

St. Mary's Church

65 Amelia Street, Barrie, Ontario L4M 1M7

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PARISH STAFF:

Rev. Anthony Werunga, Pastor

Rev. Joseph Lazar, Associate Pastor

Susan Scarff, Parish Secretary

Deacon Ron MacLellan, Deacon Del Allan

Mickie Oakes, Pastoral Associate

Mary Perry White, Maturing Adults Ministry

Clint Tyler, MSW, Registered Social Worker

Shannon Barks, Music Director - 705-229-7426

Sharon LaPlume, Youth Minister

Pat Borho, Finance

Rita Cyr, Sacristan

Cathy O'Connor-Horgan, Custodian of Records

Dennis Cormier, Custodian



Feast of the Holy Family

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 28 th	12:10 p.m.
Tuesday, December 29 th	12:10 p.m.
Wednesday, December 30 th	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, December 31 st	5:00 p.m.
Friday, January 1 st	10:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 2 nd	9:00 a.m.

† Barb Reinhardt
 † Alex McKendry
 † Una Fawns
VIGIL OF THE FEAST OF MARY
 (No noon Mass)
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
SOLEMNITY OF MARY
 (No Holy Hour or 7:00 p.m. Mass)
 † Pat Fram; † Wlodzimierz Chetko
 Intentions of Mary Bethune

MEMORIAL LAMP & SPECIAL INTENTIONS

December 26th to January 2nd

Our sanctuary lamp is lit –

In loving memory of:

† Bill Spoeltman
 Dear husband, father and opa
 who is forever in our hearts.

Requested by: Irene and Family



MINISTRY NEWS



If you're in grades 5 - 8 and love to have fun and learn more about faith, then

EDGE is for you. Here are our upcoming events, from 2-4 PM, followed by Mass at 4:00 p.m. with families: **Tues. Dec. 29: 2-4 P.M.** in our parish hall - **Family Board Game Afternoon** - bring your favourite board games and a snack to share! This event is for the whole family (note: a parent/guardian is required to attend).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION



Marriage preparation will be running in the parish twice a year. Our next preparation program will begin **March 1st, 2016** and run through to and inclusive of April 19th. It is held every **Tuesday evening from 7 – 9:00 p.m.** Please call Susan in the parish office at ext. 101 to register or for questions.

NEW BEGINNINGS

A support group for separated, divorced and widowed persons. Join us **every 4th Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is on **Tuesday, January 26th from 7 – 9:00 p.m. in room 1.**

THE JUBILEE LOGO

This logo, which is the official logo for this Jubilee Year, represents the Son of God taking on his shoulders the lost and the strayed. Jesus carries us, in our weakness, to the home of his Father, the fulfillment for which we have been created. In this image, the eyes of Jesus merge with the eyes of our fallen nature. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam and Adam can now see with the eyes of Christ. Thus we can glimpse, in Christ, our new and true humanity and the future which lies ahead: to gaze on the Father and to be held in His love. The colours of the background, the “mandorla” go from dark to light, from the night of sin to the light of day.

“I hope that these three images will inspire you and enrich your pilgrimage to the mercy of God so that, in your turn, you will be messengers of mercy in our world today.” Pope Francis



Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

UNDECORATING THE CHURCH

We will take down our decorations in the church on **Monday, January 4th after the noon mass.** Anyone who can help is encouraged to assist. *No need to sign up - please just come out to help!*



IN OUR PARISH

PARISH OFFICE HOURS OPEN UNTIL NOON

Tues., Dec. 29, Wed., Dec. 30, Thurs., Dec. 31

CLOSED

Sun. Dec. 27, Mon., Dec. 28

Friday, January 1st – New Year's Day

ARE YOU A REGISTERED PARISHIONER OF ST. MARY'S?

Many who attend St. Mary's regularly have never officially registered. We encourage you to register. Registered parishioners are able to celebrate the sacraments. Registration forms are available in the foyer, from our website and from the parish office.



MINISTRY WITH MATURING ADULTS

Lunch & Learn: will resume on **Monday, January 4th following the 12:10 p.m. Mass in room 3.** The DVD series is on St. Hildegard of Bingen "Woman of Light." All are welcome.

Neighbourhood Circle: will be held at St. Mary's Residence on **Thursday, January 7th at 2:00 p.m.** This is a parish-based support group of maturing adults who live in the same neighbourhood. The group meets together for "Coffee and conversation". As a sign of our faith-base, a simple form of prayer is part of these gatherings. The program is held monthly. For more information, please contact Mary Perry White in the parish office at ext. 104.

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOL RELIGION CLASS



If you have a child attending a school not in the separate system, please be advised we run a program for children in grades one to eight. We encourage all families to be in touch so that their children can receive instruction.

Classes resume on January 9th at 10:00 a.m.

**May your
NEW YEAR
be
Joyous & Fruitful**

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

The time had come for God to send his own Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Mary, Mother of the Promised One about to be born, and Joseph, her husband, had to leave their home in Nazareth and go to Bethlehem. The reason for this journey was the Roman emperor's request to count the number of his subject. So every Jewish family had to go to the city of the ancestors and register for the census. Since Mary and Joseph belonged to the royal family of David, they had to go to David's city of Bethlehem. It was the emperor who made the decree, but it served to fulfill God's plan. According to Scripture, the Saviour was to be born in Bethlehem.



It was a slow, hard journey over mountainous country. But Mary was calm and peaceful. She knew she was doing God's will. She was happy thinking of her divine Son soon to be born. When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, they found there was no place for them to stay. At last they found shelter in a cave. There, in that rough stable, the Son of God was born on Christmas Day. His blessed Mother wrapped him up warmly and laid him in a manger. Our Lord chose to be born in such poverty so that we would learn not to overvalue riches and comforts.

The very night in which Jesus was born, God sent his angels to announce his birth. The angels were not sent to the emperor or the king. They were not sent to the doctors and priests in the Temple. They were sent to poor, humble shepherds, watching their flocks on the hillsides near Bethlehem. As soon as they heard the angels' message, they hurried to adore the Saviour of the world. Then they went home giving praise and glory to God.

The patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament had been comforted by the thought that someday the Saviour would come into the world. Now He had been born among us. Jesus came for all of us. The Bible says: "God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten Son." If those who lived in the hope of his coming were happy, how much more should we rejoice. We have His teachings, His Church, and Jesus Himself on our altars at every Eucharistic Celebration. Christmas is the time when we realize more than ever how much God loves us.

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