

Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Parish, Waterloo

CONTACT US

173 Lourdes Street, Waterloo, ON N2L 1N5 519-886-0342
lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com <https://www.ourladyoflourdeschurchwaterloo.com>
www.facebook.com/LOLWaterloo http://twitter.com/our_parish

PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Rafal Tomon lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com
Music Director: Mr. Bruce Cameron brucecameron57@gmail.com
Organist: Mrs. April Philpotts aaphilpotts@gmail.com





DEC 26 to DEC 31

TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	+ Rohan Jayasundera – Family
WEDNESDAY	8:30 a.m.	+ Robert Denomme – Gisele & Peter Denomme
THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	+Rosa Ciccarelli – Charmaine & Frank Volpini
FRIDAY	8:30 a.m.	+ Doris & Sheldon Groce – Mary Lou Oaks & Nancy Collins
SATURDAY	7:00 p.m.	+ Gaetano Garasto – Carmela Garasto
SUNDAY Holy Family	9:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish
	11:00 a.m.	Special Intention
	5:00 p.m.	New Year's Day

Monthly Budget Review as of Dec 10, 2023

Weekly contributions year to date	\$172,661.98	
E-transfer	\$3,111.23	
Pre-authorized giving (year to date)	\$129,936.92	\$305,710.13
Building fund		\$8,685.10

please join us

Our Lady of Lourdes Café

When: Sun. Dec 10, 2023
Where: Parish Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.



MENU: Coffee, tea \$1 and Cake & desserts \$2
BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Nov 12, 2023, funds \$205.70

All proceeds from OLOL Café support our parish ministries

Please be a part of something extraordinary.

Please call the parish office if you can help as we hope to have the Café open 2nd Sunday of the Month.

TREE OF LIFE: It is a tradition here at Our Lady of Lourdes to call the large tree in the sanctuary the *“Tree of Life”* for the decorations on it reflect two of the great Christian mysteries: **birth and death**. On the tree, there will be **41 angels** each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and **16 crosses** in memory of those born to eternal life. When the Christmas season is over, these personalized ornaments will be available as mementos to family members. Parents with children baptized this year are encouraged to have a photo taken with the child by the tree and to keep this with the ornament.

Blessing before Christmas Dinner
Loving God,
on this Christmas day we give thanks
that Jesus, your Son, has come into
our world bringing us gifts of peace and joy.

**Bless us as we sit down together at
this table for our Christmas meal.**

**Bless the food we share and help us to remember
those who are hungry.**

**Be with our neighbours and our friends,
those who are lonely, sick,
or away from home.**

**We pray that our departed loved ones
may now sit at your table in heaven.**

**May the joy of this feast give us strength
and light, now and in the days ahead.**

**We ask this prayer
through Christ, Our Lord.
Amen**



Dear Parishioners,

The shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Lk 2.15)

Let us, as shepherds, be ready to gather together in our Bethlehem - our House of the Living Bread - Our Lady of Lourdes Church, praying together for our families, friends, our communities and those who have nobody to pray for them.

May the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ enkindle in our hearts the spirit of love to go and to share God's peace with hope and faith beyond our human understanding.
Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

We wish you a Blessed Christmas
and Happy New Year.

Fr. Rafal Tomon, Pastor

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits Mary to announce the birth of Jesus.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we read the story of the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about the birth of Jesus. This story is found only in Luke's Gospel. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, the liturgy shifts our attention from John the Baptist to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Both John and Mary serve as important figures for our reflection during the season of Advent; they both played instrumental roles in preparing the way for Jesus. Last week we reflected on John the Baptist's announcement that the Savior was among us, although not yet recognized. This week we reflect upon Mary's example of faith and obedience to God, traits which permitted her to receive the angel's message that God's Son would be born as a human person, as one of us.

We are familiar with the story of the Annunciation, and it is fitting that we recall how God announced the birth of Jesus as we make our final preparations for our celebration of the Incarnation. The angel Gabriel visited Mary; a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph. Mary greeted the angel's news with awe and wonder and asked how it could be possible that she could give birth to a child. In his reply, the angel Gabriel announced the seemingly impossible reality: the child to be born would be conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and would be God's own Son. The angel reported to Mary another miracle; her relative Elizabeth was also pregnant despite having been thought to be unable to have a child. Mary's response to the angel, which is called her *fiat*, is an example of complete faith and obedience to God.

The story of the Annunciation calls to our attention God's wondrous action in human history. God chose a human person to give birth to his Son so that all humanity would know God's salvation. Mary, already full of God's grace, was able to cooperate in this great plan for our salvation. Thus, Jesus was born as one of us, fully human and fully divine. This is the mystery we prepare to celebrate at Christmas, the mystery of the Incarnation. In the model of Mary, we pray that we will be people of faith who recognize God's saving plan for us and are able respond with obedience.

Diocesan Prayer Calendar – This week let us pray for...

Dec. 25	Dec. 26	Dec. 27	Dec. 28	Dec. 29	Dec. 30
Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord)	Chancery Staff	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a)	Holy Innocents	Rev. Edward Hinsperger	Rev. Phillip Cook

Prayer for Vocations... God, the source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen



HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH OUR

BOWING ANGEL: A long-standing tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is the presence of the bowing angel by the manger scene, who graciously bows her head after an offering is made. Again, this year, all donations received from the bowing angel will be sent to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Children's Project in Kenya who work with children whose parents have died of HIV-AIDS. Since the bowing angel cannot digest paper, a plate will be by the angel to accept paper offerings. (Cheques should be made payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes Church".)

DIOCESAN BOOKKEEPING POLICY: As we approach year end, parishioners frequently wish to make contributions to the church that will be credited to their tax receipt for the current year. Diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31. Contributions made in January cannot be applied to 2023 offerings.

Last deposit to the bank will be done on Friday Dec 29, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT INTO OUR HOMES

Only a few days remain before the world will pause for the celebration of Christmas. Over the course of the past year, we have been nourished at the table of God's word and feasted on the Gospel of Saint Luke. We have listened to parables, been summoned to take up our crosses and follow Christ and been schooled in the way of discipleship. Since the beginning of Advent, the Church has turned our attention to Matthew's Gospel. Today Matthew opens the doors of Saint Joseph's house, as well as his dreams, and tells the story of the events leading up to Jesus' birth. The final line of today's Gospel is worth noting: "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home" (Matthew 1:24). Today is a day to consider our devotion to and appreciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our faith lives. Today is a day for *us* to take her into our homes.

PREPARING A PLACE FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH

Mary stands as a reminder that nothing is impossible with God. This young woman's life was thrown into confusion when the angel announced that she, although a virgin, would be the mother of God's Son. She is the one to whom we can look when our lives are thrown into confusion. She gave herself over to the power of God. This did not mean that she would live her life free from fear and pain. We all know the rest of the story—how she would watch her son suffer and die. Mary is a source of comfort for all who have lost children. We can look to her for comfort in times of grief and pain. How fitting that we focus on the Virgin Mary on this final Sunday of Advent. When we open the doors of our hearts and welcome Mary into our lives, what we really do is prepare a place where the Lord is born to us again.

THE POPE'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS FOR 2023

For persons with disabilities
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.





Thinking of buying or selling? I can HELP! I have a team of professionals who will make the process go as smooth as possible. I have been a member of Our Lady of Lourdes church for 25 yrs and would love the opportunity to help my fellow parishioners with their real estate needs.

Charlene Cardow 519-498-3274 **RE/MAX**

Henry Walser
FUNERAL HOME LTD.
AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY
- OWNED FUNERAL HOME
507 FREDERICK ST. (at expressway)
519-749-8467

Roofman Inc.
www.roofman.com
519-744-3830

Hygate
Retirement Residence

Call for your complimentary tour & lunch



Seniors Apartments
Independent Living Plus
Assisted Living
Respite Care
519-501-1131 ext 7502
info@hygateliving.com

Archibald Automotive

159 Erb St W
519-884-7700
www.archibaldautomotive.com

CAESAR CONSTRUCTION

Commercial and Residential
519-465-8375
dane@caesarconstruction.ca

REITZEL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

665 Superior Drive, Waterloo, Ont N2V 2C8 519-884-3510

- Commercial • Radiant Heaters
- Industrial • Gas Furnaces
- Residential • Air Conditioning



Geraldine Mahood Team
Broker

901 Victoria St N
Kitchener ON N2B 3C3
Phone: 519-579-4110

Instagram: geraldinemahood
geraldine@geraldinesellshomes.com

Since 1946
ERB & GOOD
FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

Proud to be
Family Owned &
Independently Operated

171 King St. S. Waterloo
519.745.8445
www.erbgood.com

BELLA VISTA
CATERING AND EVENTS

Weddings, Communion, Confirmations, Family Events
519-579-7141
www.bellavistacateringandevents.ca



CARMELA ADDANTE
Mortgage Agent Lic.# 11621
Purchases • Refinances
Credit Repair
519-886-1036

carmela.addante@excelmortgage.ca



THE PERFECT SPOT TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS!



**TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SPACE
PLEASE CALL 1-800-268-2637**



528 Victoria St. N., beside Weston's Bakery
519-745-6136



Shopping Locally Saves Gas



Waterloo Knights of Columbus
Columbus Conference Centre
145 Dearborn Place
Friday Night Fish Fry:
Take out call **Derek 226-748-8378**
Eat in call **Manager 519-884-2060**
Wednesday Spaghetti: Take out/Eat in call
Manager 519-884-2060, place orders by 2:30 pm
Hall Rentals: Stag & Does, Meetings, Parties,
Life Celebrations call **Manager 519-884-2060**



RUDY'S CUSTOM UPHOLSTERY
FREE ESTIMATES
WORKMANSHIP GUARANTEED
426 Albert St., Waterloo
CALL **STEVE BRUCE**
519-884-2610