# Holy Cross Catholic Parish

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

**PARISH STAFF** 

Father David Walter, Pastor<br/>Twitter: @HCParishemail: dwalter@hamiltondiocese.comFacebook: @HCParishGeorgetown

Mrs. Eileen Anderson, Secretary Mr. Kyle Sibbett, Maintenance Mrs. Theresa Scholz, Parish Nurse

prepare the way...

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#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
SUNDAY, December 22 <i>Advent 4</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish (Isaiah 7.10-14; Romans 1.1-7; Matthew 1.18-24)	
MONDAY, December 23		No Mass	
<i>CHRISTMAS EVE,</i> TUESDAY, December 24	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 12 Midnight	Christmas Eve Mass (Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16)	
CHRISTMAS DAY, WEDNESDAY, 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)	
THURSDAY, December 26		No Mass	
FRIDAY, December 27		No Mass	
SATURDAY, December 28	4 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Adelaide Silva & Antonio Frias; Eliodoro Oliveira; Jose Costa & Paula Lemos; Mary Ellen & John Umberson & John & Elizabeth Haire; Fred Marks; Souls in Purgatory.	This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of the deceased members of the Everard Family.

## Christmas Message from Fr. Dave

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas! As we joyfully welcome the Christ-child into our lives, let us all take time to really let the love of God take root in our hearts.

It has once again been a busy year at Holy Cross with many thriving ministries that keep the parish vibrant in worship, and vibrant through our caring outreach to those in need in so many ways. For the countless hours of volunteer work that you all give, I express my sincere gratitude. A church is only as 'alive' as its parishioners' willingness to get involved, and I thank everyone for their commitment to our parish family! I look forward to another grace-filled year in 2020!

And on a personal note as I celebrate my first Christmas with you, I wanted to take a moment to say a big thank you to everyone for your kind welcome into the parish. When I arrived in January I have to admit to being quite nervous, wondering how Holy Cross would accept 'the new guy'. Fortunately, my fears were quickly dispelled by your warm welcome. Your support has been better than I could have imagined, and I thank you for helping me to settle in as smoothly as possible. I truly feel like Georgetown is now 'home', and I am grateful for this opportunity to serve as pastor of Holy Cross. I look forward to continuing my time here through 2020 and beyond, and renew my commitment to dedicate 100% of my time and energies to serving the parish.

Merry Christmas, and may God abundantly bless you and your families over this coming year!

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#### **COLLECTION REPORT**

Regular Collection • December 1	\$ 6,835.90
Total number of regular envelopes – 296	
Average envelope donation – \$19.95	
Building Fund	\$ 275.00
Regular Collection • December 8	\$ 8,353.65
Total number of regular envelopes – 431 Average envelope donation – \$17.51	
Building Fund	\$ 2,616.60
Regular Collection • December 15	\$ 7,723.75
Total number of regular envelopes – 94 Average envelope donation – \$16.43	
Building Fund	\$ 2,455.00
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$ 28,259.90

#### YEAR END DONATIONS

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2019 donations in 2020. If you would like to make a "yearend donation" please do so before or by December 31, 2019. Donations received or dated after December 31 must be credited for 2020. Thank you.

#### HOLY CROSS H.E.L.P.S.

Holy Cross HELPS would like to thank parishioners for their continued support and generosity. The November special collection was \$6,569.65 and we responded to 18 calls for food assistance as well as distributed 79 gift cards for Christmas help to clients. On behalf of those in need in our community, we pass on their sincere gratitude and appreciation for your generosity.

#### PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed from Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> until Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Messages will be monitored throughout the office closure. If there is a medical emergency requiring the ministry of a priest please call the parish at 905-873-1887 and press ext. 3 to reach Father Dave.

#### SUNDAY (Novalis) MISSALS

2020 Sunday Missals will be available for purchase after all Masses this weekend. The Knights of Columbus sell the Missals for \$5 each. The Sunday Missal is useful for reflecting on the Scripture readings before Mass. Your 2019 Missals can be left with the Knights for disposal.

#### 2020 WEDDINGS

Couples planning to marry in 2020 should contact the parish office. Kindly note that we require one year's notice of marriage to allow time for marriage preparation and the completion of the necessary documents. This requirement also applies to couples from Georgetown who are planning marriage outside the Diocese of Hamilton.

# **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

# CHRISTMAS MASS ATTENDANCE "STRATEGY"

As you know, at Christmas we have the opportunity to welcome large numbers of people at our Masses. If you wish to 'strategically plan' which Mass you want to attend, these observations from last year may be helpful:

#### CHRISTMAS EVE (Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>):

5:00 p.m. Church overflowing, standing room only

7:00 p.m. Church full, a few people standing

9:00 p.m. Church comfortably full

12:00 a.m. Church comfortably full

#### CHRISTMAS DAY (Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>):

9:00 a.m. (with Children's Pageant) Church 3/4 full

10:30 a.m. Church full

<u>Saving Seats At Christmas</u> - please note that we will respect those saving seats at Christmas Masses to a degree, but once the church has filled - if your family/friends haven't yet arrived - ushers have been instructed to begin seating people in saved seats. As we welcome many extra people at Christmas, it's a wonderful opportunity to show our Holy Cross hospitality!

#### HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (Sunday, December 29<sup>th</sup>):

Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m.; 10:30 a.m. & 12:00 noon

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

January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 (Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>):**

5:00 p.m.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY (Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>):

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

