

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

14400 Argyll Road, Georgetown, ON L7G 5S6
(905) 873-1887 www.holycrossrc.com

PARISH STAFF

Father K. Cull, Pastor
email kcull@hamiltondiocese.com or follow on Twitter at @FrCull
Mrs. Eileen Anderson, Secretary
Mr. Dino Arsenault, Maintenance
Mrs. Theresa Scholz, Parish Nurse

prepare the way...



ADVENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
SUNDAY, December 20 <i>Advent 4</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish (2 Samuel 7.1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Romans 16.25-27; Luke 1.26-38)	
MONDAY, December 21		No Mass	
	6:30 p.m.		9am Choir Rehearsal - All Members
TUESDAY, December 22	2 - 3:00 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour	
	6 - 6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	7:00 p.m.	Daily Mass (1 Samuel 1.24-28; Luke 1.46-56) (I) Margaret & John McPherson	
WEDNESDAY, December 23	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (Malachi 3.1-4, 4.5-6; Luke 1.57-66) † Michele Graziani	
	7:00 p.m.		5pm Choir Rehearsal - St. Cecilia Rm
CHRISTMAS EVE, THURSDAY, December 24	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass (Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16)	
	12 Midnight	Solemn Midnight Mass with Incense (Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16)	
CHRISTMAS DAY, FRIDAY, December 25	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass (Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16)	
SATURDAY, December 26	4 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - Feast of the Holy Family <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Sue Luciani; Melanie Luciani; Hermano Almeida; Doug Christensen; Bill Kent; Nellie Stoyles.	
This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of Father Tom Murphy.			

A Christmas Message from Father Cull

"Today is born our Saviour, Christ the Lord." Later this week we will enter into the joyful celebration of our Saviour's birth! We gather as a parish family to marvel at the humility of our God who came to us in poverty and simplicity. As we recall the events of that first Christmas, we too experience the joy of the shepherds and make our way to the manger where the miracle has taken place: God has become man and lives among us.

It is my heartfelt prayer that you will feel welcome and loved at Holy Cross Parish. What a blessing it is to pray together and enter into the heart of the Father's everlasting love at Holy Mass. May the peace of the holy and joyous season of Christmas remain with you and your loved ones.

With my love and prayers,

Father Cull

MESSAGE FROM FR. CULL

Jubilee Year of Mercy... On December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Pope Francis proclaimed a Holy Year of Mercy to usher in what he describes as a "revolution of tenderness." He added, "I believe that this is a time for mercy. We are all sinners, we all carry burdens within us. I felt Jesus wants to open the door of His heart...Were sin the only thing that mattered, we would be the most desperate of creatures. But the promised triumph of Christ's love enfolds everything in the Father's mercy." In a special way during this Jubilee Year, please join me in praying daily the prayer for our parish family that I have placed at the end of my message under the heading of "Father Cull's Updates" on the parish website. The prayer emphasizes the importance of bringing healing and peace, the qualities of a merciful heart, to one another.

Outdoor Hockey . . . Over the Christmas holidays and further along the winter months, please know that I would be delighted to join you for some hockey if you have a backyard rink, pond (preferably one that is frozen over!) or other area where you will be gathering to play. Feel free to contact me at the parish office if you or your family are planning some outdoor fun.

CHRISTMAS BREAK FAMILY FUN SKATE

Please plan to join us on Monday, December 28th for skating and hot chocolate, coffee and Timbits. We have rented a rink at MoldMasters from 7:15 p.m. to 8:05 p.m. and we would love to see you there! Tickets will be sold for \$5.00 a family after all Masses this weekend. For information or to purchase tickets contact Jane Santaluce at 905-877-7226 or Marie Simpson at 905-873-9480.

CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTES

During the Christmas Season, it is a fitting gesture to dedicate floral tributes in memory of deceased relatives and friends. These tributes express our faith in Christ's promise of eternal life and help to beautify the church. Forms are available in the narthex for all who wish to make a donation. Envelope users may simply use the special envelope provided in their box. The names of all the deceased will be placed near the altar in a gift-wrapped box and your loved ones will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas Season.

TELEVISED CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

His Excellency, the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, OMI, DD, Bishop of Hamilton will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. This is the 60th year that CHCH-TV has televised the Midnight Mass which is broadcast live and then repeated at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. A carol service will begin at 11:30 p.m.

followed by Midnight Mass. The televising of this celebration is made possible by the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Each year at Christmas we welcome many who come to pray with us and adore the new-born King. Hospitality is such an important hallmark of these festive days. May the warmth and joy of our Christmas celebrations touch the hearts and minds of those who gather, awakening within them a deeper love for Christ. Please pray that our celebration of Christmas will be a source of blessing for all!

Please note that additional parking is available at the Metro Plaza on Christmas Eve. Common courtesy in the parking lot will be appreciated by all! Note the times of our Christmas & New Year's Masses:

CHRISTMAS EVE (Thursday, December 24th):

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Mass
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Mass
- 9:00 p.m. Christmas Mass
- 12:00 a.m. Solemn Midnight Mass
(with Incense)

CHRISTMAS DAY (Friday, December 25th):

- 9:00 a.m. Christmas Mass
(with Children's Pageant)
- 10:30 a.m. Christmas Mass
- No afternoon or evening Masses at Holy Cross or in the Diocese of Hamilton on Christmas Day.*

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER for PEACE**

January 1st is a *Holy Day of Obligation* for Catholics in Canada which means that the obligation to attend Mass is the same as if it were a regular Sunday. On this first day of the new year we celebrate Mary under her principal title *Mother of God*. It is also the *World Day of Prayer for Peace*. At Holy Cross our Masses will be celebrated:

NEW YEAR'S EVE (Thursday, December 31st):

- 5:00 p.m.

NEW YEAR'S DAY (Friday, January 1st):

- 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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