

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

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

MASS INTENTIONS
Celebrated privately by Fr. Phil

Monday, December 28 – Holy Innocents, No Mass
Tuesday, December 29

9:00 AM Deceased members of Strauss, Landenback & Lamers
Families – Cathy & Manfred Lamers

Wednesday, December 30

9:00 AM † Shirley Ellert – Family

Thursday, December 31

Eve of the Mary Mother of God

5:00 PM † Bill Lavigne – Janet & Grant Ertel

† Afra Schwarz – Elizabeth Schwarz

Friday, January 1 – Mary Mother of God

9:30 AM For God's Blessings on Canada

Saturday, Jan. 2 – St. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 PM † Barbara Nosal – Phyllis & Larry Ertel

† Fred Gillard – Janet & Grant Ertel

† Majory Mason – Sally & Brendan Sheridan

† Edna Ertel – Phyllis & Larry Ertel

Sunday, January 3 – The Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 AM For conversion of today's youth, especially the Sprout
Family – Sprout Family

† Frank Kraemer – Joanne Kraemer

Intentions of Pat Nairn – Cecilia Beechey

† Bill Lavigne – Pat & Marie Suffak & Family

11:30 AM People of St. Louis Parish



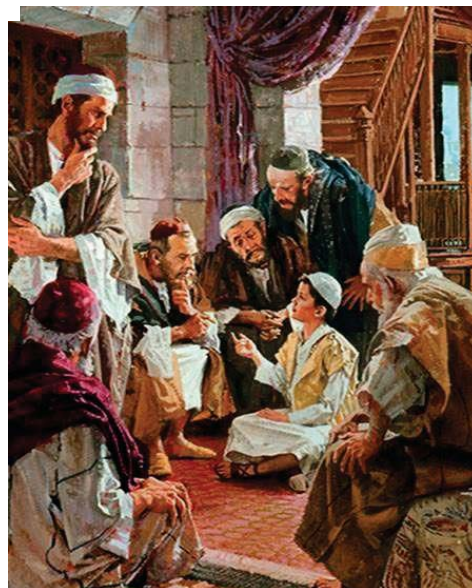
While Caesar Augustus is interested in charting numbers for the growth of the Roman Empire, Jesus appears as one who will call men and women to be counted for God's kingdom.

Today's reading of the presentation of the Lord in the Temple concerns the rite of consecration that was obligatory for Hebrew parents. This is a ritual purification that is meant to conclude the birthing process, which included the rite of redeeming the firstborn son (Exodus 13;12-15). The animal generally required for the sacrifice was a lamb, but because Mary and Joseph were poor, they were allowed to offer "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." What is important here for Luke is that the parents of Jesus follow the prescribed law. God's prior revelation to them (in the form of the shepherds visiting the manger) might have led Mary and Joseph to see the miraculous nature of this birth as placing the child above the standards of the law, but still, they did not neglect to follow the ordinary, age-old custom to dedicate their son to God.

Verses 25 to 38 serve to stamp the revelation announced by the shepherd's visitation to Jesus, as the Prophet Simeon and the Prophet Anna declare the uniqueness of this baby boy. They put words to what the shepherds adored in silence. A Simeon holds Jesus in his arms and blesses God, Luke writes that Mary and Joseph were amazed at what he said about the child. Likewise, Anna approaches the child, thanks God, and prophesies about Jesus in relation to the redemption of Israel. These two figures, both wise and aged, both trustworthy representatives of the Temple establishment, leave no doubt that the child Jesus it to be "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel". *From the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word*

Reflections on the Gospel reading: Luke 2:22-40:

The second chapter of Luke's Gospel consists of three very separate, yet interrelated stories. It begins with the birth of Jesus, proceeds to His presentation in the Temple, and concludes with His being lost in the Temple at the age of twelve. The chapter opens with the proclamation of a census by Caesar Augustus and ends with the statement "The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon Him." The three sections of this chapter form a triptych of prophecy and revelation: the picture on the left, an icon of the shepherds heralding the Lord's birth; the picture on the (upper) right, an image of prophecies of Simeon and Anna declaring Jesus to be Israel's salvation; and the central image (lower right), Jesus making His identity known by teaching the elders in the Temple. Taken together, these three sections demonstrate the growth that takes place in Jesus – not just His physical growth but also His development as the world's Saviour.



Beginning on December 26, 2020, for at least 28 days, until the lockdown period is over, there will be no public Masses celebrated at St. Louis Church.



First Communion Preparation classes - If you have a child in Gr. 2 and would like them to receive their Sacrament of First Communion here at St. Louis parish please register for our classes. They will begin Tuesday, January 26th from 6pm-7pm. It will have to be determined in the New Year whether we will be able to meet face to face or if the classes will be online. The First Communion will take place on Sunday, May 16th. If you would like to register for this class please contact Kelly Krause at the parish office.

Sunday School & Liturgy of the Word will resume (on-line) January 10th. Would like to get involved? Email Kelly (kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com) to get the link to our virtual Sunday school. Join us to learn more about your faith!



St. Louis Youth Group (Gr. 6 – 12) will resume the on-line twice a month meetings on January 26th. Contact Kelly for more information.



By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained or consecrated person. If God is calling you, to the priesthood, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton vocations@hamiltondiocese.com, 905-528-7988, or Fr. Toby Collins, CR, Vocation Director, at crvocations@gmail.com, or Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha at 519-884-6700.



St. Louis Parish the One Heart One Soul fund raising campaign continues. If you wish to contribute, you may do so by contacting oneheartonesoul.ca. All of the money donated goes to St. Louis and to chaplaincy programs at the hospitals, universities, and prisons, as well as to some small country parishes who are struggling financially. So far, we have received \$327,151.00 about 84% of our goal of \$390,000. This amount came from 164 gifts (40.6% of participation). *Thank You* to all who have contributed or pledged so far. If you haven't sent yours in, it's not too late. If you need more information, please call the parish office. Thank you for your generosity.



Fish Fry at Waterloo K of C on Fridays will restart again on Jan. 8th, 2021.

Wednesday Spaghetti Dinner Program at Waterloo K of C. will resume on Jan. 13th, 2021.



We fly to Thy protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

January 1st is the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. The title "Mother of God" goes back to the third or fourth century, but the Greek term *Theotokos* ("The God-bearer") was officially consecrated as Catholic doctrine at the Council of Ephesus in 431, thus becoming the first Marian dogma. At the end of the Council of Ephesus, crowds of people marched through the streets shouting: "Praised be the Theotokos!" This Catholic doctrine is based on the doctrine of Incarnation, as expressed by St. Paul: "God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law" (Galatians 4:4).

In its chapter on Mary's role in the Church, Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution "*Lumen Gentium*" ("Light of the People") calls Mary "Mother of God" 12 times.

On this day the Catholic Church also celebrates the World Day of Peace, a tradition established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope John Paul II. (*From catholicnewsagency.com*)

Office Hours:
Dec. 29 – 31: Office open: 9 AM – 1 PM
Jan. 1 – 3: Office closed.
The bulletins are posted on-line only.

Last weeks' donations - Thank you!

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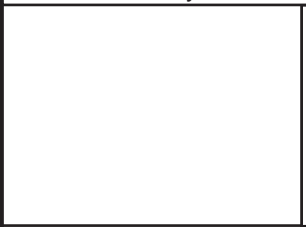
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