

St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic Church

2261 Parkway Drive, Burlington, Ontario L7P 1S9

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Email: office@saintgabrielchurch.com

www.saintgabrielchurch.com

Parish Staff

Rev. Piotr Machnacki, SAC, Pastor

Rev. Jacek Kryn, SAC, Associate Pastor Rev. Mr. Randy Matters, Deacon

Peter Posocco, Music Director

prepare the way...



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Monday, December 19

8:00 a.m. + Judith Batstone
6:30 p.m. + Waclaw Wojtkowski

Tuesday, December 20

9:00 a.m. (L) Jonas Segismundo family
6:30 p.m. + Wanda Pawlowska

Wednesday, December 21

8:00 a.m. (L) Greg Allemano family
Holy Hour and Benediction after Mass
6:30 p.m. + Pawel Socha

Thursday, December 22

8:00 a.m.
6:30 p.m. Claudia Huayna

Friday, December 23

8:00 a.m. + Michal Plaskon
5:30 p.m. Divine Mercy Hour of Adoration
6:30 p.m. + Stefan Surma

Saturday, December 24 Christmas Eve

No morning Mass

5:00 p.m. Family Mass (English)
7:00 p.m. Family Mass (English)
10:00 p.m. Pasterka (Polish) + Boleslaw Bolek
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass (English)

Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day

No morning Mass at 8:00 a.m.

9:15 a.m. + Z Rodziny Ostrowskich
11:00 a.m. For Parishioners
12:30 p.m. Dziekczynno-blagalna za Rodzine Granasiuk

See bulletin insert for Confession schedules.

Please do not remove missals etc. from pews. Parishioners and guests need to use them. If you wish, you can buy a copy from the parish store. Thank you.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

	Christmas Eve	
5:00PM	7:00PM	Midnight
J.Doyle	P.Chisholm	M. Kiskauskas
N. Meehan	J.Paduch	V. Kiskauskas
L. Vieira	C.Advincula	V. John
J.Zrinscak		

Christmas Day	11 AM	G&L Binkley	A. Salmon
New Year's Eve	5 PM	N. Meehan	P. Chisholm
New Year's Day	11 AM	G.&L Binkley	A.Salmon

Our offerings to God Dec.11

All envelopes \$5,920.25
Loose: \$1,096.55

OUR PARISH NEWS

Mass for Parish Volunteers

This parish runs because of the generosity of our volunteers. We invite all volunteers to a special Mass on Saturday, Jan 7, 2017 @ 7 p.m. If you can join us, after Mass for refreshments in the Parish Centre, please sign the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you.

2017 Envelopes

Please pick up your 2017 envelopes from the Narthex. Your donations are tax deductible. If you have not made your 2016 donation, please do so before the end of the year. Thank you.

Parish Store Purchases

We sell religious Christmas cards (Polish and English, Oplatek and other Christmas items. Browse Catholic books, rosaries, scapulars, jewelery and varied gift items. We also sell the Sunday Missal for \$5.00. Items sell out quickly. Store open after Sunday Masses or by appointment

CWL

Next Meeting will be a Christmas Potluck Dinner at **6:30 p.m.** in the Parish Hall on Monday, December 19th. Make your favourite recipe. Bring a friend. Also please bring something for Partnership West Food Bank

Volunteer Cleaners

If you signed up to be a cleaner volunteer, you have been assigned to a team. Once a month, you are asked to please come and assist your team. If you cannot come, please exchange with a member from another team. We need to have a full force of cleaners for the job to be done. If you do not have a schedule, there are copies in the Narthex. Each team should elect a team leader so that all tasks will be evenly distributed and completed. Thank so much for your help in maintaining our beautiful church.

Snow Removal

Winter will soon be here. Can you assist with the snow removal of the parish sidewalks? They will need to be cleared of snow and salted every weekday morning before Mass begins. If you are available and wish to assist, please contact Father Peter, the pastor.

Maintenance Committee

Are you a handy person? A tradesperson? Do you enjoy doing repairs and renovations? Join the parish Maintenance Committee. Call our parishioner, **Les Mis 905-333-6496.**

"Souper" Sunday! December 18

Please join us in the Parish Hall after the 9:15 & 11 AM Masses. Enjoy some tasty, hot soup and share the Joy of

the season as we prepare for Christmas.

If you wish, bring along a container for take-out-for your family, or perhaps a neighbor in need. A free-will offering will be accepted for the needs of the church. Please bring non-perishable food items for the food bank. Bon appétit.

THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE THE GIFT OF SWING
THE BURLINGTON KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ARE PRESENTING A TRIBUTE TO DEAN MARTIN & ELLA FITZGERALD WITH THE TORONTO ALL-STAR BIG BAND!

When: Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2:00 p.m. MATINEE

Where: The Burlington Performing Arts Centre

Enjoy a terrific afternoon of Swing with your friends. You can reserve your "GIFT OF SWING" by calling the box office at 905-681-6000. The ticket price is only \$45.00.

Mass in Latin

Beginning in January 2017, the Saturday morning 9 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in Latin.

New Office Hours

The office is closed on Tuesdays and the weekend.
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Friday 1 p.m.- 6 p.m.

In our Diocese

Vocations

If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 email: mking@hamiltondiocese.com

Embracing the Wisdom of Monks & Mystics A

Senior Adult Workshop Series 6 Wednesday afternoons, starting Jan. 11, 2017 1:30- 3:30pm Chancery Office - Hamilton This 6 part workshop/study session will explore the lives of twelve great monks & mystics from the Christian tradition in new & creative ways. This course will be facilitated by Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon SSND. The cost will be \$35 and includes the text, *Illuminating the Way*, by Christine ValtersPaintner. Please register by Dec. 22 2016. For further information please contact Monica at mverin@hamiltondiocese.com or 905-52807988 ext. 2238 o Check the website, www.hamiltondiocese.com for info.

Advent

Oplatek

One of the most beautiful and most revered Polish customs is the "breaking of the oplatek." The use of the Christmas wafer (oplatek) is practiced not only by native Poles in Poland, but also by people all over the world whose ancestors came from Poland.

The "oplatek" is a thin wafer, made of flour and water. On Christmas Eve, the whole family gathers and waits impatiently for the appearance of the first star. With its first gleam, they all approach a table covered with hay and a

snow-white tablecloth. A vacant chair and a place setting are usually reserved for the unexpected guest.

The father or eldest member of the family reaches for the wafer, breaks it in half and gives one half to the mother. Then each of them breaks a small part of each other's piece and, after a warm kiss, they wish each other long life, good health, joy and happiness, not only for the holiday season, but also for the coming year and for many years to come. Now the same ceremony is repeated between father and their children, as well as among the children, then, with the relatives and even strangers, if they happen to be present. Sometimes, the Oplatek is sent, in a greeting card, to loved ones away from home.

This thin bread is pressed in oblong irons in the convents, and on it in relief is the Nativity scene. Made like the host, it is a reminder of our daily bread and the Bread of Life who was born a man on Christmas Eve. The custom of sharing the Oplatek is a reminder of what this night is, who comes to us, why, and what it makes us, one to another. An extra place at table tells the little Christ and His Mother that they would be welcome in this "inn" should they knock at our door.

A story was told by a woman whose family was in Poland. Every Christmas, their family had *Oplatek*. When some migrated to America, those in Poland sent Oplatek to America and those in America sent Oplatek to Poland. Came the Russians with their persecution and espionage, and the family in Poland learned to conform, withdraw, carry their religion in their hearts and write between the lines of their letters.

When it was time to send the Oplatek, they determined to find a way. That year the family in America received a conventional card on which was pasted a red paper-like disk with a conventional greeting. The censor never suspected it was Oplatek, properly blessed. It had been cut in a circle like a host, painted red for Divine Love not for Communism, and sent as a salute from one part of the Mystical Body to another half a world away. They were reminding each other that they share the same Body and eat the same Flesh.

All Catholics share the same Body and eat the same Flesh. If you would like to begin this tradition at your Christmas table, Oplatek can be purchased from our Parish Store or from the office.

CATECHISM CORNER

48. What is man?

Man is a creature composed of body and soul, and made to the image and likeness of God.

And God created man to his own image. (Genesis 2:7)

49. Is this likeness to God in the body or in the soul?

This likeness to God is chiefly in the soul.

50. How is the soul like God?

The soul is like God because it is a spirit having understanding and free will, and is destined to live forever. *And the dust return into its earth, from whence it was, and the spirit return to God, who gave it. (Ecclesiastes 12:7)*

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