

# St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

**Pastor:** Father Phil Reilly, C.R. [preilly@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:preilly@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Parish Secretary:** Anna Malton [stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministries:** Kelly Krause [kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Custodian:** Doug Lichty



***Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God***

# MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

## MASS INTENTIONS and EVENTS

**Monday, January 2 – St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors – No Mass**

**Tuesday, January 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

9:00 AM For Bishop Douglas Crosby on his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Bishop

**Wednesday, January 4 – St. Elizabeth Seton, Religious**

9:00 AM † Moe Webster – Pat & Rosemary

9 AM – NOON Pickle Ball Gym

**Thursday, January 5**

9:00 AM † Edna Male – Frank & Annette Hulme

**Friday, January 6**

9:00 AM

9 AM – NOON Pickle Ball Gym

**Saturday, January 7- St. André Bessette, Religious**

**Vigil of The Epiphany of the Lord**

5:00 PM † Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel

† Louise Feeney – Her Family

† Carol Schneider – Ron Schneider

† Martin Rupnik – Malton Family

**Sunday, January 8 – The Epiphany of the Lord**

9:30 AM People of St. Louis Parish

11:30 AM † David Kirby – Kirby Family

† Rosemary Peterson – Kirby Family

† Moe Webster – Malton Family

Intentions of Danielle Pilon – Rosemary & Sean McNeil

5:00 PM OOTC Community Supper Gym

2:45 PM – 8 PM Set-up to Clean-up



**The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God** - During the Twelve Days of Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates many important feasts, including the feasts of St. Stephen, the first martyr (Dec. 26), whose martyrdom is recorded in Acts 6-7; St. John the Apostle (Dec. 27), who wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation, as well as three epistles; the Holy Innocents (Dec. 29), the children who were slaughter-red at the order of King Herod, when he was trying to kill the Christ Child; and the Holy Family (normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas, and on Dec.30, when Christmas falls on a Sunday). None, however, is as important as the feast celebrated on the octave (8th day) of Christmas, Jan. 1: the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.

In the early centuries of the Church, once Christmas began to be celebrated as its own feast on December 25 (having originally been celebrated with the Feast of the Epiphany, on January 6), the Octave (8th day) of Christmas, January 1, took on a special meaning. In the East, and throughout much of the West, it became common to celebrate a feast of Mary, the Mother of God, on this day. This feast was never established in the universal calendar of the Church, however, and a separate feast, celebrating the Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ (which would have taken place a week after His birth), eventually took hold of January 1.

With the revision of the liturgical calendar at the time of the introduction of the Novus Ordo, the Feast of the Circumcision was set aside, and the ancient practice of dedicating January 1 to the Mother of God was revived—this time, as a universal feast.

In fact, the Church regards the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, as so important that it is a Holy Day of Obligation. On this day, we are reminded of the role that the Blessed Virgin played in the plan of our salvation. Christ's Birth was made possible by Mary's fiat: "Be it done unto me according to Thy word."

One of the earliest titles given by Christians to the Blessed Virgin was Theotokos—"God-bearer." We celebrate her as the Mother of God, because, in bearing Christ, she bore the fullness of the Godhead within her.

As we begin another year, we draw inspiration from the selfless love of the Theotokos, who never hesitated to do the will of God. And we trust in her prayers to God for us, that we might, as the years pass, become more like her. **O Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!** (From an article by Scott P. Richert from [learnreligions.com](http://learnreligions.com))



Mary treasured all that God had done for her and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what He wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or consecrated virgin contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, 905-528-7988, [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com), or Fr. Raphael Ma, Congregation of the Resurrection Vocation Director, at [crvocations@gmail.com](mailto:crvocations@gmail.com), or Carmel of St. Joseph, St. Agatha at 519-884-6700. Pray for vocations!

**Vocation Minute** - Pope St. Paul VI once wrote: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." Well organized plans and polished delivery may check various boxes, but it will always lack the power to amaze. Amazement is simply a sign of our having encountered God. And it is this encounter with God that alone can call (the root of the word vocation: "vocare" – to call) and commission us to be witnesses. Read more at [www.resurrectionists.ca](http://www.resurrectionists.ca).



First Communion - Anyone who has a child in gr. 2 and would like to do their First Communion here, at St. Louis Parish, classes will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM. Please sign up with Kelly Krause at the parish office.

**St. Louis Parish Epiphany Potluck  
Dinner with Carols and Games  
on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>,  
in the Large Hall at 6 PM  
(after 5 PM Mass).**



Bring your favourite dish to share and come and join as we celebrate together the Feast of the Epiphany. Organized by Kelly and Anna.



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** - Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of 46 years while raising her five children.

Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton is a true daughter of the American Revolution, born August 28, 1774, just two years before the Declaration of Independence. By birth and marriage, she was linked to the first families of New York and enjoyed the fruits of high society. Reared a staunch Episcopalian, she learned the value of prayer, Scripture and a nightly examination of conscience. Her father, Dr. Richard Bayley, did not have much use for churches but was a great humanitarian, teaching his daughter to love and serve others.

The early deaths of her mother in 1777 and her baby sister in 1778 gave Elizabeth a feel for eternity and the temporariness of the pilgrim life on earth. Far from being brooding and sullen, she faced each new "holocaust," as she put it, with hopeful cheerfulness.

At 19, Elizabeth was the belle of New York and married a handsome, wealthy businessman, William Magee Seton. They had five children before his business failed and he died of tuberculosis. At 30, Elizabeth was widowed, penniless, with five small children to support.

While in Italy with her dying husband, Elizabeth witnessed Catholicity in action through family friends. Three basic points led her to become a Catholic: belief in the Real Presence, devotion to the Blessed Mother and conviction that the Catholic Church led back to the apostles and to Christ. Many of her family and friends rejected her when she became a Catholic in March 1805.

To support her children, she opened a school in Baltimore. From the beginning, her group followed the lines of a religious community, which was officially founded in 1809.

The thousand or more letters of Mother Seton reveal the development of her spiritual life from ordinary goodness to heroic sanctity. She suffered great trials of sickness, misunderstanding, the death of loved ones (her husband and two young daughters) and the heartache of a wayward son. She died Jan. 4, 1821, and became the first American-born citizen to be beatified (1963) and canonized (1975). She is buried in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

**Reflection** - Elizabeth Ann Seton had no extraordinary gifts. She was not a mystic or stigmatic; did not prophesy or speak in tongues. She had two great devotions: abandonment to the will of God and an ardent love for the Blessed Sacrament. She wrote to a friend, Julia Scott, that she would prefer to exchange the world for a "cave or a desert." "But God has given me a great deal to do, and I have always and hope always to prefer His will to every wish of my own." Her brand of sanctity is open to everyone if we love God and do His will. She is a Patron Saint of: catholic schools, educators/teachers, loss of parents, widows. (From [franciscanmedia.org](http://franciscanmedia.org))

## The Most Holy Name of Jesus

*Names are powerful, and no name is more powerful than Jesus*

Mary and Joseph did not sit across from each other at the kitchen table debating a name for their child. The baby's name was chosen for them by God Himself. They were just taking orders. The Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary, "And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus". And Joseph had a dream in which the angel told him, "You shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins". The Gospel of Luke further relates that "After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb". Jesus was named eight days after Christmas. The NT is filled with incidents where the name of Jesus is invoked to drive out devils, cure illnesses, and perform miracles. The Holy Name is exalted by St. Paul: "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth, and under the earth...". Jesus reinforces the power of His own name in St. John's Gospel: "If you ask the Father anything in my name He will give it to you".

"Jesus" was the given name of the Son of Mary, while "Christ" was a title. "Christ" is the Greek form of the Hebrew "Messiah," meaning the "Anointed One."

St. Bernardine of Siena, an electrifying Franciscan preacher of the 15<sup>th</sup> c., spread devotion to the Holy Name of Jesus. He ingeniously depicted the Holy Name with the well-known monogram "IHS," derived from the Greek letters forming the word "Jesus." There is raw power in the name Jesus. It makes polite company cringe. It divides families. It floats across the dinner table, letting everyone know exactly where you stand. A comfortable, vague euphemism like "the man upstairs" or "the big guy" just won't do. "Jesus" does not convey an idea that everyone can interpret as they wish. It's someone's name. And that someone taught, suffered, died, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven.

Names convey meanings. "Thor" sounds like a mythical god carrying a hammer. "Vesuvius" sounds like a boiling volcano about to erupt. And "Jesus" sounds like a God-man beyond reproach. A child, when once asked to define love, said that "when someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. Your name is safe in their mouth." The Holy Name of Jesus should be safe in our mouths even when we're not receiving communion.

*Son of Mary, may our same tongues that receive Your Holy Body and Blood prepare themselves for Your visit by saying Your Holy Name with great reverence. And may we not refrain from invoking that same Holy Name in our daily conversations with all whom we meet.*

(From [mycatholic.life](http://mycatholic.life))

**"Loving our Dysfunctional Families - Part 2"** with Fr. Mike King. Sunday Jan.15th from 2 - 3:15 PM at St. Agnes, Wat.. The Christmas season can bring complex feelings. Sometimes we are missing the joy & connection we had hoped for. Disagreement & conflict can be painful. When family tensions run high & relationships are fractured, how do we love & forgive despite the hurt? And how do we attend the next family gathering? Details under "Events" at [www.saintagnescatholicchurch.org](http://www.saintagnescatholicchurch.org)



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