

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



Feast of the Holy Family

CHRISTMAS AND THE HOLY FAMILY

MASS INTENTION

Monday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle, Evangelist - No Mass

Tuesday, December 28 – The Holy Innocents, Martyr

9:00 AM † Catherine Kurt – Cecilia Beechey

Wednesday, December 29

9:00 AM † Jeff Darlow – Cecilia Beechey

Thursday, December 30

9:00 AM † Don Miller – Roos Family

Friday, December 31

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

5:00 PM In Thanksgiving for Graces Received – Boquiren & Estrada Families

Saturday, January 1 – Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:30 AM For God's Blessings on Canada

Sunday, January 2 – Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 AM † Andreas & Elisabeth Schwarz – Veit Family

† Don Miller – Family

† Pat Keenan – Delattre Family

† William (Bill) Myles – Don & Lorraine Prior

11:30 AM People of St. Louis Parish

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 instill 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.

(Adoration of the Shepherds (1622) by Ferard van Honthorst)

HOLIDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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



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 Eve: from 4:30 pm on dailytvmass.com

Christmas Day: 8 am & noon on VisionTV

11 am on Salt + Light

You can also watch on the web at www.dailytvmass.com



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.



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.



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 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.

The Story of the Holy Innocents (December 28)

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans and his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure and fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother, and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few.

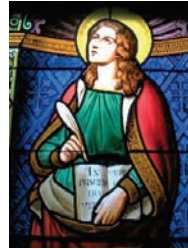
Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts, and, warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt.

Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity two years old and under." The horror of the massacre and the devastation of the mothers and fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing and loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..." (Matthew 2:18). Rachel was the wife of Jacob (Israel). She is pictured as weeping at the place where the Israelites were herded together by the conquering Assyrians for their march into captivity.

Reflection: The Holy Innocents are few in comparison to the genocide and abortion of our day. But even if there had been only one, we recognize the greatest treasure God put on the earth—a human person, destined for eternity, and graced by Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Holy Innocents are the Patron Saints of: Babies.

(From franciscanmedia.com)



Saint John the Evangelist's Story (December 27) - It is God who calls; human beings answer. The vocation of John and his brother James is stated very simply in the Gospels, along with that of Peter and his brother Andrew: Jesus called them; they followed. The absoluteness of their response is indicated by the account. James and John "were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him" (Matt. 4:21b-22).

For the three former fishermen—Peter, James and John—that faith was to be rewarded by a special friendship with Jesus. They alone were privileged to be present at the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the agony in Gethsemane. But John's friendship was even more special. Tradition assigns to him the Fourth Gospel and refers to him as "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2), the one who reclined next to Jesus at the Last Supper, and the one to whom Jesus gave the exquisite honour of caring for his mother, as John stood beneath the cross. "Woman, behold your son.... Behold, your mother" (John 19:26b, 27b).

Because of the depth of his Gospel, John is usually thought of as the eagle of theology, soaring in high regions that other writers did not enter. But the ever-frank Gospels reveal some very human traits. Jesus gave James and John the nickname, "sons of thunder." While it is difficult to know exactly what this meant, a clue is given in two incidents.

In the first, their mother asked that they might sit in the places of honour in Jesus' kingdom—one on his right hand, one on his left. (Matt. 20:27-28). On another occasion, the "sons of thunder" asked Jesus if they should not call down fire from heaven upon the inhospitable Samaritans, who would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. But Jesus "turned and rebuked them" (Luke 9:51-55).

On the first Easter, Mary Magdalene "ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, 'They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they put him'" (John 20:2). John recalls, that he and Peter ran side by side, but then "the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first" (John 20:4b). He did not enter, but waited for Peter and let him go in first. "Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed" (John 20:8).

John was with Peter when the first great miracle after the Resurrection took place—the cure of the man crippled from birth—which led to their spending the night in jail together. The mysterious experience of the Resurrection is perhaps best contained in the words of Acts: "Observing the boldness of Peter and John and perceiving them to be uneducated, ordinary men, they [the questioners] were amazed, and they recognized them as the companions of Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

The Apostle John is traditionally considered the author also of three New Testament letters and the Book of Revelation. His Gospel is a very personal account. He sees the glorious and divine Jesus already in the incidents of his mortal life. At the Last Supper, John's Jesus speaks as if he were already in heaven. John's is the Gospel of Jesus' glory. (Excerpt from franciscanmedia.com)



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