

St. Louis Roman Catholic Church

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*The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
And
The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 30 – 6th Day of the Octave of Nativity

9:00 am † Rita Vollmer – Loreen Freiburger

Wednesday, December 31–7th Day of the Octave of

Nativity

5:00 pm For Deceased Parishioners of St. Louis

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

(New Year's Day)

10:00 am For God's Blessings on Canada in the New Year

Friday, January 2 – St. Basil The Great and St. Gregory

Nazianzen, Bishops

9:00 am For Allison & her family- for healing and strength–
Blanchard Family

6:30 pm Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, January 3

Sunday liturgy – Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 pm † Edna Ertel – Larry & Phyllis Ertel

† Luke Potvin – Giselle Enns

† Alan Perry – Suzanne Perry & Family

Sunday, January 4 – Epiphany of the Lord

9:30 am † Audrey Moore – Jane Cowan

† James Donkers – Donna & Family

For Loretta Lavigne, for blessings on her special
year – 9:30 Choir Friends

11:30 am People of St. Louis



For The Feast of the Holy Family: The Gospel offers a unique glimpse into the early life of the Holy Family. Joseph and Mary “finished everything required by the law of the Lord,” specifically the circumcision and naming of the infant

Jesus and the purification of Mary after childbirth. Luke makes it clear that Joseph and Mary were law-abiding Jews.

After completing the prescriptions of the Jewish law, the couple brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to offer an animal sacrifice and “to present him to the Lord.” They encountered two people, Simeon, a “righteous and devout” man, and Anna, a “prophet.” The words of those prophets speak to God’s salvation, offered to both Jews and Gentiles, and they also point to the opposition that will mark the public ministry of Jesus and the Apostles. Jesus’ outreach and offer of salvation to the Gentiles stirred much controversy.

By saying that Simon came into the Temple “guided by the Spirit” to prophesy about the child Jesus, Luke suggests that the ministry of Jesus and of the early Church is divinely guided. Simon says, “my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.” Anna, too, confirms to all that in the infant Jesus, she sees God’s presence, “the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Luke concludes: “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.” Mary and Joseph, by providing a rich and reverent family life, were instrumental in Jesus’ growth and strength.

Mass	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat. Jan 3 5:00 pm	1 Kathie Mulhall 2 Steven Mulhall C Betty Gross	1 Justine Krause 2 Jerry Thorpe 3 Rosemary Thorpe
Sun. Jan 4 9:30 am	1 Ed Ruppe 2 Jessica Hill C Cecilia Beechey	1 Anne Marie Webster 2 John Armatruda 3 Joanne Bond
11:30 am	1 Ioanna Malton 2 Dana Woito C Mark Modolo	1 volunteer needed 2 Christiane Martin 3 Darlene Wilson

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, December 31

Office closed

Thursday, January 1

Office closed

Friday, January 2

6:30 pm Adoration and Benediction Church

MY EYES HAVE SEEN
YOUR SALVATION,
A LIGHT FOR
REVELATION TO
THE GENTILES
AND FOR THE
GLORY TO YOUR
PEOPLE ISRAEL.

New Year's Eve and Day - Mass Schedule

New Year's Eve (December 31st) – 5:00 pm

New Year's Day (January 1st) – 10:00 am

**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Jan 1st)
is a holy day of obligation.**

PLEASE NOTE: Last day to make a donation to be included in the 2014 tax year is Monday December 29th.

Please note: This bulletin was submitted to be printed on Dec. 19th – as per Liturgical Publications requirements.

First Communion Classes: For all families wishing to have their child receive the Sacraments of First Communion and First Reconciliation here at St. Louis parish, we will begin classes Wednesday, January 28th from 6:30 pm - 8 pm. To register, or for more information please call the office and speak with Kelly Krause.

The Bible Study sessions resume in 2015: Bible Timeline on Mondays at 7:30 pm will start again on Jan. 5th. The Gospel of Luke on Fridays at 9:30 am will resume on Jan. 9th.

Development and Peace News: The threat to seeds is a global concern. In mid-November, Development and Peace co-sponsored Food Secure Canada's national assembly which brought together food growers, food activists, food academics, and food policymakers in order to discuss the best ways to ensure that people across Canada and around the world will be able to feed themselves. The event touched on many of the issues addressed in our Sow Much Love campaign. For more info check <http://www.devp.org/en>.

St. Paul School on 45 Birchcliff Avenue is celebrating its 50th anniversary. On Jan. 25th - The Feast of St. Paul, the school will be hosting an open house from 11:00 am to 1:15 pm. The blessing of the school by Fr. Joseph deViveiros, C.R. at 12:30 pm. An Anniversary Mass celebrated at St. Francis of Assisi Church (49 Blueridge Avenue, Kitchener) at 2:00 pm. Reception after Mass in the church hall. All former students, staff, parents, and volunteers are especially invited but everyone is welcome to come! Contact Lois Peterson, Principal, St. Paul School at 519-743-4401 for more info.

Ordinariate (Anglican Use) - The Sodality of St. Edmund, King and Martyr, a congregation of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, is now meeting at St. Mary's, 56 Duke St. W., Kit.. Their new priest, Fr. Jason Catania, is also in residence at St. Mary's rectory. The Ordinariate is a jurisdiction within the Catholic Church for former Anglicans. Sunday Mass (according to the Ordinariate, or Anglican Use, liturgy) is at 5 pm, preceded by confessions. All are welcome!



For The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God: *by Fr. William Saunders*

As Catholics, we firmly believe in the incarnation of our Lord: Mary conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Lk 1:26-38, Mt 1:18-25) Through her, Jesus Christ – second person of the Holy Trinity, one-in-being (consubstantial) with the Father, and true God from true God – entered this world, taking on human

flesh and a human soul. Jesus is true God and true man. In His person are united both a divine nature and a human nature.

Mary did not create the divine person of Jesus, who existed with the Father from all eternity. "In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly 'Mother of God' (Theotokos)" (CCC #495). As St. John wrote, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have

seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father filled with enduring love" (Jn 1:14).

For this reason, in the early history of the Church, our Blessed Mother was given the title "Mother of God." St. John Chrysostom (d. 407), composed in his Eucharistic Prayer for the Mass an anthem in honor of her: "It is truly just to proclaim you blessed, O Mother of God, who are most blessed, all pure and Mother of our God. We magnify you who are more honorable than the Cherubim and incomparably more glorious than the Seraphim. You who, without losing your virginity, gave birth to the Word of God. You who are truly the Mother of God."

However, objection to the title "Mother of God" arose in the fifth century, due to confusion concerning the mystery of the incarnation. Nestorius, Bishop of Constantinople (428-431), incited a major controversy. He stated that Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ, a regular human person, period. To this human person was united the person of the Word of God (the divine Jesus). This union of two persons – the human Christ and the divine Word – was "sublime and unique" but merely accidental. The divine person dwelt in the human person "as in a temple." Following his own reasoning, Nestorius asserted that the human Jesus died on the cross, not the divine Jesus. As such, Mary is not "Mother of God," but simply "Mother of Christ" – the human Jesus. Sound confusing? It is, and the result is the splitting of Christ into two persons and the denial of the incarnation.

St. Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria (d. 440) refuted Nestorius, asserting, "It was not that an ordinary man was born first of the Holy Virgin, on whom afterwards the Word descended; what we say is that, being united with the flesh from the womb, (the Word) has undergone birth in the flesh, making the birth in the flesh His own..." This statement affirms the belief asserted in the first paragraph.

On June 22, 431, the Council of Ephesus convened to settle this argument. The Council declared, "If anyone does not confess that the Emmanuel is truly God and therefore that the holy Virgin is the Mother of God (Theotokos) (since she begot according to the flesh the Word of God made flesh), anathema sit." Therefore, the Council officially recognized that Jesus is one person, with two natures—human and divine – united in a true union. Second, Ephesus affirmed that our Blessed Mother can rightfully be called the Mother of God. Mary is not Mother of God, the Father, or Mother of God, the Holy Spirit; rather, she is Mother of God, the Son – Jesus Christ. The Council of Ephesus declared Nestorius a heretic, and the Emperor Theodosius ordered him deposed and exiled.

The incarnation is indeed a profound mystery. The Church uses very precise, albeit philosophical language to prevent confusion and error. As we celebrate Christmas, we must ponder this great mystery of how our divine Savior entered this world, taking on our human flesh, to free us from sin. We must ponder and emulate the great example of our Blessed Mother, who said, "I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to Thy word." May we turn to her always as our own Mother, pleading, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

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