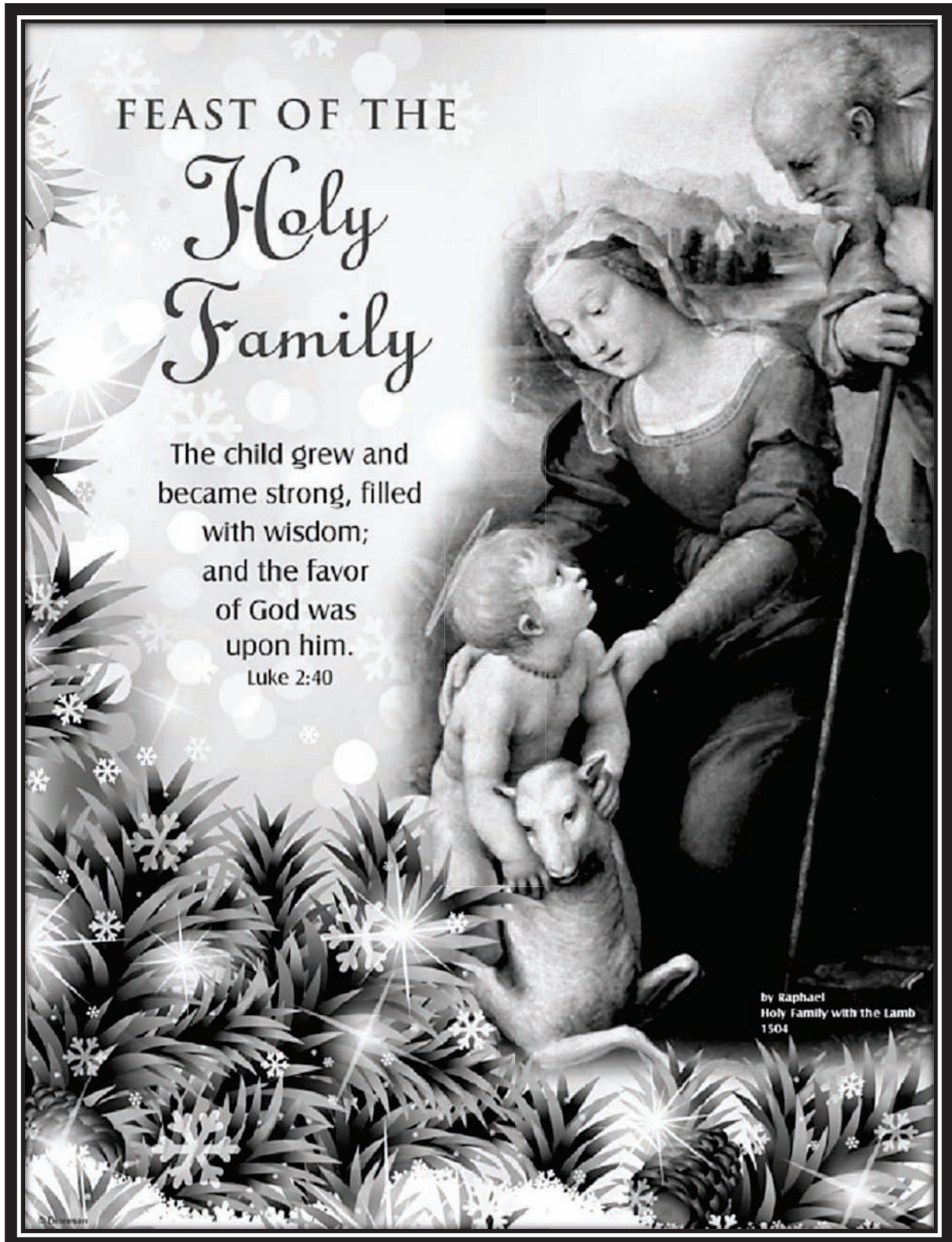


*St. Mark Roman Catholic Parish*

55 Driftwood Drive, Kitchener, Ontario N2N 3A2  
519-571-9200 | [www.stmarkcatholicparish.org](http://www.stmarkcatholicparish.org)



DECEMBER 26, 2021

# FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

## Mass Intentions for the Week



Dec. 27 – Jan. 2, 2021

Seating is restricted by physical distancing of 2 metres (6 feet) between households, until further notice. Masks are mandatory. Please stay home if you are feeling unwell.

**Tuesday** \* NO MASS

**Wednesday** \* NO MASS

**Thursday** (SIXTH DAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF THE NATIVITY)

12 Noon + Eileen Plouffe – Maurice

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

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

#### Friday 31<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Eve

\* NO AFTERNOON MASS

5:00 PM + Maria Campos – Campos family

#### Saturday, January 1<sup>st</sup> – New Year's Day

10:00 am – Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Mark

### SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

\* NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS

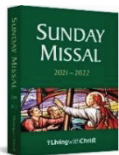
#### Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>

9:30 am + Dianne Weber – Brian & Marie Lynch

11:30 am + Deceased Correia Family – Justina Costa

## PARISH OFFICE

Due to pandemic protocols the parish office continues to be open by appointment only. Please call or email ahead to schedule a visit. **The office will be CLOSED on Dec. 27 and Dec. 28** in lieu of Christmas and Boxing Day.



**Living with Christ**  
**2021-2022 Sunday Missals**  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
IN THE NARTHEX ~ \$5 EACH

### VOCATION SEEDS ♦ Feast of the Holy Family ♦ Dec 26/21

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithfully your vocation as a single, married, ordained, or consecrated person. If God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon contact Bishop Wayne Lobsinger, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton ... 905-528-7988 | [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) | [www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations)

## Prayer for the New Year



*Oh Thou, who art ever the same,  
grant us so to pass through the  
coming year with faithful hearts,  
that we may be able in all things  
to please Thy loving eyes. Amen.*



*\* \* A Happy & Blessed \* \**  
*\* \* New Year to All! \* \**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

## The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost. ■



JANUARY 1, 2022

## The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Today's reading is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised.

Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation.

Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church.

Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith. ■

## "Keep Christ in Christmas" CAR MAGNETS

\$5 each in the narthex

PROCEEDS TO THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE





<b>Sun. Jan. 2</b>	<b>NO SATURDAY EVENING MASS</b>	<b>9:30AM Mass</b>	<b>11:30AM Mass</b>
<b>Reader:</b>		J. Flanigan	D. DeSousa
<b>Ushers:</b>		J./K. Snyder	B./C. Voisin
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>		A. Joseph M. Walsler	E. Weiss F. Kangaloo

**2022 Offertory Envelopes & Pre-Authorized Debits**

Boxes of Offertory Envelopes for 2022 are ready for pick up in the narthex. Each year you are assigned a new I.D. number so **please DO NOT use your 2022 envelopes until January.** Thank you.

If you are enrolled in our pre-authorized debit plan, you will still receive a box of envelopes in order to donate toward special causes (Christmas, Good Friday, World Missions, St. Vincent de Paul, etc.).

**If you would like to start using envelopes or enroll in the monthly debit plan** (or wish more info) please pick up a form from the information wall in the narthex, or contact Pam at the office to have one emailed to you.

**FINANCIAL DONATIONS TO ST. MARK'S FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR must reach the parish by Sunday, Dec. 26th** in order to be included on your 2021 tax receipt.  
Any donations received after Dec. 26th will be posted to 2022.

**Hamilton Diocesan Speaker Series**

- YEAR OF AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY -

The kick-off to the Diocesan speaker series, meant to celebrate the year, will be in January, with a special 3-part presentation by Bishop Lobsinger, with input from the Pastoral Offices staff.

The evening sessions will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, and will unpack the great wisdom in *Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love in Families and Church.*

The presentations, by Zoom, are meant to engage all members of the Diocese in looking at both the challenges and blessings of families in the world today. **Check the Diocesan website at <https://amorislaetitia.hamiltondiocese.com> for more information about both the year and the Diocesan Speaker Series.** Online registration will be necessary to receive the link, where you can join in by phone or internet. For more information contact Teresa Hartnett at [thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com), or 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

**Celebrating the Feast of the Holy Family at Home**

The Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis and the Liturgy Office have prepared the following link to a beautiful resource for families to share and pray together in celebration of the Feast of the Holy Family. As we face new concerns with COVID-19, many families may find this a welcome resource in guiding their devotions at home:

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/holyfamily2021/>

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** – “Intentional divorce” and “conscious uncoupling” are two terms becoming popular in the North American vernacular, but what we should be promoting is intentional marriage and conscience coupling. The research is clear that couples can take steps to remain and even deepen their love. Consciously making the decision to spend time together, to share our deepest feelings (good and bad), to use touch throughout the day, to make date-night (however that looks) a priority will build your couple relationship. Looking for moments of gratitude and thanking your spouse will increase the loving bond between you. This Christmas make conscious coupling your gift to each other; it may be the best gift you will ever receive!



LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

**The Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for:**

† Kathy Germann and † Carl Hauck



You may request to have one or both lamps burn for a special intention or for the repose of someone’s soul. Public intentions will be published in the bulletin and on our website; private intentions will not. Cost is \$5 per candle, per week. Simply drop a plain envelope marked “Sanctuary Lamp” into the collection and include the stipend and the name of the person(s) you wish to remember.

**DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR** | This week let us pray for...

DEC. 27	DEC. 28	DEC. 29	DEC. 30	DEC. 31
Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch	Rev. Francisco Cruz	Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)	Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.	Rev. Melvin Pinto, O.C.D.

**Prayer for Vocations ...** God, the source of creation and love, You invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights of holiness through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen.

**C.W.L. Membership Dues ...** Please look for

the blue envelope for 2022 membership fees in your December envelopes. All councils have been asked to submit membership renewals as of December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. This will help National office have an accurate snapshot of our membership at Parish, Diocesan, Provincial and National levels. It will also ensure that The League Magazine will continue to be sent to you, uninterrupted. New members are always welcome.



**2021 Ontario Charities 50-50 Online Raffle**

**Jackpot Draw on Dec. 31, 2021**

**To purchase tickets:**

- visit: <https://www.kofcontario5050.com>
- click the “Buy Tickets Now” button
- select your number of tickets and click the “Checkout” button
- fill in your [Billing Information](#), and
  - under “Organization” select “**Kitchener St. Mark’s 9276**”
  - then click “Continue”
- fill in your [Payment Information](#) and click “Submit Order”
- **You will then receive an email from KofC Ontario with your Order Confirmation ... this is your OFFICIAL TICKET** and must be presented if you win, so keep it in a safe place. You will not receive any physical tickets.



**PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH** - The excitement of Christmas begins to build even before Halloween. Children are targeted with ads and commercials to ask Santa for the latest toys, electronic device or game. As parents we love to see the anticipation, but our task is a greater one – it is to keep the reason for Christmas at the forefront of our children’s minds and understanding. Are they as excited about the coming of Christ and it’s meaning for all people? Do they have a sense that long after every gift they desire from Santa is gone, the truths, love, care, compassion, guidance and stability from God will live on to help each of us to live and, ultimately, receive the gift of eternity? The true gift of Christmas should never be the last one we think of, or get excited about, since it is indeed the most valuable. Advent is the perfect time to daily bring all of this to light!



**SUPERIOR**  
MEMORIALS  
Since 1924

528 Victoria St. N., beside Weston's Bakery  
519-745-6136

Call  
**1-800-268-2637**  
for this space



**Jane Petrovich**  
B.Sc. M.Sc. B.Ed. OCT  
Professional  
Online  
Tutoring Services

All Grades: JK-12  
All subjects & including Special  
Education & Essay/Report Writing  
226-220-7993



**2M Taylor**

Alterations & Tailoring  
for men, women & children  
Custom Tailoring  
**519.578.6054**  
milicabojo@hotmail.com



**Frank Marinelli 519-489-0621 • www.thebig.ca/kitchener-waterloo**



**BON APATREAT**  
SWEETS BAKE SHOP

Open 7 days a week!  
Come by for a treat or  
call to place your order  
450 Westheights Dr  
519-497-3351  
www.BonApatreat.shop



**IT'S WISE to ADVERTISE!**

**We ♥ our Residents™**

**Lanark Village**

**We're Here for You Through Everything**

Independent & Assisted Living.  
Call us today for an in-person  
or virtual tour.

**44 Lanark Cres. ♥**  
**519-743-0121**



**KITCHENER FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATORIUM INC**

- Most Affordable Burial or Cremation Services in the Region
- Multi-faith facility able to accommodate all traditions & customs
- Enclosed onsite Crematorium
- Largest gathering halls in the region
- Pre-planning available with Travel Insurance
- Repatriation services available

3 Forwell Rd, Kitchener  
519-340-0425  
info@kitchenerfuneralhome.com



**DISCOVER HEARING CENTRE**

Call us Today to Schedule a  
**FREE Hearing Test**

**519-208-HEAR (4327)**

- Hearing Testing
- Tinnitus Management
- Earwax Removal
- Hearing Aid Trials
- Hearing Aid Repair
- Custom Protection

Independently Owned! Address: Unit 9-450 Westheights Dr.




Order Online  
Pickup Or Delivery  
Everyday 8am-9pm  
Breakfast Special  
**\$3.95**  
8am-2pm

**875 Highland Rd W**  
**519-208-2999**  
www.halibutthouse.ca



**ERB & GOOD**

**FAMILY FUNERAL HOME**  
Family Owned Since 1946  
171 King St. S. Waterloo  
**519.745.8445**  
www.erbgood.com

**Vogue Optical** 2nd PAIR FREE POLICY

**Where your 2nd Pair is Always Free!**

235 Ira Needles Blvd • (519) 896-7930

**vogueoptical.com**

**Shop LOCAL • Spend LOCAL**  
**Eat LOCAL • Enjoy LOCAL**

*and support the local businesses that support your parish*



**Henry Walser FUNERAL HOME LTD.**

AN INDEPENDENT FAMILY - OWNED FUNERAL HOME

507 FREDERICK ST. (at expressway)  
**519-749-8467**




**REITZEL HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING**

665 Superior Drive, Waterloo, Ont N2V 2C8 **519-884-3510**

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Residential
- Radiant Heaters
- Gas Furnaces
- Air Conditioning