

# *Our Lady of Lourdes*

## **Catholic Parish, Waterloo**

### **CONTACT US**

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www.facebook.com/OLOLWaterloo/ https://twitter.com/our\_parish

### **PARISH TEAM**

**Pastor:** Rev. Rafal Tomon lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com  
**Administrative Assistant:** Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com



## **The Nativity of the Lord**

## NATIVITY OF THE LORD



**Dec 26 to Jan 1**

<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Gaetano Garasto – Carmela Garasto
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 a.m.	+ Rosa Ciccarelli – Charmaine & Frank Volpini
<b>Thursday</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Alphonsine Richard – Yves & Anna & Emilie Richard
<b>Friday</b>	8:30 a.m.	+ Horeczky Family – Katalin Horeczky
<b>Saturday</b>	5:00 p.m.	+ Judy Diamond – Ada Harris
<b>Sunday</b>	9:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish
<b>Sunday</b>	11:00 a.m.	Special Intention

**Offertory Collection for Sunday, Dec 4 & 11, 2022: \$6,744.15**  
(Note: This amount does not include donations received through pre-authorized giving.)

<b>Monthly Budget Review as of Dec 11, 2022</b>	
Cumulative financial objective – 50 weeks @ \$7,500	\$375,000.00
Weekly contributions year to date	\$158,064.88
Pre-authorized giving (year to date)	\$128,726.89
Over (under) objective	<b>-\$88,208.23</b>

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES SMALL FAITH GROUP** – invites you to join in our living rosary and pray for the needs of the parish and the community in December 2022 and January 2023. Members of the Small Faith Group believe Christmas lights remind us for our need of light, both the physical light to see by and the spiritual light to live by. For the coming months, we would like to encourage everyone to actively seek our Light that delivers us from all darkness, so that darkness will not prevail but serves the Light! The prayer intentions of our Dec 2022 and Jan 2023 Living Rosary are as follows:

1. We pray that God brings light into our darkness. May His light shine brightly in our broken world and bring hope to our hearts.
2. Pope Francis' prayer intentions: Volunteer Not-for-Profit Organizations (December 2022) and For Educators (January 2023)
3. The sick and their caregivers.
4. The living and deceased members of our parish.
5. The special intentions of the members of our parish.

By volunteering, you will be responsible to say one decade of the mysteries of the Rosary every day for the coming months. If you are interested or would like more information, please sign up online <https://forms.gle/97uQaHrRmavZWpy86>.

**CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTE:** During the Holy Season of Christmas, it is a fitting gesture to dedicate floral tributes to be placed in the church in memory of deceased relatives and friends. These tributes are a sign of remembrance and an expression of faith in Christ's promise of eternal life. Forms are available at the church entrance if you wish to make such a tribute. The floral tribute sheets will be placed in the sanctuary in a gift-wrapped box. Those loved ones named will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.



**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 2022 offerings.

please join us

**Our Lady of Lourdes Café**

Open Next  
on Sunday, **Jan 8, 2023**  
after 9:00 am & 11:00 am  
Mass in the parish hall.

IT'S Coffee TIME

**MENU:** Coffee, tea \$1 and Cake & desserts \$2

**BAKERS ARE NEEDED AND VOLUNTEERS**

Sales from Dec 11, 2022, were \$205.75

All proceeds from OLOL Café will go to support parish committees. Please be a part of something extraordinary.

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

**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".)

**WITH THE UPDATE of our rectory fence,** we tried to save and repurpose the savable weathered old fence boards, as we had a brand-new fence installed in May 2022. Father Rafal, recognizing these fence boards were something special as they served, Msgr. Sheridan, Fr. Hughes, and Fr. Tomon. Father gave these boards to a carpenter to create something special. During our time of preparation for Advent, and the anticipation of Christmas and our bowing

angel is ready. We will auction off this handmade church replica birdhouse to the highest bidder. The proceeds of the sale will go directly to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mission Fund, for the building of a new school and orphanage in northern Kenya for children whose parents have died from HIV-AIDS. We would like to ask for a starting bid of \$100.00 with increments of \$50. We pray and hope that this church replica birdhouse will help our beloved School Sisters of Notre Dame reach closer to their fundraising goal. Thank you! **To place a bid please contact our parish office**

**PARISH OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2023** are now available for pick up in our parish hall. The Finance Council would like to thank you for your ongoing support to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. As we're heading into a new year and preparing the budget for 2023, we ask you to consider your donation to the parish. Just as your personal household expenses continue to increase, so do the expenses of the parish. The Property and Maintenance Committee is working to maintain the church building and grounds. This requires an ongoing investment. It would be appreciated if you would consider increasing your weekly/monthly contributions to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for 2023. At the present time, 131 families have chosen PAG!



**PRAYER SHAWLS FOR CHRISTMAS:** Our ladies have been busy. We have created 675 beautiful shawls since the onset of this special ministry and have been blessed to be able to provide peace and comfort to many of our parishioners, both young and old. We have also given many shawls to those in need at different organizations, such as Innisfree, the Catholic Missions and, of late, the St. Mary's Spiritual Care Dept. We still have many wonderful shawls from which to choose for someone you know who can benefit from their warmth and prayers, especially at this Christmas season. There are shawls in many colours (for women, men, teenagers, and children) and in different shapes (rectangles, triangles, lap blankets and even ones with sleeves). Please call Peggy Dietrich at 519-725-5847 if you would like a shawl and many thanks to all who have provided us with yarn and donations. Merry Christmas!!!



**COOKIES FOR SHUT-INS:** Your response to this request was well beyond expectations! Each of our 55 shut-ins a beautiful tin containing over four dozen cookies. The 23 residents at the Underhill Residence at Erb and Avondale each received a box also filled with cookies. All the recipients of your generosity were touched by this gesture of kindness. May your celebration of Christmas be filled with joy as you recall the happiness your cookies brought to those special people within our community. Thank you for making this tradition at Lourdes so successful. With prayers of thanksgiving Fr. Rafal

Starting Dec 1, we are continuing a parish family Christmas tradition. It will focus on giving and the true meaning of Christmas. **The Giving Manger** will help families shift their focus of Christmas back to giving. You will be asked to place a piece of straw in the manger located at Mary's altar, for each kind deed or act of service performed. On Christmas Day, Baby Jesus will be placed in the Church manger filled with service and love. We ask each family to work together to give gifts of service to one another, and you will find your hearts and home filled with more joy during the holiday season than ever before.



**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 **50 angels** each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and **27 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.

**WORK CREW:** Volunteers are required on Sunday, January 15 immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. to take down the Christmas decorations. As we will be carrying the parts of the manger scene to the basement storage area, the assistance of some younger volunteers would be very helpful. Refreshments will be served following the project.



**Feast of the Holy Family**

Friday, December 30, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

**Feast of Mary, Mother of God: New Year's Day**

Saturday, December 31, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

**Feast of the Epiphany.....** Regular weekend Mass times

*Your generous contributions to the weekly Sunday collection, as well as the special collections throughout the year, are deeply appreciated. May your Christmas offering be from a heart filled with gratitude for the blessings the Lord has given you. Thank you Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and New Year 2023!*

*Fr. Rafal*

**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*

*Our Lady of Lourdes pray for us*



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**

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Eat in call **Manager 519-884-2060**  
Wednesday Spaghetti: Take out/Eat in call  
**Manager 519-884-2060**, place orders by 2:30 pm  
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