

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, Waterloo

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PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Stephen Murrin smurrin@hamiltondiocese.com
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com
Music Director: Mr. Bruce Cameron brucecameron57@gmail.com
Organist: Mrs. April Philpotts aaphilpotts@gmail.com



ADVENT



DEC 24 to DEC 29

TUESDAY – DEC 24 Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Pageant +Maria Emanuele – Dan Emanuele Mass
WEDNESDAY – DEC 25 Christmas Day	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Mass Mass
THURSDAY – DEC 26 Feast – St. Stephen	7:00 p.m.	No Mass
FRIDAY – DEC 27 Feast – St. John	8:30 a.m.	No Mass
SATURDAY – DEC 28 Feast – The Holy Innocents	7:00 p.m.	+Rosa Ciccarelli – Charmaine & Frank Volpini
SUNDAY – DEC 29 Holy Family	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	In Thanksgiving – Rapacki Family Living & deceased members of our parish

Parish Finance Report Week of		Dec 1, 2024	Dec 8, 2024
	Sunday Envelope Collection	\$ 6,420.00	\$ 1,955.00
	Sunday Loose Collection	\$ 732.45	\$ 463.50
	E-transfer	\$ 640.00	\$ 605.00
	PAG/ Direct Deposit	\$ 3,037.50	\$ 3,037.50
	TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTION	\$ 10,829.95	\$ 6,061.00
	Budgeted	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
	Net Income /Loss	\$ 4,329.95	-\$ 439.00



TREE OF LIFE: It is a tradition here at Our Lady of Lourdes to call the large tree in the sanctuary the “*Tree of Life*” for the decorations on it reflect two of the great Christian mysteries: **birth and death**. On the tree, there will be **32 angels** each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and **15 crosses** in memory of those born to eternal life. When the Christmas season is over, these personalized ornaments will be available as mementos to family members. Parents with children baptized this year are encouraged to have a photo taken with the child by the tree and to keep this with the ornament.

Blessing before Christmas Dinner
Loving God,
on this Christmas day we give thanks
that Jesus, your Son, has come into
our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy.

Bless us as we sit down together at
this table for our Christmas meal.

Bless the food we share and help us to remember
those who are hungry.

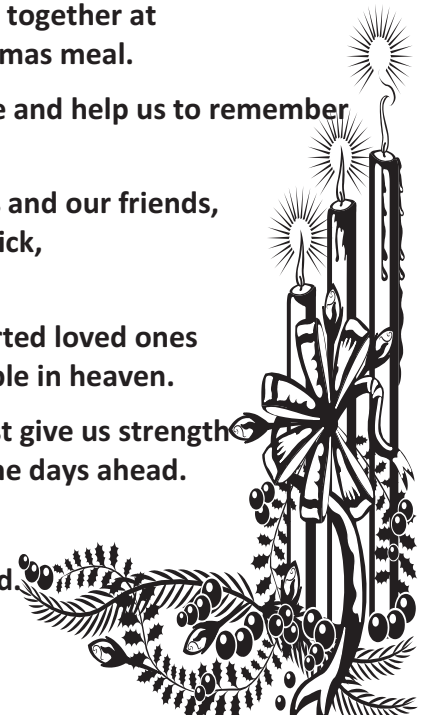
Be with our neighbours and our friends,
those who are lonely, sick,
or away from home.

We pray that our departed loved ones
may now sit at your table in heaven.

May the joy of this feast give us strength
and light, now and in the days ahead.

We ask this prayer
through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen



HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH OUR

BOWING ANGEL: A long-standing tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is the presence of the bowing angel by the manger scene, who graciously bows her head after an offering is made. Again, this year, all donations received from the bowing angel will be sent to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Children’s Project in Kenya who work with children whose parents have died of HIV-AIDS. Since the bowing angel cannot digest paper, a plate will be by the angel to accept paper offerings. (Cheques should be made payable to “Our Lady of Lourdes Church”.)

DIOCESAN BOOKKEEPING POLICY: As we approach year end, parishioners frequently wish to make contributions to the church that will be credited to their tax receipt for the current year. Diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31. Contributions made in January cannot be applied to 2024 offerings.

**Last deposit to the bank will be done on
Sunday, Dec 29, 2024**

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel’s announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke’s Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist’s announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary’s example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel’s message that God’s Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary; a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and also fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience. (*Loyola Press*).



There are four Masses that are celebrated for the feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil

Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew, the genealogy of Jesus and the angel's announcement of the birth to Joseph. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the angels' announcement to the shepherds in the Gospel of Luke. Luke 2:15-20 is the reading for the mass at dawn on Christmas morning. It continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. Finally, the Gospel for Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel. It is not an Infancy Narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning of time and presents Creation as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis, "In the beginning was the Word."

During the Christmas season, our liturgy invites us to consider the birth of the Lord from many vantage points. As we begin this season, it is useful to remember that the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood are found in only two of our Gospels, Matthew and Luke. Throughout this season, we will hear stories from both Gospels. Those Gospels tell different but complementary stories



about Jesus' birth, highlighting items of theological importance about the Incarnation and the salvation that Jesus brings.

On this day, the Feast of Christmas, we are given the details of Christ's birth as found in the Gospel of Luke. Here we learn about the census that brings Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born. We also hear about the angel's announcement of this good news to the shepherds. In these details, we find two of Luke's particular concerns: (1) to locate the coming of Christ in the wider framework of salvation history as good news for all people, Gentiles and Jews, and (2) to show the Lord's favor upon the poor and lowly.

In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is born as one of the poor. Laid in a manger in a stable, because there was no room at the inn, he comes into the world through obscure and surprising means. Yet, as the angel proclaims this good news to the shepherds, this infant is announced as the Messiah and Lord. In the song of the angels, all are invited to give glory to God for this miraculous birth, in which God comes to share our humanity.

The angels sing that Jesus' coming brings peace. Yet there is little in the details of this Gospel that gives evidence of peace. Jesus is born as a traveler away from home, born in a stable in a crowded city under the occupation of foreigners. The appearance of the angel to the shepherds frightens them. When the angels proclaim Jesus' birth as the harbinger of "peace on earth," the evangelist Luke clearly wants us to take the long view. The shepherds are invited to claim a faith that will enable them to see this infant as a sign God's promise of a messiah. It is through such faith that one finds the peace of which the angels sing.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and may God bestow on all of us and our loved ones His blessings during this holy season. May we all take the opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God taking flesh in Jesus and assuming our human life to be with us. May this be a time of peace and may our celebrations be joyful. Fr. Steve and Nicholas.

THE POPE'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS FOR 2024

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.





Thinking of buying or selling? I can HELP! I have a team of professionals who will make the process go as smooth as possible. I have been a member of Our Lady of Lourdes church for 25 yrs and would love the opportunity to help my fellow parishioners with their real estate needs.

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