

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



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Date	Time	Holy Mass	Parish Meetings
New Year's Day, SUNDAY, January 1 <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 Noon	Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish (Numbers 6.22-27; Galatians 4.4-7; Luke 2.16-21)	
MONDAY, January 2		No Mass	
	6:30 p.m.		9am Choir Rehearsal - <u>CANCELLED</u>
TUESDAY, January 3	6:00 p.m.	Holy Hour - <u>CANCELLED</u>	
	6 - 6:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) <u>CANCELLED</u>	
	7:00 p.m.	Daily Mass - <u>CANCELLED</u>	
WEDNESDAY January 4	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (1 John 3.7-10; John 1.35-42) † Jean McCarty	
	7:00 p.m.		5pm Choir Rehearsal - CANCELLED
THURSDAY, January 5	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (1 John 3.11-21; John 1.43-51) † Raphael Bussieres	
	7:00 p.m.		10:30am Choir Rehearsal - St. Cecilia
FRIDAY, January 6	9:00 a.m.	Daily Mass (1 John 5.5-13; Mark 1.4-5, 7-11) † Drago Rici † Darrell Borden (I) Jack Kelly	
SATURDAY, January 7	4 - 4:30 p.m.	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)	
	5:00 p.m.	Vigil Mass - Epiphany of the Lord <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> George & Nina Busuttill; Filomena Albanese; Marnie Kilby; Maria do Carmelo Pavao; Robert Ehmann. And for the Intentions of Harry & Eileen Ellis, and Joshua Bennett and the Bennett Family.	This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of George & Nina Busuttill.

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.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

January 1st, 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."

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.

ALPHA - REGISTRATION

The Alpha course begins at Holy Cross Parish on Thursday, January 26th! We are now ready to accept registrations. Alpha is for people who do not have a relationship with God, or for people who have been away from church for an extended period of time, or for people who have had little or no experience of the Christian faith. If you, your spouse, family member, co-worker or friend would benefit from this course, please inform them about Alpha and provide them with the URL below. Each Alpha session begins with food (a meal), followed by a 30-minute video and then small group discussions. The discussions are an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas without being corrected or judged (in a loving, accepting and non-judgmental atmosphere.) For more information about the program, to register, to view videos or to send an email for more information, enter the following URL into your Internet browser: <https://goo.gl/YkpZ7R> or visit the parish website at www.holycrossrc.com For people who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, plans are in place to introduce a similar program next year.

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 \$2,000. In addition to this, the Knights of Columbus are also donating \$1000 for a total of \$3,000 being donated to the food bank. With this support many families had a turkey for Christmas this year.

GEORGETOWN HOSPITAL & SICK VISITS

Father Cull and our hospital visitors make regular visits to the sick in the Georgetown Hospital. Kindly be sure to identify yourself as a Catholic so that your name can be given to us when we visit. Please note that the *Sacrament of the Sick* can be received at any time of serious illness or before surgery. If you, or a family member, are homebound due to illness please inform the parish office. Arrangements can be made for the reception of Holy Communion, home visits and the assistance of our parish nurse.

SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2017

Boxed sets of 2017 envelopes will be available for pick up this weekend. If you are not currently an envelope user and would like to start please contact the parish office. Also, *pre-authorized giving* forms for 2017 should be returned by **Sunday, January 8**. If you would like to learn more about this way of supporting the parish - please contact the office.

2017 WEDDINGS

Couples planning to marry in 2017 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.

HALTON ALIVE

- ▶ **FILM NIGHT!** Join Halton Alive in viewing *The Euthanasia Deception*. Come learn more about this very important issue that is affecting Canadians. Kevin Dunn, producer and director of the film will do a short presentation and question period after the 54 minute film. The film night will take place at the Oakville Banquet Hall on Tuesday, January 31st at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person at the door, popcorn and drinks are included. RSVP to reserve your seat at www.haltonalive.com/film-nights or call the office at 905-632-3232.
- ▶ **STOP CENSORSHIP TOUR!** Learn about how the Government of Ontario is actively hiding abortion statistics in order to frustrate the ongoing work of helping women and advancing pre-born human rights. Hear experts Joh Siddema, lawyer with ARPA Canada, Mike Schouten, Director of WeNeedaLAW.ca and Pat Maloney a pro-life blogger from Ottawa speak on this topic. Halton Alive will be hosting the event at the Oakville Banquet Hall, 1494 Wallace Road, Oakville, on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 p.m. This is a free event with a free will offering for the ongoing efforts of WeNeedaLAW.ca

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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