

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

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Mrs. Eileen Anderson, Secretary



Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
SUNDAY, December 27 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon	<i>LIVE STREAM</i> Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish (Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3.12-21; Luke 2.22-40) (<i>ON LINE at 6:00 a.m.</i>)	<i>ON LINE ONLY</i>
MONDAY, December 28		NO MASS	
TUESDAY, December 29	6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour - <i>CANCELLED</i>	
	6 - 6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - <i>CANCELLED</i>	
		NO MASS	
WEDNESDAY, December 30		NO MASS	
<i>NEW YEARS' EVE</i> THURSDAY, December 31		NO MASS	
<i>NEW YEARS' DAY</i> FRIDAY, January 1	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	<i>LIVE STREAM</i> The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (Numbers 6.22-27; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21) (<i>ON LINE at 6:00 a.m.</i>)	<i>ON LINE ONLY</i>
SATURDAY, January 2	4 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - <i>CANCELLED</i>	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - Epiphany of the Lord (<i>ON LINE at 6am <u>Sunday</u></i>) <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Lynn Bullock; Janina Gaszynska; George & Nina Busuttill; Maria Polera; Jim Kavanagh; Sue Connor.	This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in thanksgiving for Grace received.

From the Pastor's Desk - Merry Christmas!

Once again, a very Merry Christmas to everyone as we carry on during this Christmas season. We celebrate many beautiful feasts after Christmas that sometimes get overlooked - St. Stephen; The Holy Innocents; The Feast of Mary, Mother of God; the Epiphany. During this time I encourage you to keep up with the daily Mass readings which you can find online, and continue to pray with the rhythm of the liturgical year. Having celebrated the birth of Jesus, let us now 'grow up' with him by following the gospel narrative of his life, perhaps making a New Year's resolution to follow the daily readings, learn more about our Lord, and grow deeper in our relationship with Him. That is one New Year's resolution that you will not regret! Merry Christmas everyone, and a blessed and happy New Year! - Fr. Dave

The Provincial Lockdown and Churches – We are Closed

Many of you have naturally wondered how the province-wide lockdown announced by Premier Ford on Monday affects Churches. The answer is that we are included in the lockdown effective Dec. 26th at 12:01am. This means that we are closed for all public Masses until further notice. The current lockdown we are told will last for 28 days, but this of course could change. We will keep you posted through our website, Facebook and Twitter.

Office is Also Closed Until Further Notice

The provincial lockdown order includes the closure of our parish office as well. Although we will still be checking messages and working, the office will be closed except for necessary in-person appointments. All other ministry will be offered by phone, email or online video conference services.

The Building Is Closed, But We're Still Here!

Although the building will be closed during the lockdown, that doesn't mean that we're not here! Fr. Hayden and Fr. Dave will still be celebrating Mass daily for the scheduled intentions, and for the intentions of the parish. We will still post content online including the Sunday Mass, daily Gospel Reflections, and will work to offer more ways of engaging online. Further, we will still be offering ministry by phone, and are available for emergencies to offer the Sacrament of the Sick, abiding by the protocols of our hospitals, senior homes, and emergency visits to your personal homes. The building may be closed, but the Church is never closed!

Online Resources

We will continue to engage with the parish online. A list of links to online resources will be published on our parish website, including links to our Facebook, Twitter and Youtube channels. We can't currently gather in person, but we will certainly do all that we can do to stay in touch!

A Big Thank You!

Since reopening in June following the spring lockdown we have had a dedicated 'army' of volunteers helping to make it happen! To all our ushers, cleaners, liturgical ministers, musicians, decorators – THANK YOU! We simply could not have remained open without your help. You don't get enough recognition for your efforts, so may this message be a small token of the parish's gratitude. You also went above and beyond to make our Christmas Mass celebrations so beautiful. A big thank you as well to our CWL, Knights of Columbus, Holy Cross HELPS and all of our ministries operating behind the scenes. And to all of our ministries that aren't able to operate right now but are eager to start up again when possible, thank you so much! As soon as we can gather again post-COVID, we look forward to celebrating your commitment with a great volunteer appreciation event!

Clarification on the Moral Acceptability of COVID Vaccines

The Vatican's *Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith* this week released a statement approved by Pope Francis on the Church's teachings on the moral acceptability of receiving a vaccine to protect against COVID-19 infection. The short answer is that **it is morally acceptable to receive one of these vaccines** once they become available. You may read the entire text of the statement at: <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2020/12/21/0681/01591.html#ing>

Sunday Missals for 2021

Sunday Missals for Advent and Sundays of 2021 are available in the church for \$5 each. If you are not able to get to the church, you may contact the Knights of Columbus at fj.stpierre@sympatico.ca to arrange home delivery of your book.

One Heart, One Soul Capital Campaign - Update

The *One Heart, One Soul* Capital Campaign for our parish is beginning in phases, and some have already been offered the opportunity to participate. We will be rolling it out fully in the new year and look forward to presenting the projects that we wish to undertake including repairs of our air conditioning system, a lighting retrofit, a new sound system, debt reduction, as well as a fund to make up for lost revenue during COVID, with an eye to bringing on new pastoral staff once we find ourselves back to 'normal'. It's been a tough time for many and we certainly recognize that – we just ask that you prayerfully consider helping us in anyway that you can. If you have any questions or comments you are always welcome to reach out to Fr. Dave by phone or email.

'Virtual' Children's Liturgy

We really miss welcoming our little ones each Sunday for Children's Liturgy. Until we are able to safely offer this program again, we have an online option – visit our website to follow our link to 'Children's Liturgy' each week to find some fun information and activities for families!

2021 Weddings

Couples planning to marry in 2022 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 marriages outside the Diocese of Hamilton.

Year End Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting any 2020 donations in 2021. If you would like to make a "year end donation" please do so before or by December 31, 2020. **Donations received or dated after December 31 must be credited to 2021.** Thank you.

Dr. Simone, Canadian Food for Children - CLOSED!

Please note that Dr. Simone's Mississauga warehouse is closed until further notice. We will be unable to accept items at the parish until the warehouse re-opens. Please watch the bulletin to find out when we will start accepting items again.

Have You Recently Moved or Changed Your Contact Info?

If you have moved or changed your telephone number or email address in the last few months, kindly let us know at the parish office so we can update our records.

An Act of Spiritual Communion Prayer

Here is a traditional prayer to use to make an Act of Spiritual Communion in times when we are unable to receive our Lord in the Holy Eucharist:

***My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You are already there and unite
myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.***

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