

St. Louis Catholic Church

53 Allen Street East, Waterloo ON N2J 1J3 Tel: 519-743-4101

Email: stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com Web site: www.saintlouisparish.ca

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



The Nativity of the Lord

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

MASS INTENTIONS and EVENTS

**Monday, December 26 – St. Stephen, The First Martyr –
No Mass**

Tuesday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle, Evangelist

9:00 AM † Kate & Albert Ruetz – Ruetz Family

Wednesday, December 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9:00 AM † John Foster – Marilyn Foster

9 AM – NOON Pickle Ball Gym

Thursday, December 29

9:00 AM Intentions of Valentine & Irena Pregelj – Malton Family

**Friday, December 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary
and Joseph**

9:00 AM † Moe Webster – Krause Family

9 AM – NOON Pickle Ball Gym

Saturday, December 31

Vigil of Mary, Mother of God (New Year's Eve)

5:00 PM † Ken Snyder – Ed & Trudy Allenson

† Kirby Neisen – Chuck & Terry Neisen

† Elza Moons_Peteers – Delatre Family

Intentions of S. A.

Sunday, January 1 – Mary, Mother of God (New Year)

9:30 AM For God's Blessings on Canada

11:30 AM For People of St. Louis Parish

5:00 PM OOTC Community Supper Gym

2:45 PM – 8 PM Set-up to Clean-up

Reflections from the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word on the

First Reading from Isaiah 62:1-5 (Christmas Vigil Mass)

For the four weeks of Advent passages from the Scripture have been chosen that instil in us attitudes of patient waiting and hopeful joy. During this time when light of the day seems to be thwarted by the darkness of night, we have been striving to renew our hope in the Light of the World. We believe that this Light dawned upon the world historically in the person of Jesus and continues to burn brightly, leading us on to the day of God's triumphant victory, when all things will be gathered into one in Him.

Gospel Luke 2:1-16 (Christmas Mass during the Night)

These verses in Luke's Gospel are composed in such a way as to announce the birth of Jesus between two contrasting bookends of sorts. Preceding the account of Jesus' birth is the description of the plan of human authority over "all the world", namely the census of Quirinius, a Roman official, to gain control over the people. After the description of the birth of Mary's child, a second bookend details the shepherds receiving the message of an Angel. Shepherds watch over and guide their flocks. Thus both bookends are about establishing control.

Luke wants us to understand that the power of political officials pales in comparison to the might of God, a might which comes in the form of a precious child. The Hebrew people thought that the Messiah would come as a royal figure, with the power to overturn worldly regimes and restore God's promise of a land flowing with milk and honey. But such is not the way of the God of surprises, who delights the shepherds with the song of the Angels: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favours!" Through the message of the Angels, the epiphany of God's love for the world is made manifest. He may be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, but our eyes are meant to see the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

"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.



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, Jan. 18th at 6 PM. Please sign up with Kelly Krause at the parish office.



St. Louis CWL is happy to announce that our recent Bake Sale and Raffle raised an impressive total of \$3,548.60. We will be splitting these funds equally between two deserving organizations: 1. Catholic Missions in Canada, which supports missionaries as they serve in isolated, poor and hard to reach missions. 2. Catholic Near East Welfare Association, specifically for their work in Ukraine. Thank you for your generosity in making this event a huge success!

St. Louis Parish Epiphany Potluck Dinner with Carols and Games

on Saturday, January 7th,
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.



We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. 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!

December 28 – 30 Office open 9 AM till Noon



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2022

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas crèche: what do we see here? The King of the Universe - lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty – wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word – an infant, unable even to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes looks up at his mother - and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that he comes to us, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us – taking on the frailty of the human form, yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervour our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas – may it fill our hearts during these holy days!

May God, who by the Incarnation
brought together the earthly and heavenly realm,
fill you with the gift of his peace and favour
and make you sharers with the Church in heaven!
(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas!

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI

Bishop of Hamilton.

Bishop Crosby's Coat of Arms

The red shield and gold cross are the arms of the Crosby Family. The star on the top left quadrant calls to mind the Epiphany star which led the Wise men to Bethlehem, the City of David. Bishop Crosby was consecrated on the Feast of the Epiphany and his first name is David. The Bee in the bottom right quadrant represents industry and was used in the Municipal Arms of the City of Hamilton to express the diligent work ethic of her citizens. By combining the symbols "cross" and "bee" the shield provides a heraldic 'cant' or pun on the name CROS-BEE (Crosby). His motto is Trahe Nos which means "Draw us" and indicates the Bishop's zeal for collaborative ministry involving Bishop, Clergy and all the people of our Hamilton Diocese. — Each of us drawn by the love of Christ.

The flowers for decorating
our Church for Christmas
were donated in loving memory
of Carol Dubeau



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 rondenomme@gmail.com or 226-748-3210.

The Hidden Meaning of the Gifts in "12 Days of Christmas"

One of my favourite Christmas carols growing up was *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, but as I grew into an adult, the song made less and less sense. I noticed several problems. Why twelve days? Growing up Protestant, wasn't it generally accepted that Christmas was, like, 24 days long? And above all, I had an issue with the fact that we were singing over and over each year about a woman who clearly had a hoarding problem. "Five golden rings? Is this really necessary?" is all I could think. The song that seemed like it was all about getting things, less about giving things, and more about worldly gifts than the real gift of the season: Jesus Christ.

Sense an epiphany coming? Yes, that was a dad joke. (Christmas is twelve days long, beginning with Christmas day and ending with the Feast of the Epiphany). But really, someone explained to me a rather convincing hidden meaning behind the twelve gifts. The story goes that the twelve days of gifts are symbols for catechetical learning, particularly aimed at children hoping to learn their catechism, but also serves adults in the realities of the Christian Faith. The hidden meanings are:

- 2 Turtle Doves => The Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens => Faith, hope, and charity,
as the principle theological virtues
- 4 Calling Birds => the Four Gospels
- 5 Golden Rings => The first five books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch," which gives the history of the Fall from grace
- 6 Geese A-laying => the six days of creation (highlighting life)
- 7 Swans A-swimming => the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit,
the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking => the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing => the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping => the Ten Commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping => the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming => the twelve points of doctrine
in the Apostle's Creed

And the "partridge in a pear tree"? Jesus Christ as symbolically represented by a mother partridge protecting her helpless nestlings. Luke 13:34 recounts the words of Christ: *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, killing the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not!*

This interpretation gives the song significantly more meaning that does its shell of secular gift-giving. And who knows, maybe, originating in the 18th century when the West was comprehensively more Christianized, these lyrics became the norm for this very reason: they better point to the 'reason for the season'.

(From an article by Shaun McAfee from ncregister.com)

Call 1-800-268-2637 for this space

Henry Walser
FUNERAL HOME LTD.
AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY OWNED
FUNERAL HOME
507 FREDERICK ST.
(at expressway)
519-749-8467

Roofman Inc.
www.roofman.com
519-744-3830



**Shopping
Locally
Saves Gas**

Remember...
Let our advertisers know
you saw their ad here.



munjal carere dental
Dr. Vincent P. Carere DDS, Complete Implant Services
Dr. Ajay K. Munjal BSc. DDS, Sedation Certified
450 Erb St. W. (Beechwood Centre)
munjalcareredental.ca | 519-886-0330

Waterloo Knights of Columbus
Columbus Conference Centre
145 Dearborn Place
Friday Night Fish Fry:
Take out call **Derek 226-748-8378**
Eat in call **Manager 519-884-2060**
Wednesday Spaghetti: Take out/Eat in call
Manager 519-884-2060, place orders by 2:30 pm
Hall Rentals: Stag & Does, Meetings, Parties,
Life Celebrations call **Manager 519-884-2060**



IT'S WISE TO ADVERTISE!

FOR SALE
TWO CEMETERY PLOTS
Memory Gardens, Breslau
Garden of
Old Rugged Cross section
Selling both plots
for \$3,500.00
Value is \$7,100.00
Call 519-746-5836
for information
Sales Transaction done
at Cemetery

REITZEL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
665 Superior Drive, Waterloo, Ont N2V 2C8 **519-884-3510**

- Commercial • Radiant Heaters
- Industrial • Gas Furnaces
- Residential • Air Conditioning

**THE PERFECT SPOT
TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!**

**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE PLEASE CALL
1-800-268-2637**

martin's
Guardian Pharmacy +
We Care For You Like Family
martinspharmacy.ca
Alan Martin, Pharmacist
519-664-3785
10 Parkside Dr., St. Jacobs

Peter J. Miller, CFA
Senior Wealth Advisor,
Portfolio Manager

**THE MILLER INVESTMENT
MANAGEMENT GROUP**
ScotiaMcLeod,® a division
of Scotia Capital Inc.

We build a complete financial strategy for all our clients,
including financial and estate planning, tax efficient
investment management and insurance strategies.
www.millerinvestmentmanagementgroup.ca

Scotia Wealth Management™

Scotia Capital Inc. is a member of the Canadian Investor Protection Fund
and the Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada. For more
information visit **www.scotiawealthmanagement.com**

ERB & GOOD
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

*Proud to be
Family Owned &
Independently Operated
Since 1946*

171 King St. S. Waterloo
519.745.8445
www.erbgood.com

VINCENZO'S
SINCE 1967

150 Caroline Street South, Waterloo, Ontario
At the Bauer Marketplace (King & Allen St.)
Weekdays 9 am–8 pm, Saturday 8 am–6 pm.
Closed Sunday