

The Roman Catholic Communities of **BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH, BURFORD & ST. ANTHONY DANIEL PARISH, SCOTLAND**

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PASTORAL TEAM

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ADVENT

BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH***Liturgical Calendar***

Monday, December 19
No Mass

Tuesday, December 20
Mass 7:00pm

Wednesday, December 21
Mass 8:30am
Intentions for Katelin Ritter offered by the Ritter family

Thursday, December 22
Mass 8:45am
Intentions for Jessica Ritter offered by the Ritter family

Friday, December 23
Mass 8:30am
† Tony & Sergio DaSilva offered by Beatrice DaSilva



Saturday, December 24
Mass 5:00pm
Mass 10:30pm



Sunday, December 25
Mass 9:30am
All our Parishioners

The beauty of
Christmas
is not in the
presents but in
His presence.

Parish News...

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS is an initiative of our *Stewardship and Development Office* aimed at inviting the faithful to return to the celebration of Mass. As is all too evident in many of our Parish communities, a significant number of parishioners have not yet returned to regular attendance at Sunday Mass. Christmas presents us with a wonderful opportunity to invite all of the faithful to *Come Home for Christmas* and return to full participation within their Parish communities

MARK FAM IS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL, Kitchener, effective February 6, 2023. Elizabeth Buller, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health System and Marion Thomson Howell, Board Chair of St. Mary's General Hospital, announced the good news yesterday! Mark is an accomplished executive with progressive leadership experience in the health care sector. Currently he is Vice-President of Clinical Programs at Michael Garron Hospital. Sherri Ferguson will continue to serve as Interim President until her retirement at the end of March 2023! Thanks to Sherri! Welcome to Mark!

THE ARTIST, ACHIM KLAAS, HAS CREATED THE RELIGIOUS DÉCOR for many of the Parishes in the Diocese. His most recent project is the décor for *St. Catherine of Siena Church*, currently under construction in Hamilton. A small delegation visited his studio November 25th to see the current progress on the sanctuary furnishings. The major construction of the church is moving forward. The roof is now completed and most of the church is closed in. The major work is taking place inside. The Dedication is planned for mid-June or mid-July. Fingers crossed!

THREE PRIESTS MOVED INTO THE NEW RESIDENCE last week at *St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Owen Sound*. The house was blessed the week prior! From beginning to end the project took five years, six months and twenty-eight days, "beating the time it took to construct the dome at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome by three weeks," joked Neil Devlin, head of the Parish Building Committee! The new house has three suites for the Priests, including bedroom, washroom, sitting room, and heating and cooling systems, and two guestrooms with a shared bathroom across the hall. There are communal areas including a kitchen and dining room, a library and living room. Congratulation to Father Wojciech Kuzma and his team on "getting the job done – and well done"!

ST. ANTHONY DANIEL PARISH



Liturgical Calendar

Sunday, December 25
No Mass

Christmas Eve is filled with anticipation and distractions. A simple prayer before bed can be a nice way to close the day, refocus on the birth of Jesus and connect the day that's passed with the big upcoming celebrations in the morning.

The Christmas Eve prayer attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, a Scottish poet and author from the 19th century reads below:

A Christmas Eve Prayer

Loving Father,

*Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake.*

Amen.

Sometimes our most common prayers are the mini Christmas blessings we offer when we extend holiday greetings to friends and family.

In today's modern Christmases, these blessings often take the form of a text or Facebook message. Indeed, technology can be extraordinarily helpful in sharing Christmas joy and drawing closer to God.

The simple Christmas blessing of "Merry Christmas" is the most common way to offer a prayerful sentiment to someone at Christmas, whether done digitally or verbally.

Don't feel restricted in how you can extend Christmas wishes to others. Additional ways to offer short Christmas blessings include:

- **Saying Merry Christmas in another language:**
 - Feliz Navidad (Spanish)
 - Buon natale (Italian)
 - Feliz Natal (Portuguese)
 - Wesolych Świąt (Polish)
- **Offering up your prayer for others**
 - "Be assured of my prayers for you and your family on this beautiful day"
 - "Praying for you on this wonderful Christmas day!"
- **Connecting with others who may not celebrate Christmas**
 - "Thinking of you and hoping your day is filled with love and peace"
 - "Best wishes to you and all of your loved ones on this special day"

The most important element to any Christmas blessing is the sincerity with which one offers it.

Christmas Day Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, whose entry into our world we celebrate today. Fill our hearts with the peace that only He provides. Amen

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