

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

(FOUNDED IN 1849)

Website: [www.stjohnthebaptist.ca](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.ca)

2016 Blairholm Avenue, Burlington, On. L7R 1V4

905-634-2485 FAX 905-634-6460



**Rev. Robert Sims, Pastor**  
**Rev. Mr. Rob Thomas, Deacon**  
**S. Suzanne Medley, Office Manager**  
**Leslie Polci, Director of Music**  
**Victor Liskauskas, Custodian**

## OFFICE HOURS

Monday 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Friday Closed

## WEEKEND LITURGY

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

## WEEKDAY LITURGY

Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9:00 a.m.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 12 noon, and by appointment

## OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Tuesday evening Mass

## SACRED HEART DEVOTION

First Friday of every month at 8:30 a.m.

## BAPTISMS

Please take a baptism package from the tables in the church entrances.

## MARRIAGES

Please contact the Pastor at least nine months in advance.

## PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE

For more information or assistance contact our parish priest(s) or see [www.vocationinfo.ca](http://www.vocationinfo.ca)

## MINISTRY TO SICK/SHUT-INS

Please notify the Rectory Office and arrange Communion.

## CATHOLIC FUNERAL RITES

When a death occurs in your family please advise the priest immediately and they will assist you in making the liturgical arrangements. For information on Catholic burial, contact the cemetery office at 905-522-7727 or 1-800-661-5985.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

We invite you to take the time to complete a census form, located at all doors of the church. Please drop it into the collection basket.

## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

All bulletin announcements MUST be received by the parish office no later than Monday at 3:30 p.m. to ensure publication in the upcoming Sunday Bulletin.

**EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT EVERY FRIDAY AFTER 9 AM MASS - 12 NOON**



# Mass Intentions

*"Shout aloud and sing for joy..."*

- Isaiah 12

## **Christmas Mass Schedule**

Monday, December 24: 5 p.m., 7 p.m., 12 midnight

Tuesday, December 25: 10 a.m.

## **Confession Schedule**

Tuesday, December 18: 6:15 to 6:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 19: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, December 20: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, December 22: 11 a.m. to noon

### Monday December 17

Genesis 49:2, 8-10; Matthew 1:1-17 – No Mass

### Tuesday December 18

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Matthew 1:18-24

7 PM – Fernando Lopes

### Wednesday December 19

Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5-25

9 AM – John Derda

### Thursday December 20

Isaiah 7:10-14, 8-10d; Luke 1:26-38

9 AM – Frank Huyge

### Friday December 21

Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-56

9 AM – Belina Ablaza

### Saturday December 22

1 Samuel 1:24-28; Luke 1:46-56

5 PM – Doug Power

### Sunday December 23 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45

9 AM – Pro Populo (for the parishioners)

11 AM – Rowena Roman



## **CWL Message**

Thank you to all the women who attended our **Advent Morning of Reflection**. A special thank you is extended to Father Bob who facilitated the event. We appreciated the chance to reflect on Father's presentation. Thank you also to Marie Arponen and Dolene Vanderlelie for all their hard work.

Thank you to all the parishioners for their generous contributions for the Giving Tree.

## **WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography)**

Research has shown that pornography exposure is addictive, connected to domestic violence, sexual abuse, sex trafficking and abortion. In order to protect our children from exposure to pornographic websites, please pick up a sample letter asking Justice Minister, J. Wilson-Raybould and our government, to create laws requiring mandatory age verification for accessing these websites. Also send copies to Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau and to your MP. No postage is required. Sample letters are at all church doors and you may leave your signed letter, including address, in the box provided if you would like us to send them for you.



## **Our Parish**

### Monday December 17

Emotions Anonymous Meeting – 7 PM – WR

### Tuesday December 18

CWL Craft Group – 10 AM – Hall

### Wednesday December 19

Legion of Mary – 9:30 AM – WR

Women's AA Group – 6:15 PM – Hall

### Thursday December 20

Cenacle Group – 9:30 AM – WR

Christian Meditation – 1 PM – WR

Choir Practice – 7 PM – Church

### Friday December 21

AA Meeting – 9 PM – Hall



## **FORMED Presents: Prepare the Way of the King**

Dr. Scott Hahn, one of the most eminent Catholic theologians today, reveals what scholars now know about the shepherds, the mysterious Magi, and King Herod. Your Advent journey will take on new meaning as you prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord. This illuminating presentation is sure to help you grow in appreciation of the greatest gift ever given to mankind – Jesus Christ. Find this audio presentation on our St. John the Baptist page on FORMED.org in the "Community" tab. If you are not yet registered, visit [saintjohnthebaptist.formed.org](http://saintjohnthebaptist.formed.org) and follow the instructions to be registered.



**Children's Liturgy Message:** The children will be performing the Christmas Gospel this year at the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass. If your children would like to participate, e-mail [childrensliturgystjohns@gmail.com](mailto:childrensliturgystjohns@gmail.com) or phone Anne Marie at 905-317-3539. There will be 2-3 small practices after 11 a.m. Mass to prepare during the month of December.

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## IN THE DIOCESE

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The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the *One Heart, One Soul Campaign* to raise money for every parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. A compilation of frequently asked questions are available throughout the campaign at [oneheartonesoul.ca](http://oneheartonesoul.ca).

### **What kinds of things does the Diocese do for parishes and others already?**

Here are a few examples of the ways Diocesan offices enhance the life of our parishes and people:

- Advocating for the dignity of all life and supporting and promoting marriage and family life.
- Encouraging vocational discernment to priesthood and religious life.
- Programming and support for youth and young adult ministry.
- Adult faith formation, catechesis, religious education and sacramental preparation.
- Assistance in the relocation and resettlement of refugees.
- Advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized.
- Assistance for parishes in all aspects of sacred worship, including formation for liturgical ministers.
- Support for parishes in the areas of human resources, building maintenance, financial reporting, stewardship, charitable giving and parish development.

### **Does the Diocese help organizations outside of it?**

Yes, the Diocese is generous to many in need. For example, the Diocese has an ongoing financial commitment to help the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which is still suffering from the effects of the devastating earthquake there in 2010, and the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, which includes northern Manitoba and the territory of Nunavut. The Diocese also supports many worthy causes such as the St. Vincent de Paul, the Good Shepherd and several others; health care initiatives, including hospice care and conscience protection for those in the medical

field; community organizations such as the Catholic Youth Organization, Catholic Family Services and Catholic Children's Aid; and several other organizations and causes in need who do the work of the gospel. Additionally, the Diocese is proud to have made a significant gift to St. Peter's Seminary in London, helping to ensure the seminary can continue its mission to form priests for our Diocese and the Church in Canada.

### **Why a significant gift to a Seminary in another Diocese?**

There is a longstanding and fruitful connection between St. Peter's Seminary in London and the Diocese of Hamilton. For more than a hundred years, St. Peter's has trained a majority of our Diocesan priests – and those of so many Canadian Dioceses. Of the current Hamilton seminarians, the majority are at St. Peter's, one of only three English-speaking seminaries in Canada. Hamilton priests have also served on the seminary's staff. The seminary is in need of funds for St. Peter's to continue its mission of forming priests, deacons and lay ministers and its vitality is important to the long-term outlook for vocations in Hamilton.

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### **RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION FOR CHILDREN**

Programs are available for children from Kindergarten through high school who are not currently receiving religious instruction (i.e. in a public or private school). These instructions prepare your child for the reception of the sacraments of **First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation**. Visit [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com) or phone Monica at 905-528-7988, ext. 2238.

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**Healing after an abortion - it is possible.** At Project Rachel we offer a confidential service allowing people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Phone us at 905-526-1999.

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## IN OTHER PARISHES

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A **Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long** is taking place on Wednesday, December 19 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul the Apostle parish in Burlington. Your free-will offering will go to support a refugee family.

If you think God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Michael King at 905-528-7988, ext. 7988 or [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com).



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