

# *St. Mary of The Assumption and Missions*

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## **PASTORAL TEAM**

### **PRIESTS**

**Pastor:** Fr. Paul Mathew [pvellimoozhayil@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:pvellimoozhayil@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Francis Ahuekwe [fahuekwe@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:fahuekwe@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Retired Priests in Residence:** Fr. Francis Hubilla [fhubilla@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:fhubilla@hamiltondiocese.com)

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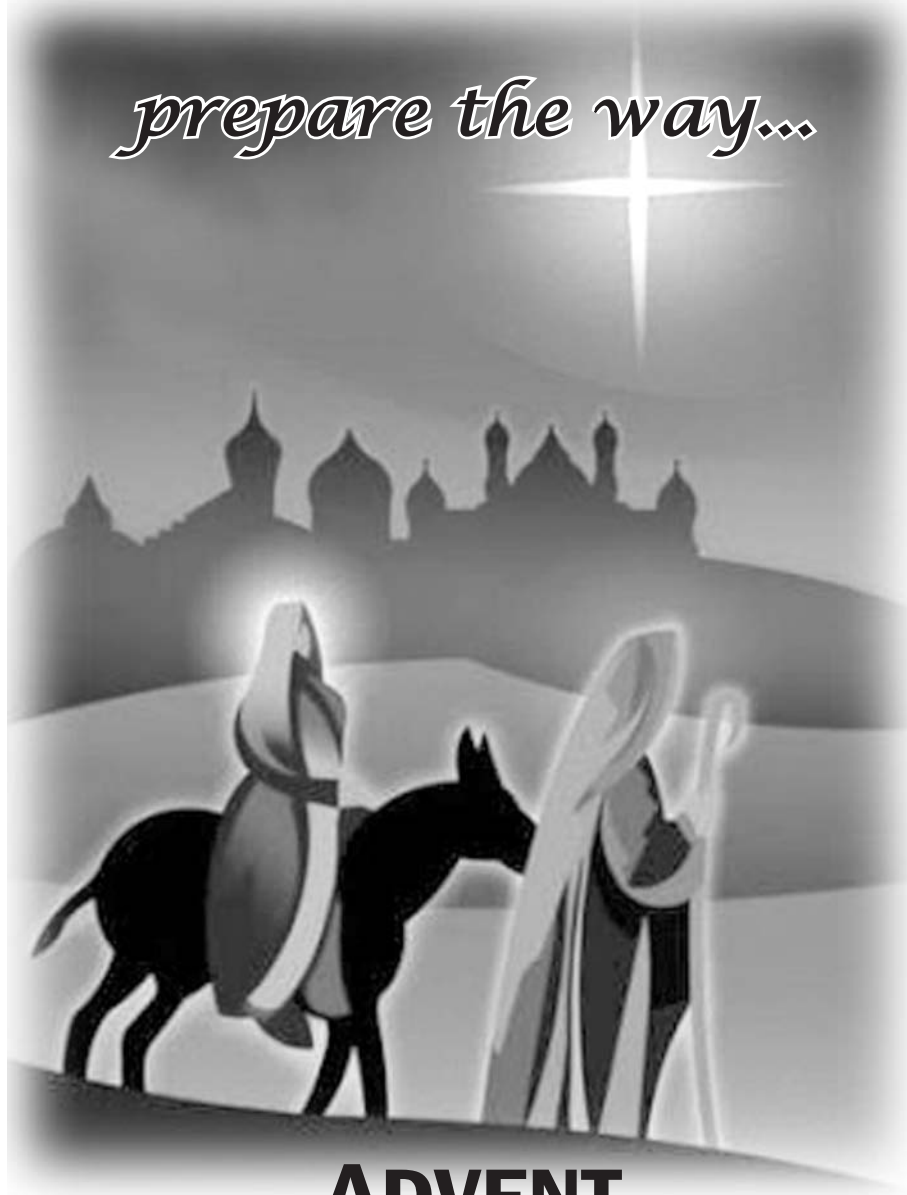
**PERMANENT DEACON:** Deacon Philip Dwyer [ptdwyer@gbtel.ca](mailto:ptdwyer@gbtel.ca)

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Secretary:** Brenda Lee [stmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Amy Harrison [adminstmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:adminstmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Cemeteries Manager:** Adam Helmers 519-379-5537 [cemeteriesofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:cemeteriesofstmarys@gmail.com)



# **ADVENT**

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

## December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



## Bishop Crosby's Christmas Message



Dec 23 to Dec 29

### Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have begun the Advent Season, a time of active and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent pass quickly and, almost before we know it, Christmas is upon us: the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem.

During Advent, we meet, in Sacred Scripture, figures who help us understand the importance of the Christmas event and point out the way for us to prepare well. The Angel Gabriel assures us that "with God all things are possible"! The Virgin Mary sets the high standard of openness and obedience to God's will in our lives. St. Joseph acts on revelations in his dreams. John the Baptist calls us to prepare spiritually and practically for the coming of Christ into our lives. The shepherds listen to the revelation of angels and hurry to meet the Lord. The Magi follow a star to find Him. For each, the experience is different. For all, it leads to an important encounter with Jesus.

For the past number of years, the *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* has prepared an on-line series called **Journey Through Advent**. The weekly reflections in English and French open our hearts and minds. This year, Cardinal Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, is the presenter in English. His profound spiritual reflections are gifts to us, available on the CCCB website. They nourish our faith and help us prepare well.

In our Diocese, Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Ministers, choirs and musicians, sacristans and decorators and cleaners – a bevy of gifted and generous people – help assure that all is ready for the Christmas celebrations. We are blessed that dedicated Priests, Deacons and lay-faithful care enough to do the necessary work of planning and preparing so that we might **Come Home for Christmas** and celebrate well. I am grateful to all who serve and I pray that, as our cloistered Carmelite Nuns so often say, "God reward you"!

Advent is a good time to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. We get ready "outwardly." It is wise to prepare ourselves "interiorly" as well. A good Confession does wonders for the soul and for our hearts. It frees us and lifts us up. Pastors make time to welcome you and are happy to celebrate this liberating Sacrament.

I like to send and receive Christmas cards at Christmas. The Canada Post strike has precluded that pleasure this year. It means prayers for my family and friends must be evermore intentional. As I pray for them, I pray also for you, brothers and sisters, co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and parishioners throughout this vast Diocese. As we open the **Jubilee Year of Hope** on December 29, and live the experience of being *Pilgrims of Hope*, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that provides meaning and purpose to our lives – and hope for a future in union with the One Who Comes!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI  
(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

Mon 9:00 am Kim Copkov +

#### Christmas Eve – December 24

9:30 am Lion's Head – Gerard McKenna (Int)

5:00 pm OS – Stephen & Joan Mills (Int)

8:00 pm OS – Edith Fries (Int – 90th Birthday)

#### Christmas Day – December 25

9:00 am OS – Frank Szakall +

11:00 am OS – Marilyn Schinbein +

9:00 am Chatsworth – Rosaleen Engel +

11:00 am Meaford – Elizabeth Mikulska +

9:00 am Hepworth – Theresa Dwyer +

11:00 am Wiarton – Julius & Catharina van Aalst +

1:00 pm – Cape Croker - Mass

Thu 9:00 am The Dantas Family (Int)

7:00 pm Mollie Schlupp +

Fri 9:00 am Darlene Lee +

Private Mass: Sophie Kim (Int)

#### Saturday – December 28

9:30 am Lion's Head – Shannon Brown (Int – Safe Travels)

11:30 am Tobermory – Pro Populo

5:00 pm Owen Sound – David Grubb +

#### Sunday – December 29

9:00 am OS – Allen Hilgendorf +

11:00 am OS – Patrick & Sheila Watson (Int – Wedding Ann.)

9:00 am Chatsworth – Mary & Bob McIntee +

11:00 am Meaford – In Thanksgiving for the Holy Family

9:00 am Hepworth – Sophie Kim (Int – Healing)

11:00 am Wiarton – Earl & Marian Hoffman & Patrick Ryan +

1:00 pm Cape Croker – Mass

#### From the Hamilton Diocese Prayer Calendar

##### This week we pray for:

Mon. Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.

Tue. Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.

Wed. **Christmas Day – The Nativity of the Lord**

Thu. Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.

Fri. Rev. Rijo Jose, C.M.I.

Sat. **The Holy Innocents**

\* **Sacrament of Anointing & Communion to the Sick:**

Available upon request. Please call the office. \*

Adoration is every Friday starting at 9:30 until 10:30 am

Parish Office Closure – Our Parish office will be closed for Christmas starting at noon on Tuesday, December 22, 2024. The office will open again on Thursday, January 2, 2025, at 9:00 am. Merry Christmas to all our parishioners and to your families near and far and Happy New Year!



## From the Pastors Desk:

Dear Parishioners,

### MERRY CHRISTMAS

Thank you for being part of our parish family. Your prayers, presence, and generosity bring life and love to our community.

As we celebrate the joy of Christmas, let us open our hearts to the profound mystery of God's love made manifest in the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ. This holy season reminds us of the hope, peace, and salvation that Christ brings to a weary world that stands in need of liberation.

May this Christmas season be a reminder of the true meaning of the holidays - God's unending love, the promise of salvation, and the call to share that love with all those around us.

May the light of the Infant Jesus shine brightly in your homes and lives, filling your hearts with gratitude, compassion, and faith. Let us carry this light to others, especially those in need, as we reflect the true spirit of Christmas.

Let us make the celebration of this season meaningful by coming together, being with our family and friends, singing Christmas carols, praying together and enjoying a meal. It could also be by giving company to an individual who is lonely or by reaching out to someone in need. Do these things while realizing that the center and only reason for these festivities is the Christ Child that was born in Bethlehem!

Many thanks to all of you who have been faithful parishioners and dedicated volunteers and parish staff for all you do for the betterment of our parish for the kingdom of God.

It is with humble joy that Fr Luc, Fr Francis H, Fr Francis A and I, give thanks to you all. Thank you for all your support and prayers.

On behalf of all the Parishioners, Volunteers, Staff and Priests, I wish you and your family a blessed Christmas filled with the joy, love, and peace of Christ.

### WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILY THE JOY AND PEACE OF CHRISTMAS

May the coming **NEW YEAR 2025** be a time of abundant Grace for all of you.

Fr Paul Mathew

Pastor

Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
**New Year's Eve, Tuesday, December 31**

**Lion's Head** – 9:30 AM      **Owen Sound** – 5:00 PM

**New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1**

**Owen Sound** – 9:00 AM & 11 AM

**Chatsworth** – 9:00 AM

**Hepworth** – 9:00 AM

**Meaford** – 11:00 AM

**Warton** – 11:00 AM

**Cape Croker** – 1:00 PM

### ★ *In the Parish* ★

Sunday Missals 2024-2025 are now available in the parish office during regular office hours. The price is still \$5 each.

2025 Offering Envelopes - Boxed sets of envelopes for 2025 are now available. Please note that we are putting out fewer boxes than in previous years; your favourite number might not be available. Please choose any number but be sure to print your name and address on the first few you use. If you are new to our parish, please choose any number.

Living with Christ 2024 Christmas Missalette

– We have some Christmas Mass missalettes available for \$1.00 each. These missalettes contain the readings for the Christmas Masses along with other interesting readings and prayers. They are a great resource for Christmas. There are a limited number available, so please make sure to get yours before they are gone!



Pilgrimage Prayer Books – At the Christmas Masses



we will be handing out a Jubilee 2025 Pilgrimage Prayer Book. These are for our Diocesan celebrations taking place during the Jubilee of Hope next year. Please only take **ONE** prayer book per family so that we can ensure that everyone gets one. The Jubilee begins on the Feast of the Holy Family (December 29, 2024)

The snowy weather has arrived again – Please



be kind to those who clean the floors of our churches. It would be very helpful if you would stamp the snow and salt off your boots before entering the church. Thank you very much for your help.

### ★ *In the Diocese* ★

Vocations - Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) or visit the website: [hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](http://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/)

Advent Reflections from the Canadian

Conference of Catholic Bishops – Journey through Advent with the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops. They are offering weekly Advent reflections which can be accessed through the following link: <https://www.cccb.ca/evangelization-catechesis-catholic-education/video-resources/journey-through-advent/>

**For the Sick**, our fellow parishioners and family members who need our prayers: Rob Hillyer, Mark Topping, Kenny Dunkley, Sandra Hill, Pat McIntyre, Anne Loisel, Sharon Richard, Fr. Bill Scanlon, Ryan Warmington, Stan Juras, Anne MacDonald, Jackie Furlotte, Donelda Woods, Bill Schinbein, Josee Costantini, Mike McFayden, Colleen Warmington, Marie Beckberger, Rob Zaltron, James Gamble, Cheryl Watters, Lydia Foch, Alwyn D'Silva, Joan West, Colleen Wright, Andrew Gambal, Mike Adams, Bernadette Lewis, Lyn Hannigan, Becki Knisley, Tom McDonnell, Sharon Cantlon, Brad Cahoon, Ben Meissner, Helen Hunter, Felix Poole, Matt Bell, Arnold Hodgkinson, and Mike Couture. **We pray to the Lord.**

**Donations received the week of Dec 14/15, 2024, were not available at the time of printing.**

*May God bless you for your generosity.*



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