

# 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 27 <i>Holy Family</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish (Sirach 3.2-6, 12-14; Colossians 3.12-21; Luke 2.41-52)	
MONDAY, December 28	6:30 p.m.		9am Choir Rehearsal - CANCELLED
	7:15 p.m.	to 8:05 p.m.	FAMILY SKATE at MoldMasters
TUESDAY, December 29	6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour	
	6 - 6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	7:00 p.m.	Daily Mass (1 John 2.3-11; Luke 2.22-35) † Ellen Stoyles	
	7:30 p.m.		KofC Executive Meeting - St. Joseph
WEDNESDAY, December 30	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (1 John 2.12-17; Luke 2.36-40) † Virgilio, Manuel, Antonio & Francisco Sales	
	7:00 p.m.		5pm Choir Rehearsal - St. Cecilia Rm
THURSDAY, December 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	5:00 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Numbers 6.22-27; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21)	
FRIDAY, January 1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (Numbers 6.22-27; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21)	
SATURDAY, January 2	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> Bento Borges; George & Nina Busuttill; Keith Pollok; Michele Stamaglia; Bernard & Helen Hastings. And for the Intentions of Jack Kelly; Anne Jardine, and Steve & Rosemary Digby	

This week's Sanctuary Lamp is for Special Intentions.

### MESSAGE FROM FATHER CULL

*A heartfelt expression of thanks . . .* On behalf of the parish staff, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all who sent greetings, cards and gifts. I very much appreciate your generosity and kindness, and I rejoice in the blessing of serving you throughout the coming year. I assure you of my prayers each morning before the Blessed Sacrament. May the Christmas season be a time of peace and joy for you and your loved ones. A special word of thanks is extended to all who helped to celebrate Christmas with such reverence and gracious dignity. Thanks to all who gave of their time and talents to decorate the church so beautifully. Thanks to the choirs, children's liturgy leaders, altar servers, readers, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and ministers of hospitality.

*Feast of the Holy Family . . .* This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We call to mind that the Son of God was born into a human family, and

it was within this family that He was loved and nurtured. The Holy Family is a model for all families. May each family of this parish be rooted in the prayerfulness and generosity of the members of the Holy Family. The familiarity of family life can sometimes blind us from seeing and appreciating the goodness in each other. Families grow in strength when each person in the family - from grandparents to the youngest child - is treasured as a unique and irreplaceable gift.

*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 the winter weather arrives, 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.

***Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God***

January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day, is observed as a Solemnity and a Holy Day of Obligation in Canada. It is also the World Day of Prayer for Peace. Catholics have a solemn obligation to worship at Mass on this day. Hopefully, we are motivated to respond to this obligation out of love for Mary, who always leads us into the heart of her beloved Son. On this day, we give praise and thanks to God for the gift of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and the spiritual mother of all the faithful. The scriptural basis for this Solemnity is found in the Gospel of John, chapter 19. While dying on the cross, Jesus told the beloved disciple, who represents each one of us, "Behold your mother." **Masses will be celebrated on New Year's Eve at 5:00 p.m. and on New Year's Day at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**

**CHRISTMAS BREAK FAMILY FUN SKATE**

Please plan to join us on Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> 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! Contact Jane Santaluce at 905-877-7226 for tickets.

**TOONIES FOR TURKEYS UPDATE**

The Knights of Columbus would like to pass along a heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously gave to our Toonies for Turkeys fundraiser. Because of all your support we are happy to report that we will be presenting the Georgetown Bread Basket (Food Bank) a cheque for \$2,400. In addition to this, the Knights of Columbus are also donating \$1000 for a total of \$3,400 being donated to the food bank. Many families will have a turkey for Christmas this year.

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER FOR THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY**

Pope Francis has announced an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in the Universal Church. This Holy Year of Mercy began on December 8<sup>th</sup> to commemorate both the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council, which called the Church to proclaim the Gospel to the world in new ways, bringing God's mercy to everyone. The Year will conclude on November 20, 2016.

In a specially written prayer for the Year of Mercy, the Holy Father entreats the Lord to make the Jubilee of Mercy a year of grace so that the Church, "with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind."

Together with those throughout the Diocese of Hamilton we are encouraged to pray the following:

Almighty God,  
you reveal your love for us  
in your Son, Jesus Christ,  
who is the face of your mercy.

Pour out your mercy upon us  
that we may bring to every person  
your goodness and tenderness —  
signs of your Kingdom,  
present among us.

May we become merciful  
like you, Father, are merciful.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY**


Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our parish family.

May all who gather know that they are loved, valued and welcomed with open arms.

As we celebrate Your goodness and mercy, help us to be instruments of healing and peace to one another.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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