

# *St. Mary of the Visitation Parish*

116 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario N3C 2N2

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Rev. Robert Love, Pastor

Sister Marie Therese Slade, Parish Catechist

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca, Administrative Assistant

*"We are connected to our past, committed to our future and compassionately focussed on being a Family of Faith with something for everyone"*



*prepare the way...*

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



### WELCOME TO ST. MARY PARISH

A special welcome to all new members and visitors! We are really glad you're here! Please introduce yourself to our Pastor, Fr. Robert Love, or stop by our Welcome Desk for details on our parish life and ways of connecting.

### PARISH MASSES THIS WEEK

#### Tuesday, December 24

5:00 p.m.  
7:00 p.m.  
10:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m.

#### Thursday, December 26

*No Mass*

#### Friday, December 27 at 8 a.m.

+ Carol Brown

#### Saturday, December 28 at 5 p.m.

+ Matt McLean

### DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Very Rev. Wojciech Kuzma
Tuesday	Rev. James McSharry
Wednesday	<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>
Thursday	Rev. Martin Mikulski, S.A.C.
Friday	Rev. Joseph Okoko, i.v.Dei.
Saturday	Rev. Franjo Sprajc

### PARISH OFFERINGS

December 14/15, 2019

Sunday Offerings (*Envelopes and Loose*): \$4,054.30

Building Fund: \$ 333.00

*Thank you for your continued generosity.*

**CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTES:** Thank you for your dedications of flowers for the Christmas season. The floral tribute sheets will be placed near the altar and your loved ones will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

### Liturgical Ministries Schedule December 28/29 – TEAM A

Please **sign up** to serve for the Christmas and New Year's Masses.  
*Sign-up sheets located in the sacristy.*

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

*I want to wish you and your family all the blessings of the Christmas season. God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to redeem us and show us the way to the Father.*

*In the words of Saint John Paul II, "Christmas is not a day or a season – it is a way of life."*

*May God's blessings come down upon each one of you this Christmas. May you have a Merry Christmas and grace filled new year.*

*Fr. Robert Love*



### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

At the 5:00p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve, children of the parish will act out a simple narrative of the first Christmas.

### ANNUAL RED STOCKING CAMPAIGN:

Thank you for your participation in our Advent tradition of helping those in need through *Canadian Food for Children*. Our stockings have been delivered to the CFFC warehouse and will be shipped to children living in countries that are greatly in need of our donations. Thank you!!



### JINGLE JAM – Christmas Children's Ministry Program:

All children from JK to grade 4 are welcome to join our Jingle Jam program at the 5 pm and 7 pm Christmas Eve Masses. We have a special gift to share with you this Christmas!

**SAVE THE DATE!** We will be having a special farewell for Sister Marie Therese after Masses on **January 11 & 12**. We look forward to seeing you there!

### CHAPEL OF ADORATION

*"O, come let us adore Him!"* Our Adoration Chapel is open for all to make a quiet visit any time. To find out more about Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration please call: Sheila Mauser (519) 658-9414

### BISHOP CROSBY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE:

Copies are available at the church entrances.



Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be collecting donations after all masses next weekend. SSVP envelopes are available at the church entrances for those who would like tax receipts.

## CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

**Christmas Eve – December 24<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 p.m.**

*Family Mass with Pageant*

\* *Children's Ministry for JK-Gr 4  
& Shuttle Service*

**7:00 p.m.**

\* *Children's Ministry for JK-Gr 4  
& Shuttle Service*

**10:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day – December 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m.

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God – December 31<sup>st</sup>**

5:00 p.m.

**Mary, the Holy Mother of God – January 1<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 a.m.

*Shuttle Service:* A shuttle bus will be running from St. Gabriel School to our parish between 3:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on December 24<sup>th</sup>. Please consider using this service as our parking is very limited.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS & YEAR END GIVING

The Parish Office will be closed on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> and will open for regular hours on Monday, December 30. It will be closed again from Tuesday, December 31 – Thursday, January 2 and re-open on Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30a.m. We are currently updating information in our parish records for year end. Please notify the parish office of any changes in contact information.

Please remember that only donations made prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019, can be applied for income tax credit for this year. We ask that any donations to the Parish are **submitted by Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.

### CONFIRMATION RETREAT REMINDER:

All those preparing for Confirmation will gather together at St. Mary of the Visitation Parish for a retreat in preparation for Confirmation on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 for those attending St. Elizabeth School OR Wednesday, January 8, 2020 for those attending Our Lady of Fatima and St. Gabriel School. A letter was distributed to the schools and can be found on our website under Confirmation.

**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH** - For Catholics, Christmas is about so much more than gifts: it is the promise, through the birth of Jesus, of goodness and light coming into our lives. Do your children know this is the focus of Christmas? Advent and Christmas are perfect times to highlight the "reason for the season". Read stories about the Advent wreath so they understand what each candle symbolizes; read the story of the Nativity (more than once!); be sure the tree is adorned with symbols of the faith; read family Advent reflections daily during Advent; attend Mass and reflect on the readings each week, including Christmas Day. Faith sets a foundation on which to stand and Christmas is a perfect time to bring Christ into your family activities!

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** - At Christmas we gather with loved ones to share gifts, eat great food and build joyful memories. Sometimes we get caught up on the glitter and glam of the season and forget to take time as a couple to decide how much money, time and energy we can expend during the season. This year why not sit down in advance and decide how much you can do as a couple/family. Weave into your plans time for the two of you to take a quiet moment with each other. During Advent and Christmas, take time to pray and share important faith moments with each other. Trying these initiatives could make this Christmas your best yet!

**VOCATIONS:** We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest. Contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**MIDNIGHT MASS:** The traditional Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King will be celebrated by His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Carols will begin at 11:30PM, followed by mass at 12AM. The celebration will be live streamed and telecast on S+L and CHTV. All are welcome to attend or to watch via live stream or television.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY:** St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, Cambridge, is looking for a part-time Catechist. Please see the job posting on the Diocesan Website: [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

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