St Michael Catholic Church

80 University Ave. W., (at Hemlock Street) Waterloo, ON N2L 3C7

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Parish Office email: parish@stmichaelw.ca



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Father Pawel Jamroz, Pastor email: pastor@stmichaelw.ca



Feast of the Holy Family

Weekly Gospel Reflection (Lk 2: 41-52)



The Holy Family knew very well what complicated family life was about. They underwent challenges like us, yet in a way exemplary for all families. Joseph, the father, claimed as his own the Son who was conceived by the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:31-35). Mary, the Mother, was told that her heart would be pierced by a sword (Lk 2:35). Jesus, the Son, came to die to "save his people from their sins" (Mt 1:21).

Trusting in God and prayer stood at the center of the Holy Family's life and kept them together. Trusting in God and praying together constitute the bond that will hold our families together as well.

Fr. Jamroz

WELCOME TO ST. MICHAEL PARISH

Welcome, we are glad you're here! For details on our parish life, please see our website: www.stmichaelw.ca

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Tuesday, December 31, 2024 – Solemnity of Mary,</u> Mother of God

5:00 pm + Deceased Priests & Religious of the Archdiocese Diocese of Toronto - Steve

+ Simon Maruna

No 7 pm Mass

Wednesday, January 1, 2025 Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God 9:00 am & 11 am No 12:15 Mass

Thursday, January 2, 2025

12:15 pm + Special Intentions of Amarachi Nasa-Okolie – The Family

+ Jonathan Irish – Evelyn Hussey

Friday, January 3, 2025

8:00 am + James – Steve

+ Roger Read – Marg Gingerich

8:30am - 9am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, January 4, 2025

5:00 pm + Mary Chrysler – The Family

+ Special Intentions of Peter & Sharon Chin-Cheong on their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Parish Office Hours

The parish office is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm. (*The office is closed on January 1st*)

Sunday Homilies Online

Sunday homilies are available weekly online in audio and pdf version through our parish website – just click on the button 'SUNDAY HOMILY'.

The Church is Open for Prayer

The Church is open for quiet prayer Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Prayer Intentions

Prayer intentions are placed at the front of the Altar and are remembered privately at Mass during the Prayers of the Faithful. You can also have your request shared with our prayer group ministry. Please go to our website www.stmichaelw.ca and click on Request a Prayer or contact the parish office by phone or email.

Parish Email List

All parishioners are welcome to join a parish email list. If you are on this list, you will be notified of upcoming parish events including funerals. To join the list, please sign up on our website at

https://www.stmichaelw.ca/contact-us



The Feast of the Holy Family

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. ... It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the "true model of life" from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort. (*vaticannews.va*)

2025 - Year of Hope

Pope Francis has declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year for the entire Church. This Sunday, the Feast of the Holy Family, marks the beginning of the Jubilee of Hope. The theme for Jubilee 2025 is "Pilgrims of Hope". In the world at large and in our own lives, hope is often challenged. In words of Bishop Crosby: "Pope Francis is inviting us to rekindle the hope which is rooted in our faith: our sure hope which never disappoints" (Rom 5:5).

More information: https://hamiltondiocese.com/jubilee/

What is Christian Hope?

Catholic Catechism: Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises ... The virtue of hope responds to the aspiration to happiness which God has placed in the heart of every man ... it keeps man from discouragement; it sustains him during times of abandonment ... Buoyed up by hope, he is preserved from selfishness and led to the happiness that flows from charity (CCC 1817-1818).

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2025

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2025 for current envelope users are available in the narthex. After January 5th, the envelopes will be moved to the parish office. If you are not currently using envelopes but are interested in obtaining Sunday Offering Envelopes, please contact the parish office. All are invited to consider Pre-Authorized Giving as a method to support our parish - forms are available online.



Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

Of all the Marian feasts of the Church, this day dedicated to Mary, Mother of God, is the greatest. Drawing on scriptural and patristic sources, it celebrates Mary's role in the Incarnation and in redemption. In this way, her special relationship with her son is emphasized, and she is acknowledged as a model of the Church. January 1 is marked as a Holy Day of obligation in Canada. (livingwithchrist.ca)

Masses on the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)
Tuesday, December 31st – 5 pm
Wednesday, January 1st – 9 am and 11 am

Year End Giving

Any donations that you would like to be included in your 2024 tax receipt must be received at the parish office by Tuesday, December 31st. As it takes 3 business days for the banks to process, online donations made on our website now will not make the 2024 tax year. If you want to make a donation online for 2024 the Diocese has provided all parishes with a secure, online giving option through www.canadahelps.org. This allows you to make a donation directly to St. Michael Parish and receive your tax receipt from Canada Helps instantly. You may search St. Michael Parish, Waterloo or simply click on the following link:

https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110450RR00 14-st-michaels-parish/

Office Hours

The parish office will be closed on January 1st.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

- **SAVE THE DATE!** Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? Then you are cordially invited for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, June 1, 2025,** at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. Registration will be available online in January at hamiltondiocese.com



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