

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

14400 Argyll Road, Georgetown, ON L7G 5S6

905-873-1887 www.holycrossrc.com

PARISH STAFF

Father David Walter, Pastor email: dwalter@hamiltondiocese.com

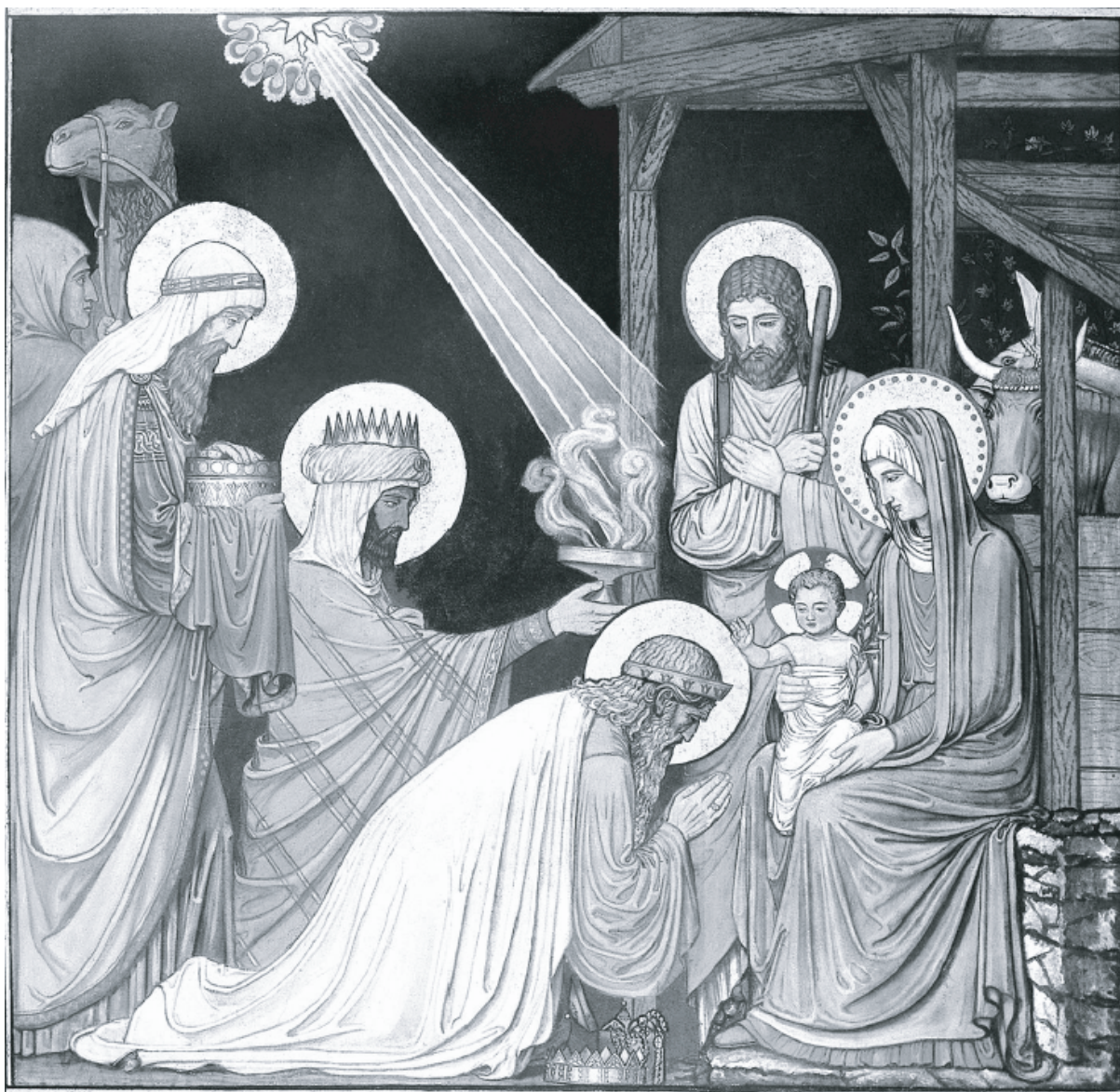
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Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
SUNDAY, December 29 Holy Family	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish <i>(ON LINE at 6:00 a.m.)</i>	
MONDAY, December 30	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Sharon Nagle	
<i>New Year's Eve,</i> Tuesday, December 31	5:00 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	<i>No Confessions today</i>
<i>New Year's Day,</i> Wednesday, January 1	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
THURSDAY, January 2	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Christopher Litster	
FRIDAY, January 3	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Kata Babic † Deceased Members of the Ponte, Caciano & Medeiros Families (I) Teresa de Souza (I) Mariathas Family (I) the Terrence & Robina Families	
SATURDAY, January 4	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Maria Araujo	
	4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - Epiphany of the Lord <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Darlene Waller; Sylvia Murphy; Diamantino Simoes; Joe Keough; Robert O'Gorman; John Murray Somers. Special Intentions.	This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of Mary Beth Brown.

From the Pastor's Desk

As we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family this Sunday, we reflect on the importance of family. Jesus was born into a human family just like yours and mine. He experienced all the ups and downs of family life that all of us do, and with Mary and Joseph gives us a model and example of living out this God-given relationship in love and charity. Let us take time today to pray for our families and ask for the intercessions of Mary and Joseph to help us repair strained relationships, and to give thanks to the ones that are strong!

Quote of the Week

"It is better to be a child of God than king of the whole world." — *St. Aloysius Gonzaga*

Sunday Smile

Santa got upset with Rudolf and Blitzen and put them up for auction, but nobody made a bid. They were two deer.

Feast of Mary, Mother of God - New Year's Day

The Feast of Mary, Mother of God is a holy day of obligation in the Church. Our Mass times will be:

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve: 5:00pm

Jan. 1 - New Year's Day: 9:00am; 10:30am, (NO 12pm Mass)

Jubilee Year of Hope

Every 25 years the Church celebrates a year of jubilee. Pope Francis has asked us to celebrate the theme of 'Hope' in 2025. The Holy Year begins this Sunday on the Feast of the Holy Family. We are invited to experience in a profound way the transforming power of God's mercy and forgiveness, and a renewal of our faith and commitment to love God and our neighbour as God has first loved us. Prayer booklets were distributed at our Christmas Masses to commemorate this Holy Year. Stay tuned in the coming months for other ways of commemorating this grace-filled Jubilee Year of Hope!

THANK YOU!

As always, a big 'thank you' goes out to all of those who helped to make our Christmas celebrations so beautiful and meaningful. I won't list the ministries or names at risk of missing somebody, but know how much the efforts of all our volunteers are so much appreciated! It takes many hands to keep the parish running smoothly throughout the year, and for all your help and for the many hours of volunteer service, we are eternally grateful! Merry Christmas! Fr. Dave

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2025

Boxed sets of 2025 envelopes are available for pick up in the Narthex. If you are not currently an envelope user and would like to start please contact the parish office. Also, *pre-authorized giving* forms for 2025 are available in the Narthex - please return them promptly. If you would like to learn more about this way of supporting the parish please contact the office.

Year End Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2024 donations in 2025. If you would like to make a "year end donation" please do so before or by December 31, 2024. Donations received or dated after December 31 must be credited for 2025. Thank you.

Sunday (Novalis) Missals

2025 Sunday Missals will be available for purchase after all Masses this weekend. The Knights of Columbus sell the Missals for \$5 each. The Sunday Missal is useful for reflecting on the Scripture readings before Mass. Your 2024 Missals can be left with the Knights for disposal.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

New Year's Resolutions for a Healthier Life (Dec.29)

According to the Ontario Heart Center, almost 80% of premature heart diseases can be prevented through healthy lifestyle habits. And, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), regular physical activity is one of the most important things you can do for your health. Being physically active can improve your brain health, help manage weight, reduce the risk of disease, strengthen bones and muscles, and improve your ability to do everyday activities. People who sit less and do any amount of moderate-to-vigorous physical activity gain some health benefits. Regular walking is an easy way to become more active. Halton Region supports walkable communities. For more information, visit www.ontarioheartcenter.ca, www.cdc.gov, or www.halton.ca/For-Residents/Public-Health

Health and Wellness Committee Invitation

The Health and Wellness Committee meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30am at Holy Cross Parish. New members are always welcome! If you are interested, please contact Linda Motz at linda.m.motz@gmail.com

Hospital Stays

For your information - Due to privacy laws, the hospital does not provide us with a list of Catholic patients as was the practice in the past, even if you give them information about your religious affiliation when admitted. This is just a

reminder that if you find yourself or a loved one in the hospital and wish to have a visit from Father, please contact the office so we don't miss you! If it is an emergency, ask a nurse to contact the on-call priest.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

There is sometimes confusion over what the Sacrament of the Sick is. Anyone experiencing serious illness may receive the sacrament, not just those who are close to death. In fact, it is preferable to receive the sacrament early in an illness when the person in ill health can benefit from the healing graces available as they battle their sickness. It is also the case that one can receive the Sacrament more than once during a time of serious illness, so there is no need to wait until the 'last minute' to call the priest. 'Last Rites', as the sacrament is often referred to, is actually the receiving of three sacraments if the person is able – *Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion*. If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with a serious illness, contact the office to set up a time to receive the sacrament. If it is a hospital emergency (at any hospital, not just Georgetown), the nurses will have the contact information of local on-call priests which you can request.

Register Your Child for Kindergarten at HCDSB!

Kindergarten registration at the Halton Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) for the 2025-2026 school year is now open! Parents and guardians who are interested in registering their child for Kindergarten are invited to visit the HCDSB website for more information: <https://hcdsb.info/KindergartenRegistration>

Retrouvaille

The Retrouvaille Program is for married couples struggling in their relationship. The primary goal is to provide help for couples who live with disappointment and pain in their marriage. The Retrouvaille weekend provides a safe setting where couples learn to communicate in a respectful manner. It helps couples rebuild their marriage and restore a loving relationship. You will find courage and strength in the realization that you are not alone in your struggle. You will not be asked to share your problems with anyone else. However, you will be encouraged to put the past behind you, to look beyond the hurt and pain and rediscover each other in a new positive way. The next weekend programs will be held in Mississauga on January 17 - 19 in English and January 24-26 in Spanish. Please call 437-234-5610 or go to www.torontoretrouvaille.com for more information.

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