

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

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PARISH STAFF

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Feast of the Holy Family

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
SUNDAY, December 31 Holy Family	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish <i>(ON LINE at 6:00 a.m.)</i>	
NEW YEAR'S EVE, Sunday, December 31	5:00 p.m.	Mary, Mother of God	
NEW YEAR'S DAY, Monday, January 1	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Mary, Mother of God	
TUESDAY, January 2	6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour	
	6:00 - 6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	7:00 p.m.	Daily Mass † Mary Tucker	
WEDNESDAY, January 3	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Pat Melvin, Danny Hayes & James Carey	
THURSDAY, January 4	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (I) Marcy McGregor	
FRIDAY, January 5	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass † Maria Filomena Aguiar † Margaret Michelin (I) Priests of the Hamilton Diocese (I) Special Intentions	<i>followed by Adoration until 12:00 p.m.</i>
SATURDAY, January 6	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (I) Chris Fines	
	4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - the Epiphany of the Lord <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Bob O'Gorman; Jose Guilherme Tavares; Maria Branco; Walter & Evangelina Vasconsellos; Theresa Dias & Margaret Oliveira; Bento & Maria Borges.	This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of Rosalina dos Anjos.

From the Pastor's Desk

We have another 'action packed' liturgical weekend! On Sunday, Dec 31st we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family followed by the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on Jan 1st. We spend the Christmas season reflecting on the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, but also reflecting on the beauty of the Holy Family and on Mary under her title of Mother of God. These great feast days of the Church year point us to the importance of life and family, all part of God's loving plan for all of us. Let's take some time this week to give thanks for the blessings of our families, to pray for them and for each other. May we all look to the Holy Family as our model, and for their prayerful intercessions!

Sunday Smile

Walking home late last night I passed a hot fudge sundae, a lemon cheesecake and a slice of apple pie. I thought to myself...The streets are strangely deserted tonight.

Quote of the Week

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received...but only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage." — *St. Francis of Assisi*

Feast of Mary, Mother of God - Dec 31 - Jan 1

The Feast of Mary, Mother of God is a Solemnity in the Church and a Holy Day of Obligation. We will offer our usual Mass schedule for Sunday (Dec 30/31) for the Feast of the Holy Family, and the Masses for Mary, Mother of God on Dec 31/Jan 1 will be:

- Sun, Dec 31 - 5:00pm
- Mon, Jan 1 - 9:00am & 10:30am (no 12 noon Mass today)

Sanctuary Lamp

You may wish to donate the Sanctuary Lamp in memory of a deceased loved one. Please contact the parish office for further details.

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2024

Boxed sets of 2024 envelopes are available for pick in the Narthex. If you are not currently an envelope user and would like to start please contact the parish office. Also, *pre-authorized giving* forms for 2024 were mailed this week - please return them promptly. If you would like to learn more about this way of supporting the parish please contact the office.

Year End Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2023 donations in 2024. If you would like to make a “year end donation” please do so before or by December 31, 2023. Donations received or dated after December 31 must be credited for 2024. Thank you.

Sunday (Novalis) Missals

2024 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 2023 Missals can be left with the Knights for disposal.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

New Year’s Resolutions for a Healthier Life

According to the Ontario Heart Center, almost 80% of premature heart diseases can be prevented through healthy lifestyle habits including **quitting smoking**. Smoking is a major risk factor for heart and lung diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), lung cancer, and other respiratory diseases as well as triggering asthma attack. Quitting smoking can significantly reduce the risk of heart and lung diseases, leading to a healthier, longer life. Talk to your Doctor or visit www.ontarioheartcenter.ca and www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/health-concerns/tobacco/smonking-your-body.html for more information.

Register Your Child for Kindergarten at HCDSB!

Kindergarten registration at the Haltopn Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) for the 2024-2025 school year is now open! Parents and guardians who are interested in registering their child for Kindergarten are invited to visit the HCDSB website for more information: <https://hcdsb.info/KindergartenRegistration>

Dr. Simone - Canadian Food for Children

We are accepting donations for Dr. Simone’s Mississauga Warehouse. Please remember to wash and fold your clothing and bedding donations. If you have any questions about what is acceptable please contact the warehouse at 905-274-9239 or www.canadianfoodforchildren.net

Have You Moved Recently?

If you have moved or changed telephone numbers in the past few months, kindly let us know at the parish office so we can update our records.

Retrouvaille

Give yourself the gift of a joyful marriage! Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. By learning the tools of healthy communication, you can build greater intimacy. Retrouvaille is Catholic in origin, but welcomes couples of all faiths. Retrouvaille can help get your relationship back on track. January 19-21, 2024 in Mississauga. For more information call 437-234-5610 or visit www.torontoretrovaille.com or www.helpourmarriage.org

Rosary Repairs

Do you have a broken rosary lying around that you’re not sure what to do with? Well, there’s good news! We have a parishioner that has the skills and tools to repair rosaries, and is more than happy to do so for you! There is a box in the narthex titled ‘Rosary Repairs’ – simply take an envelope from the box to insert the broken rosary, write your name and contact information on it and we will let you know when it’s fixed and ready to pick up.

Hospital Stays

For your information - Due to privacy laws, the hospital does not provide us with a list of Catholic patients as was the practice in the past, even if you give them information about your religious affiliation when admitted. This is just a reminder that if you find yourself or a loved one in the hospital and wish to have a visit from Father, please contact the office so we don’t miss you! If it is an emergency, ask a nurse to contact the on-call priest.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

There is sometimes confusion over what the Sacrament of the Sick is. Anyone experiencing serious illness may receive the sacrament, not just those who are close to death. In fact, it is preferable to receive the sacrament early in an illness when the person in ill health can benefit from the healing graces available as they battle their sickness. It is also the case that one can receive the Sacrament more than once during a time of serious illness, so there is no need to wait until the ‘last minute’ to call the priest. ‘Last Rites’, as the sacrament is often referred to, is actually the receiving of three sacraments if the person is able – *Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, and Holy Communion*. If you or a loved one have been diagnosed with a serious illness, contact the office to set up a time to receive the sacrament. If it is a hospital emergency (at any hospital, not just Georgetown), the nurses will have the contact information of local on-call priests which you can request.

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