid. Listen; I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. ....*

*A Saviour has been born to you;  
He is Christ, the Lord."*



*Let us praise and glorify the Lord!*

*May the wonders of His birth fill you with*

*Joy, Thankfulness and Praise!*

*Christmas blessings now and in the New Year!*

*From Fr. Phil,*

*Kelly, Anna and Doug.*

*(Adoration of the Shepherds (ca. 1640) by Guido Reni)*



St. Louis CWL wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



### CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES:

Christmas Day	Dec. 25	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
St. Stephen's	Dec. 26	No Mass
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> day of Christmas	Dec. 27, 28, 29	9 AM
Holy Family (vigil)	Dec. 30	5 PM (Vigil Mass)
Holy Family	Dec. 31	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Mary, Mother of God (vigil)	Dec. 31	5 PM (Vigil Mass)
Mary, Mother of God	Jan. 1	9:30 AM (ONLY!)
9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> day of Christmas	Jan. 2, 3, 4	9 AM
12 <sup>th</sup> day of Christmas	Jan. 5	No Mass

### Office Hours:

Dec. 23 – 26: Office closed.

Dec. 27 – 28: Office open: 9 AM – 1 PM

Dec. 29 – Jan 1: Office closed.

Jan. 2 – 4: Office open: 9 AM – NOON & 1 – 4 PM

**St. Louis Parish Epiphany Potluck  
Dinner with Carols and Games  
on Saturday, January 6<sup>th</sup>,  
in the Large Hall at 6 PM  
(after 5 PM Mass).**



Bring your favourite dish to share and come and join as we celebrate together the Feast of the Epiphany. Organized by Kelly and Anna.

**Looking ahead to St. Louis Mid Winter Potluck Dinner and Ceili Dance** (Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>) – If interested in helping with set-up, decoration, or during the event (even for a short time) – please contact the office.


**COMING UP IN 2024**


**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD – THE MYSTERY OF JESUS’ PASSION** – Study of Passion Narratives from St. John’s Gospel with Bible scholar Frances Hogan. This 8 part study focuses on the second half of the Gospel of John, known as the Book of Glory, detailing how Christ prepared His disciples for the upcoming task of spreading His Gospel message. Thursdays at 1 PM, starting on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**THE GREAT ADVENTURE BIBLE TIMELINE STUDY – SALVATION STORY MADE CLEAR**

The Bible Timeline® Study Program is a guided journey through salvation history. Presenter Jeff Cavins shows how 14 of the Bible’s narrative books tell the biblical story from beginning to end and gives the keys to understand the amazing story woven through Scripture. Unique colour-coded chart, helps to learn about the people, places, and events of the Bible and reveals the remarkable story of our Faith. (The presentations have been updated since last studied in 2015.) Offered either on Monday nights at 7:30 PM starting Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 OR on Sundays at 12:30 PM (till 1:40 PM with substantial snacks provided.) starting on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. (No sessions on long weekends etc.) 12 sessions during Winter/Spring 2024 & 12 sessions during the Fall of 2024. Contact parish office to sign up. Materials provided, or workbook can be purchased.

**Book Group** (meetings on Tuesday mornings after the daily Mass at 9:30 – 10:30 AM) will resume on Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and we will continue with “My Sisters the Saints” spiritual memoir by Colleen Carroll Campbell.

 We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com), [hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](http://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/), or Fr. Raphael Ma, Congregation of the Resurrection Vocation Director, at [crvocations@gmail.com](mailto:crvocations@gmail.com), or Carmel of St. Joseph, St. Agatha, at 519-884-6700. Pray for vocations!

 **The Christmas Mass on TV/computer** - For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas. Watch the Daily TV Mass:

Christmas Day:                      8 am & noon    on VisionTV  
   6:30, 8, 11 AM and 3 PM    on Salt + Light  
You can also watch on the web at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

**Envelope News** - Envelope boxes for 2024 are ready for pickup. Please write your name & address on the first few envelopes that you use. Using envelope #196 in 2023? – please contact the office.

On-line ways of donating:  
Via Canada Helps [canadahelps.org/en/](http://canadahelps.org/en/) (search for “St. Louis Waterloo”)  
Via diocesan website: [hamiltondiocese.com/ways-to-give](http://hamiltondiocese.com/ways-to-give) select “Online to a Parish” and then “St. Louis Waterloo”.

**CHRISTMAS TREE:** Many pagan cultures worshipped evergreens, saw them as symbols of immortality, and used them to ward off evil spirits. In the early 700’s, Saint Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, demolished the Oak of Thor, the mighty sacred tree worshipped by the Saxons. From its roots grew a fir tree which Boniface took as a sign of the Christian faith. In the 11th century, Paradise plays portrayed the tree of Paradise, decorated with red apples. During the 15th century, the faithful began to erect trees in their homes on December 24, the feast day of Adam and Eve. About the year 1500, inspired by a snow covered fir tree, a small tree was brought indoors and decorated with candles in honour of Christ’s birth. By the 18th century, the custom of decorating a Christmas tree was well established in France, Germany, and Austria. Thus, the Christmas tree represents the original Tree of Paradise, the burning bush which spoke to Moses, the branch of Jesse from which Jesus was born, the life-giving tree of the cross of Christ, and the tree which St. John the Apostle saw in the Book of Revelations whose leaves have medicine for the people and which yields fruit each month for the healing of the nations. Because it is green year-round, the evergreen tree represents hope. Its needles and its narrow crest point upward, turning our thoughts to heaven. Because the tree is cut down and then erected again, it is a symbol of Christ’s resurrection.



*Lord, may I see Christmas trees as a sign of hope and as reminders of the many trees that figure in salvation history.*

*I thank You, Lord, for turning the tree of Adam and Eve’s sin into the tree of life through the cross of Christ. Because of the tree on which Christ died, You have given us the promise of eternal life. We praise you forever. Amen.*

**FRUIT:** People give fruit baskets as gifts. Cranberry sauce is part of many Christmas meals. At the turn of the last century, good children would receive their only orange of the year as a Christmas gift. As a Christmas symbol, fruit recalls the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. These Fruits result from the activity of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit are: Charity (Love), Joy, Peace, Patience, Benignity (Kindness), Goodness, Long-Suffering (Patiently Bearing Suffering over a Long Period of Time), Mildness, Faith, Modesty, Continency (Purity), Chastity.



*Lord, grow in me the Fruits of the Holy Spirit so that I may attain to the holiness to which You have called me. Amen.*

**MISTLETOE:** Mistletoe is an aerial parasite that has no roots of its own. It lives off the tree to which it attaches itself and, without that tree, it would die. Mistletoe is a Christmas symbol of our love which derives from and exists only because God loves us. God, Who is Love, created us in love and caused us to be able to love.



Christians are humbled before these words of St. John the Evangelist: “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him” (1 Jn. 4:16). Just as mistletoe may not acknowledge the tree which sustains it, so people may not acknowledge that the love of God sustains them. But if mistletoe were taken from the tree and any person removed from God’s love, both would die.

*Lord, You are my God and my Divine Lover. Increase in me my love for You and for my neighbour. Perfect my love and help me to love unselfishly as You love me. Amen.*


(From [www.stjohnvianneykamloops.ca/meanings-of-christmas-symbols-and-traditions/](http://www.stjohnvianneykamloops.ca/meanings-of-christmas-symbols-and-traditions/))

*(This bulletin needed to be submitted to the printers on Dec. 14.)*



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