

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

(FOUNDED IN 1849)

2016 Blairholm Avenue, Burlington, On. L7R 1V4

905-634-2485 FAX 905-634-6460

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



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 9 am - 12 noon, 1 - 3:30 p.m.  
Tuesday-Thursday: 9 am - 12 noon, 1 - 4 p.m.  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday: Closed

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Tuesday 6:15 - 6:45 p.m.  
Saturday: 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon & by appointment

### BAPTISMS

Please take a baptism package from a table in the church.

### MARRIAGES

Please contact the pastor at least nine months in advance.



## Our Parish

### Monday December 24

Emotions Anonymous Meeting – 7 PM – WR

### Wednesday December 26

Legion of Mary – 9:30 AM – WR

Women's AA Group – 6:15 PM – Hall

### Thursday December 27

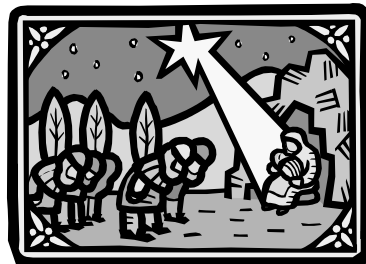
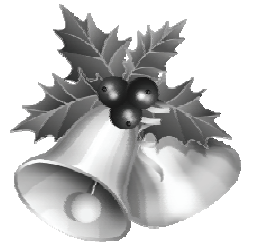
Cenacle Group – 9:30 AM – WR

Christian Meditation – 1 PM – WR

Choir Practice – 7 PM – Church

### Friday December 28

AA Meeting – 9 PM – Hall



## Mass Intentions

*“And blessed is she who believed...what was spoken to her by the Lord.”*

- Luke 1:45

### Monday December 24 – Christmas Vigil

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-16++

5 PM – Ann Cochrane

7 PM – Jacqueline Beaudoin

12 AM – Catherine Lynch

### Tuesday December 25 – Christmas Day

Isaiah 62:11-12; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:15-20

10 AM – Harry Murphy

### Wednesday December 26 – St. Stephen

Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Matthew 10:17-22 – No Mass

### Thursday December 27 – St. John

1 John 1:1-4; John 20:2-8

9 AM – Intentions of Luba Kuzma

### Friday December 28 – Holy Innocents

1 John 1:5, 2:2; Matthew 2:13-18

9 AM – Intentions of Joan Moore

### Saturday December 29

1 John 2:3-11; Luke 2:22-35

5 PM – Carole Desjardins

### Sunday December 30 – Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3:12-21; Luke 2:41-52

9 AM – Pro Populo (for the parishioners)

11 AM – Matthew Brown



## CWL Message

The CWL wishes Father Bob, the St. John staff, our members, the parishioners and their families a Blessed Christmas. May you know happiness and share it, find peace and live, understand love and give it. The **Craft Group** resumes January 8, 2019.

**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.

## FORMED Presents

### Brother Francis: O Holy Night

Celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas with Brother Francis in this heartwarming presentation of the birth of God's Son. Witness the moving submission of Mary, Joseph and others as they make way for our Saviour. Find this video 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.

**All donations for the 2018 tax year** must be received by the office no later than 12 noon on Monday, December 31 at which time the parish books and the parish office will be closed. Please note that any donations left after noon on December 31 must count toward 2019.

## IN THE DIOCESE

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. Answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions appear in parish bulletins regularly. A compilation of all questions that have been published are available throughout the campaign at [oneheartonesoul.ca](http://oneheartonesoul.ca).

### **What is the state of diocesan finances? Is this a desperate situation that requires a campaign?**

The diocesan financial picture is strong – the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. Meanwhile, the Diocese is generous with grants and loans to parishes and Catholic organizations within the Diocese. Parish assessments have been stable in recent years but have not kept up with increases in Diocesan operating costs. Property sales have been used more frequently to keep the Diocese's operating budget balanced and strong, and many assets (such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries) are restricted and not at the Diocese's disposal. This is not an emergency situation. The Diocese is looking ahead and acting before any kind of emergency could develop. Overall, the campaign is a way to ensure that more parishes will be able to be self-sufficient over the long term, building up themselves and the Diocese at the same time.

### **I've heard the Diocese has a lot of assets. Can't those be used?**

At the end of 2017, the Diocese reported assets of \$322 million. However, the majority of the assets are restricted assets, such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries, money legally reserved for the maintenance of cemetery operations and funds held for pre-arranged funeral services and burials. Unrestricted assets are less than a third of the total capital. Of these unrestricted assets, more than 90% is used to generate investment income that, when combined with parish assessments, pays for annual Diocesan operations (68%) and make funds available for grants and loans to

help parishes and organizations within and outside the Diocese (32%).

### **Is there any chance that funds would be used to settle potential claims of abuse of children by clergy?**

The tragic stories recently in the news, thankfully, do not reflect the circumstances and history of our diocese. However, it should still be noted that funds raised during the campaign will be held in a segregated account, in trust for the parishes and ministries for which they were raised. Both civil and canon law require the Diocese to use the gifts we receive for the stated purposes for which they were given – an obligation to which we are fully committed. Regarding how the Diocese handles abuse allegations, Bishop Crosby said in an August 2018 letter to all in the Diocese: "All allegations of sexual misconduct have been and will continue to be taken seriously and addressed immediately in accordance with our diocesan policy." For a link to the full letter, see our Diocesan website, [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

### **What kind of financial transparency can we expect during the campaign and beyond?**

Transparency is a top priority for the Diocese. Summaries of Diocesan financial reports from 2012 through 2017 are on the Diocesan website, and copies of the full reports are available from the Diocese's financial office. Regular updates of campaign goals, projects and fundraising will be communicated during the campaign through a number of avenues ; the website, emails, social media, to name a few.

**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.

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious consecrated man or woman, or deacon to carry the Good News of God's great love? 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).



*Merry Christmas and  
peace to everyone,  
- Fr. Bob and the staff*

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