

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



Feast of the Holy Family

HOLY FAMILY

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.



Mass Intentions

"...love one another, just as he has commanded us."

- 1 John 3:23b

Monday December 31

1 John 2:18-21; John 1:1-18

5 PM - Regino Del Villar

Tuesday January 1 - *Mary the Holy Mother of God*

Numbers 6:22-27; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:16-21

9 AM - Maureen Walsh

11 AM - Brian O'Meara

Wednesday January 2 - *St. Basil*

1 John 2:22-28; John 1:19-28

9 AM - Frank Mossuto

Thursday January 3

1 John 2:29, 3:1-6; John 1:29-34

9 AM - Intentions of Flo McDermott

Friday January 4

1 John 3:7-10; John 1:35-42

9 AM - Bill Yewdall

Saturday January 5

1 John 3:11-21; John 1:43-51

5 PM - Deceased members of the Borraccetti family

Sunday January 6 - *Epiphany of the Lord*

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

9 AM - Pro Populo (for the parishioners)

11 AM - Julius Stryker



Our Parish

Monday December 31

Emotions Anonymous Meeting - 7 PM - WR

Wednesday January 2

Legion of Mary - 9:30 AM - WR

Women's AA Group - 6:15 PM - Hall

Thursday January 3

Cenacle Group - 9:30 AM - WR

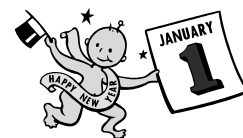
Christian Meditation - 1 PM - WR

Friday January 4

AA Meeting - 9 PM - Hall

Sunday January 6

Baptism Preparation Meeting - 10 AM - WR



CWL Message

The CWL wishes all parishioners good health, happiness and many blessings in the New Year. Please note that there are no monthly meetings in January or February but we'll see you in March. The **Craft Group** resumes January 8, 2019.

WRAP (White Ribbon Against Pornography) -

Thank you to all who took the time to write letters urging our government to create laws for age verification mechanisms to protect children from pornographic website access.

FORMED Presents

Nicholas: the Boy who Became Santa

Nicholas was still a young child when he discovered a very special secret that changed his life forever. It was the gift of giving, by which he brought happiness to many. Nevertheless, in sharing this gift, Nicholas had to face many dangers. Here is the fascinating story of the boy whose love and care for others make him one of the most popular figures of all times. Today, more than sixteen centuries later, the entire world celebrates the kindness and generosity of the man we call Santa Claus. Based on historical facts and traditions, *Nicholas: the Boy who Became Santa*, is the beautifully animated film worth watching all year long. 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 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.

The Pope's Prayer Intentions for January

✠ That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.



BAPTISM

Sofia de Ridder

*received the sacrament of baptism
on Sunday, December 16, 2018:*

Congratulations to her parents, Godparents and family.

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.

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.

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.

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