

St. Joseph's Parish

Parish Dedicated June 24, 1894

Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1933

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Prepare the way...



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LAY MINISTERS for DECEMBER 24

	6:00 p.m.	9:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass
Lectors	Verdi Gough Andrea Wade Amy Maggio	Mark Mindorff Cameron Nolan Ken Sherman	Leah Fuller Denise Campuzano Adriana Rerecich
Eucharistic Ministers	Davis Shea Joanne Venzon Carol Larsen Sheila Corr	Roberta Weiss Sister Maureen Sweeney John Bittman	Mike Scozzaro Margaret Moran
Servers	Iszaak Illes Jessica Dekker Kiera OSullivan Shea Dori Haines Andrew Linger Catherine Linger	Jan Dick Morghen Dick	Maria Consulta Christian Mattina Solana Mattina Samantha Fuller

LAY MINISTERS FOR CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:30 A.M.

Lectors: L. Pandzich

Eucharistic Ministers: E. Readyhough, J. Matsos

Altar Servers: P. Agresta, S. Hurley

11:30 A.M.

Lectors: C. Rzazaweski-Rodney

Eucharistic Ministers: M. Scozzaro

Altar Servers: B. Kukucska, S. Kukucska

C.W.L. NEWS

Ladies of the parish - please remember to send your membership in for the Catholic Women's League. More members equal a stronger voice at the National level to encourage our government to follow Christian values.

CHOIR NEWS

Christmas CD's still available. The Parish Choir's compact disc recording, *Magnum Mysterium* is available once again this year from the parish office or from members of the choir. Still the perfect Christmas gift, this recording of Christmas music is priced at \$15. each or two for \$25.

Mark your calendars also for the **Office of Evensong with O Antiphons.** This beautiful service, featuring all three choirs of the Parish, will take place on Sunday, **December 18** at 4:00 p.m.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO DO NOT ATTEND SEPARATE SCHOOLS CATECHETICAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSES AND HOMESTUDY PROGRAMS

There are two programs in place for children from Kindergarten through to High School not currently receiving religious instruction. Visit the diocesan website at www.hamiltondiocese.com or call the parish office for more information and / or registration forms.

FIRST COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCIATION MEETING

DATE: Monday, January 16 at 7 p.m. Parents of, and all children who will be receiving First Reconciliation and First Communion in May, are encouraged to attend this preparation meeting.

ADULT EDUCATION PRESENTATION!

AT THE SUPPER OF THE LAMB - A Pastoral and Theological Commentary on the Mass. Mondays, 7 to 8:30 p.m., January 16, 23, 30 & February 6 & 13 in the Parish Hall. Registration is required. We request a \$15.00 fee for the program workbook Scott Whitfield will facilitate. For more information or to register, please call the parish office at 905.528.0019.

FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR Please consider donating a poinsettia or Christmas plant to be placed in the sanctuary as part of the decorations in the church for the Christmas season. You may wish to bring in a plant in memory of a loved one. It is a special way of remembering during Christmastime. If you wish to make a financial donation to the decorating fund, you will find envelopes in the pews.

2012 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES The Offertory envelopes for the New Year are now available **but we had a bit of an office glitch.** **If your envelopes are not at the back, please bear with us. Write us a note and we will be sure to make the correction as soon as possible.** We ask that you update all personal information for our records. Please fill out a new registration card and mark 'UPDATE' on the top of it. We need you to advise us of any name or address change before we process the new envelopes.

If you use Direct Debit and still wish to receive a box of Offertory envelopes, please contact the parish office.

Save time with the St. Joseph Parish Weekly Offertory Pre-Authorized Payment Plan.

Enrolling is Easy! Payments are convenient. Enrolment forms are available at all of the doors of the church or from the Parish Office. For more information, if you wish to update your donations, or add to the list of donations so that you no longer need to use a box of Offertory envelopes, please pick up a new form and drop it into the collection basket once you have filled it out.

Third Sunday of Advent

LITURGIES AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

NO MORNING MASS ON MONDAYS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 Chester Vasas Cathy Vasas-Brown
Margaret Keogh McGarr Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 Robert McCollum School Sisters of Notre Dame
John Shea CCAS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 Intentions of Maud Thygeson Polly & Ray Plant
Martina & Gordon Harnden The Family

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 Special Intentions Cathy & George Munro

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

6 p.m., 9 p.m. & Midnight Mass

For all the people of St. Joseph's Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 For all the people of St. Joseph's Parish

Desk Scribbles . . . 4th Sun of Advent . . . December 18, 2011 .
. . . Jim Link, C.R.
2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27;
Luke 1:26-38

Throughout most of my priesthood I have made it a focus to study liturgy, the rituals that we join in as a community to celebrate the Christ events in our lives. One of the principles I often use is what I call the "turn-off-the-sound" principle, that is, if this were a movie and we turned off the sound, how would what we are doing being interpreted? For example, over 25 years ago the Roman Catholic ritual for marriage stated that the traditional wedding procession of the father bringing the bride down the aisle should be "strongly discouraged." It suggests that the clearest sign is that the bride and groom walk down the aisle together. Why? Because the traditional wedding procession is the wrong symbol since it comes out a time when the father was literally "giving" his daughter away --- usually for a price --- to another man. If you look at the present Catholic ritual, we ask the couple immediately before exchanging their vows, "Have you come today freely and without reservation to *give yourselves* to each other as husband and wife?" So, the symbol that fits what we believe is best ritualize by the couple walking in together.

Because of my "turn-off-the-sound" principle, I have often questioned the practice of the priests, etc., facing the tabernacle as it is being closed after communion. I understand the respect for the reserved sacrament but the visual message for me is that the presence of Christ in the tabernacle is holier or more real than the presence of the Christ in Holy Communion that we have all just received. I cannot believe that this is true. In fact, I think sometimes it is easier and less threatening to acknowledge the presence of Christ in the host and wine than to recognize that the sister or brother beside you or behind you in the pew is also the Body of Christ. I can walk away from the tabernacle and go on with my life; I cannot walk away as easily from the person beside me who is my sister or brother in Christ.

King David wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant. The prophet Nathan told him to go ahead but the next day, God told Nathan to tell David 'No.' The Ark, the symbol of God presence among the people of Israel, had been housed in a tent and that was good enough for God. In fact, being in a tent was the best way for God to move with the people. And then God promised that the temple would be his people and the place of his presence among them.

Interestingly, in the prologue of John's Gospel (1:14), it says that "the Word became flesh and *made his dwelling* among us," literally, *pitched his tent*.

Our gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Advent looms on the brink of the Incarnation, we are not quite there yet but almost. The young unmarried but betrothed virgin, Mary, through the gift of God's intervention by the Spirit in human history, has now become the tent. She is the new Ark of the Covenant, the dwelling place and the home of God.

But in baptism, we too now have become "home" for God. The Father, Son and Spirit have made us their tent and we are the ones now charged with being the bearers of Christ's presence in the Spirit. Because of this, we need to be careful and respectful in how we deal with and treat one another. We each embody the holy presence of God.

With Mary, our Mother and Model in faith, our continued 'yes' and 'let it be' will allow that presence of God within us to be shared with world around us. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

THE GIVING TREE is in support of Birthright Hamilton. Please take an angel and replace it with the item indicated. If you wish you can place an ornament from your tree and decorate the Giving tree. You can help make this Christmas bright for a young mother and her child.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: Our first social event of the New Year will be the annual Pasta Supper and Silent Auction which will be held on Sunday, **January 29**. Hope to see you there!

CHRISTMAS FOOD HAMPERS

Thank you to everyone who offered to provide a food hamper to assist people in our community. Thanks to St. Joseph's Parish community generosity, all of the people on our list were able to receive a Hamper this Christmas! If you still wish to make a cash or food voucher donation, please use the pink "Our Neighbours in Need" envelopes in your box or use a plain envelope and write your name and address on it to ensure you receive an income tax receipt. **Please include your sales receipt if you have donated a food voucher. Many thanks and God bless!**

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER INTENTIONS This week we ask that you keep the following people and intentions in your prayers: Fr. Robert Kiffman, Fr. George Stortz, Sisters of St. John the Baptist, (C.S.J.B.), Fr. Edward Hampson, Fr. Adam Voisin and Fr. Daniel Cyr.

Please pray for the sick

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