

Welcome new members - Whether you are just passing through the area or looking for a spiritual home, we welcome you to St. Louis Catholic Church. We hope you will find our worship environment hospitable and prayerful.

People often attend Mass at a parish for months or years without officially registering. Registration here at St. Louis is an expression of your commitment to being an active member of our community. Parish registration simplifies the process with regard to sponsoring a sacramental candidate; obtaining pastoral references and for preparation of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Registration is easy and can be completed at the Parish Office during regular office hours. Registration forms are available at the back of the Church.

Parish Records - Our parish records are very important. We try to keep them up to date. Please advise the office of any changes.

Music in the Liturgy - Music plays an integral role in the liturgical life of the parish. Parishioners are invited to join our choirs. Please contact the choir directors:

9:30 Choir - Bob Reinhart (robertreinhart182@msn.com),

11:30 Choir - Donna McLellan (donna-ipad@hotmail.com),

5:00 Choir - Peter DeSousa (organist) or Youth Music.

Sunday programs for children - During the Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. Mass there is babysitting for children under 3 years of age, Sunday School for 3 to 6 years of age and Children's Liturgy of the Word for children ages 7 and up.

Sacramental Life - St. Louis Parish celebrates the sacraments for its members who are registered and regularly attending. If you are not registered you are automatically a member of a parish closest to you.

Baptism - Celebrated once a month. Please speak with a priest after Mass on Sunday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturdays 4 - 4:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Marriage - For registered and supporting members, please contact the parish office at least one year in advance of your date.

Becoming Catholic - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, preparing adults for baptism and/or to join the community. Please contact the office for further information.

Anointing and Pastoral Care - Our parish community cares about the sick and elderly and the lonely. Please notify the parish office to arrange for them to receive the Annointing of the Sick, or to have the Holy Communion brought to them.

Pastoral Care to those in Hospital - A family member is asked to contact the parish whenever a parishioner is in hospital and requests a pastoral visit, or Sacrament of the Sick (Annointing).

Priesthood and Religious Life - Is God calling you to religious life, as a Brother, Deacon or Priest? If so, please contact Fr. Dan Lobsinger, C.R., Vocation Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection, at crvocations@gmail.com or www.resurrectionist.ca

Diocesan Newsletter - For information about Activities and Events of interest in the Diocese of Hamilton, subscribe to the online Diocesan Newsletter at www.hamiltondiocese.com

Parish Organizations and Contacts:

Finance Council Terry Collins, 519-741-1534

Maintenance Committee Bob Lorentz, 519-576-5556

OOTC Community Suppers Keith & Sharon Schnarr 519-801-8687

Parish Webmaster Daniel Delattre, daniel@uwaterloo.ca Altar Servers Coordinator Dave Pagett, 519-744-7705

Catechesis Of The Good Shepherd, Youth Ministry Kelly Krause, 519-743-4101

Catholic Women's League Donna Herbstreit, 519-884-9380 **Ministry to the Elderly & Homebound** Cecilia Beechey, 519-572-5435

Prayer Shawl Ministry Sandra Williams, 519-742-9239

Prayer Chain Sharon Carey, 519-746-8073

St. Vincent De Paul For food hamper or more information call 519-743-4101



LOW

GLUTEN

OSTS

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, March 8 – No Mass

Tuesday, March 9 9:00_{AM} To Bring Our Loved Ones Home to the Church – Monday Lunch & Learn Group

Wednesday, March 10

9:00_{AM} + Rita Mroz – The Family

Thursday, March 11

9:00_{AM} Intentions of Pat Nairn – Cecilia Beechey

Friday, March 12

9:00AM + John Staley – Rosemary & Shaun MacNeil

7:00 PM Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 13

Vigil of Fourth Sunday in Lent

5:00 PM People of St. Louis Parish

Sunday, March 14 - Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:30AM † Josephine Haid – Children

+ Loretta Schnarr – John & Sharon Carey

- + Dennis Hayes Malton Family
- 11:30AM + Charlie Seifried Rosemary & Shaun MacNeil
 - † Patricia Bauer The Ertel Family

Reflections on the First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17:

The Ten Commandments are part of a larger collection of regulations known as the Covenant Code (Exodus 21-23). The point of the Covenant Code is to ensure the proper functioning of the newly formed Israelite society as it gradually learns to adjust to life outside the confines of Egypt and Pharaoh's oppressive regime.

At the forefront of this law is what will be seen to require the greatest amount of adjustment on the part of the Israelites: how to understand their relationship with God. Because the environment of polytheistic Egypt exposed the Hebrews to the possibility of developing an allegiance to many gods, it was necessary for the Lord to make it clear that He alone is God. Thus, He reveals that He, and He alone, is responsible for delivering the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians. As a result, the people are to honour Him alone. God goes so far as to refer to Himself as "jealous," from whom both blessing and mercy are passed down through the generations. At the outset of the law, God lets Israel know that their relationship with Him has lasting consequences; it will prove to be a relationship filled with both fortune and failure.

To aid the development of a right relationship between the people and the Lord, the law demands keeping "holy" the Sabbath day. The Sabbath harkens back to God's original creation, when perfect order triumphed over chaos and all things understood themselves in right relationship. Keeping the Sabbath is an opportunity for the Israelites to honour God's name by seeking to put things back together the way He intended them. For instance, by not labouring on this day, people allow for the created world to once again magnify the beauty of the Creator. In a similar way, the law demands the honouring of parents and prohibits killing, committing adultery, stealing, lying about one's neighbour, and coveting either their goods or their wives; this is for the purpose of securing relationships as intended by God. Thus, in a very few words, God orders relationship not as a means of restriction but rather as a way of discovering true freedom.(*From the Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word*)

Churches are re-opened and Masses are celebrated with the faithful for up to 30% capacity. Office is open by appointment during regular hours. Bulletins are published on-line only. Sunday School & Liturgy of the Word (ages 3-

10) – is a little different this Winter! Join Teacher Kelly every Sunday morning at 10:30 \mbox{AM} for on-



line Sunday school session. We explore our church calendar, sing songs and read the Gospel together where we take away a few important points from the reading. Kelly has a link for a children's bulletin that is full of fun information and ongoing activities. Would like to get involved? Email Kelly (*kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com*) to get the link to our virtual Sunday school. Join us to learn more about your faith!

St. Louis Youth Group (Gr. 6 - 12) is meeting on-line twice a month on Friday nights. Contact Kelly for more information.

Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers. He was angry; He was zealous; He spoke with authority. He was doing what He had to do, even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a religious vocation in the Church.If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon, contact Most Rev. Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop and Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton <u>vocations@hamiltondiocese.com</u>, 905-528-7988, or Fr. Toby Collins, CR, Vocation Director, at crvocations@gmail.com, or Carmel of St. Joseph in St. Agatha at 519-884-6700.

Plans to start a **Women's Faith Group** (of all ages) at St. Louis Parish are underway. In the meantime we are bringing to your attention the following conference with excellent speakers.

The National Catholic Women's Conference is a FREE virtual event for Catholic women of all ages. This year, it will explore all the ways that we as women can open ourselves to receive Christ's peace. The free event goes March 12-14. Register at *qo.virtualcatholicconference.com/NCWC2021*



Anniversary Mass 2021 Registration - The Anniversary Mass scheduled for June of 2021 has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We invite you to register your 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60 plus years of marriage on the Diocesan website at hamiltondiocese.com. The Anniversary Mass is listed on the home page - click on the icon and you can register your anniversary. We will send you the certificate you would have received from Bishop Crosby at the Mass.

TAKE OUT FISH AND CHIPS ON FRIDAYS

CALL DEREK AT 226-748-8378 BY 4:30 P.M. PICK UP TIMES: 4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM 1 PC \$15, 2 PC \$18 - TAX INCL.



WEDNESDAY KNIGHT SPAGHETTI AND MEATBALL DINNERS

CALL MARTIN AT 519-884-2060 TO ORDER BY WEDNESDAY NOON PICK UP TIMES: 4:30 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. DINNER FOR ONE, \$10, DINNER FOR TWO \$18.50 - TAX INCL. AT 145 DEARBORN PLACE, WATERLOO,

Pornography: The Threat, Impact and Catholic Remedy

Pornography is one of the most important issues to understand in our world today. With the ease of its availability on the internet, it has affected people of all ages and backgrounds, whether male or female. Pornography today is violent and degrading and often involves young people who have been sex-trafficked. Join us on zoom (by internet or phone) March 25th from 7-8:30 PM and hear more about the threat and impact, how we can educate ourselves and our children to counter its negative influence and how our Catholic faith provides hope to those impacted. Presented (from the Diocese of Hamilton) by Mrs. Teresa Hartnett and Deacon Joseph Di Loreto. Registration is required but the session is free. This is an important issue which will not go away unless we provide tools for people (including parents) to end its destructive use. Consider registering to learn how more on this issue at: *hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/pornography-help.*

MARCH 7, 2021



Lent is the 40 day liturgical season of fasting, special prayer and almsgiving in preparation for Easter.

On the Importance of Personal Prayer in Christian Life by Cardinal Francis Arinze

'Pray always without becoming weary'

<u>Pray always.</u> By means of a parable Jesus teaches us that it is necessary to pray always without becoming weary. St Paul writes the Thessalonians: "*Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give*



thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus".

In practice, how can this be carried out? After all, in the space of one day in which we think of God and put into words our sentiments, we also wash, eat, drive a car, do office or kitchen work, play with our friends, watch the television and sleep. How then can we pray always?

But the injunction becomes possible if we understand it to mean to have a spirit of prayer throughout the day, to strive to remain united with God without trying at every moment to have an express conscious awareness of His presence. It is possible to offer the major actions of the day to God by some brief ejaculatory prayer. This does not rule out the need for more protracted personal prayer at one or more moments in the day. The main idea is that the person who "prays always without becoming weary" is one whose whole day is like a loving offertory procession in God's presence. Such prayer of the heart implies that the person is constantly ready to do the will of God.

<u>What is prayer?</u> Let us listen to two Saints on how they see it. St Therese of Lisieux describes prayer with her characteristic simplicity, limpidity and depth: "For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven; it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy". St John Damascene is even more brief: "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God".

The person who prays strives to be in communication with God, principally to adore Him, to praise Him, to thank Him for His gifts, to make reparation for our offences, and to ask for our various needs, both spiritual and temporal. So the Catechism of the Catholic Church sees prayer as "a vital and personal relationship with the living and true God".

<u>Three kinds of prayer:</u> From the point of view of who offers a prayer, we can speak of three kinds of prayer: liturgical, community and personal prayer.

Liturgical prayer is the official prayer of the Church in which Jesus Christ is the chief person praying and in which He associates His Church with Him. The Eucharistic celebration is its fount and apex. Liturgical prayer embraces the seven Sacraments, the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Prayers and Blessings instituted by the Church for various occasions. The exalted and supreme character of liturgical prayer follows from the fact that Christ Himself leads His Church in every liturgical act. Because of its public and official nature, the texts of liturgical prayers, and even the gestures and postures, are prescribed and fixed by the Authority of the Church.

Community prayers are such prayers as the Way of the Cross, the Holy Rosary, devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary or the Saints, particular prayers of Religious Orders, Associations or Movements. Such prayers are generally prayed by a group of persons, although individuals also use them. They differ from liturgical prayers because they are not public, official prayers of the whole Church.

Personal prayer is the prayer of an individual. It wells up from the depths of the heart of the person. It can indeed be inspired by liturgical or community prayer. But it is personal and peculiar to that person. Personal prayer can be in words. But it can also take the form of "inexpressible groanings", as the Holy Spirit may guide each soul.

<u>Personal prayer is important</u> in the promotion of our living relationship as children of God with our Father who is goodness itself, with Jesus Christ His Son and our Redeemer, and with the Holy Spirit our Sanctifier. A life of prayer is the habit of being in the presence of the thrice-holy God and in communion with Him.

Personal prayer promotes and improves our participation in liturgical and community prayers. If heart and mind are to be properly engaged in these two forms of prayer, then personal prayer is very useful to help us internalize and make our own the liturgical and communal texts and rites. If this attention is not paid, these prayers for that one individual will be in danger of approaching words ritually recited, but not coming from the heart. The liturgical books themselves advise that there be moments of silence before and even within liturgical acts, to help the participants to engage in silent meditation and personal prayer. Examples are before the Collect, after the Readings and the Homily and especially after Holy Communion.

In the Old Testament the Lord, through the prophet Isaiah, warned the chosen people about the danger of reciting prayers when their hearts are not in union with the words: "This people draws near with words only and honours me with their lips alone, though their hearts are far from me, and their reverence for me has become routine observance of the precepts of men".

Personal prayer helps to make our religion more genuine, more personal, more deeply rooted. It favours our union with God. It comes to our aid in the little pinpricks, temptations and trials of daily life.

Many Catholics need to be better introduced to the offering of personal prayer. For far too many Catholics, to pray means to read or recite prayers already composed. No doubt, liturgical prayers, all set by holy Mother Church, are the most exalted form of prayer. And many prayers have been composed by great saints. But every Catholic needs also to pray to God from the heart. After receiving Jesus in Holy Communion, have we really nothing to say to Him from our hearts? We may indeed pray to Him in the words of St Thomas Aquinas. But such a prayer will have as much value for us as we have succeeded to make it our own.

Parents have also to learn to pray over their children and invoke God's blessing on them. When the children are going on a journey or to the college boarding house, why are the parents not able to impose hands on them and pray for God's blessing, guidance and protection on them going and coming? And when the children return home, why do the parents not acclaim God's goodness in a few ejaculatory prayers coming straight from their happy and grateful hearts? Why be so shy?

Personal prayer is very important in our lives, both to manifest and intensify our life of union with God, and to help us internalize better our participation in liturgical and community prayers and worship. (Excerpts from www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/on-the-importance-ofpersonal-prayer-in-christian-life-9115)

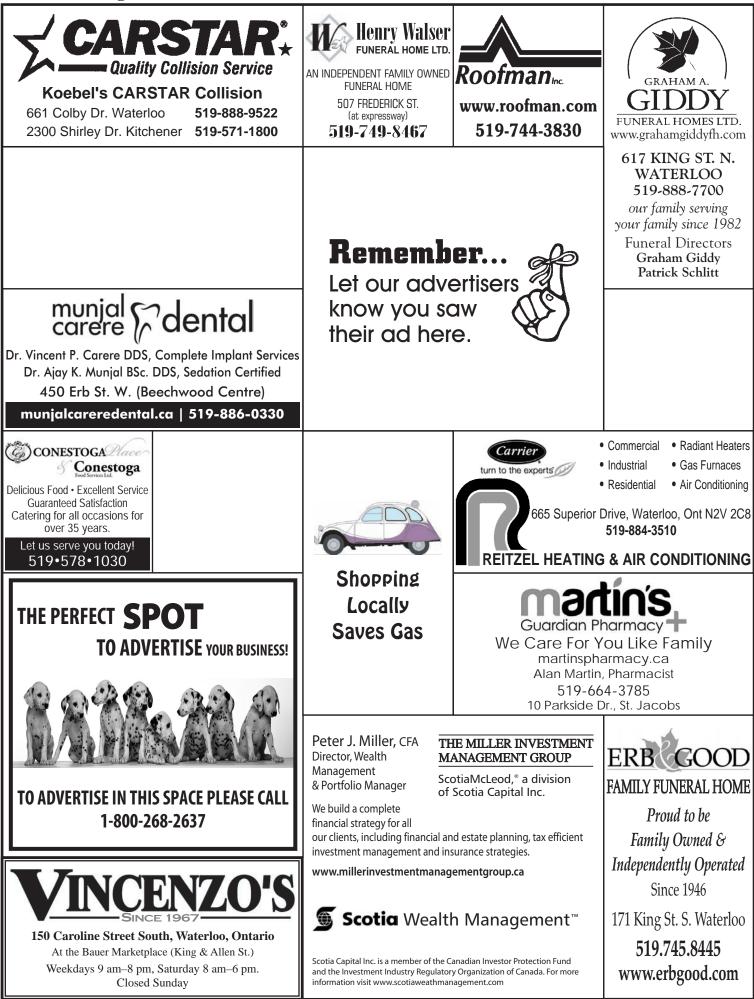


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Last weeks' donatíons – Thank you!

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