

St. Mary of The Assumption and Missions

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Owen Sound, ON N4K 1X3
Tel: 519-376-0778

~ 1854 ~

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www.stmarysandthemissions.ca

PASTORAL TEAM

PRIESTS

Pastor: Fr. David Reitzel dreizel@hamiltondiocese.com
Associate Pastor: Fr. Francis Hubilla fhubilla@hamiltondiocese.com
Retired Priest in Residence: Fr. Luc Payette lpayette@hamiltondiocese.com
PERMANENT DEACON: Deacon Philip Dwyer ptdwyer@gbtel.ca

ADMINISTRATION

Secretary: Brenda Lee stmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com
Bookkeeper: Amy Harrison adminstmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com
Cemeteries Manager: Lynn Curley 519-379-5537 cemeteriesofstmarys@gmail.com



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24th, 2023



Dec 25 to Dec 31

Christmas Day – December 25

9:00 am OS - Frank Szakall +
11:00 am OS – Marilyn Schinbein +
9:00 am Chatsworth – Rosaleen Engel +
11:00 am Meaford – Rosa & Richard Zowodniok +
9:00 am Hepworth – Art & Martha Radbourne (Int)
11:00 am Wiarton – Julius & Catharina van Aalst +
1:00 pm Cape Croker – Mass

Tue 9:00 am Margo Gallagher +

7:00 pm Cancelled

Private Mass: Bud Jones (Int – Healing)

Wed 9:00 am Sheila & Patrick Watson (Int – 11th wedding anniversary)

Private Mass: Joan McKenney +

Thu 9:00 am Cancelled

7:00 pm In Thanksgiving for the lives of unborn children (Int)

Private Mass: In Thanksgiving

Fri 9:00 am Erlinda Canieso Nunez+

Private Mass: Special Intention

Private Mass: Fran & Terry Craig (Int)

Saturday – December 30

9:30 am Lion's Head – Bob McBride +
11:30 am Tobermory – Pro Populo
5:00 pm Owen Sound – St. Basil's School students & staff (Int)
Private Mass: Erika Mary Nitsis (Int)

Sunday - December 31

9:00 am OS – Harvey & Mark Sprung +
11:00 am OS – Bill Carey +
9:00 am Chatsworth – Donna Lauzon +
11:00 am Meaford – Paul Besley +
9:00 am Hepworth – Veronica & Gladys Jones (Int)
11:00 am Wiarton – Earl & Marian Hoffman & Patrick Ryan +
1:00 pm Cape Croker – Mass

New Year's Eve – December 31

3:00 pm Lion's Head – Jonathan Fleming (Int – Healing)
5:00 pm Owen Sound – Norbert Ruth +

From the Hamilton Diocese Prayer Calendar This week we pray for:

Mon	Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord)
Tue	Chancery Staff
Wed	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)
Thu	The Holy Innocents
Fri	Rev. Edward Hinsperger
Sat	Rev. Phillip Cook

*** Sacrament of Anointing & Communion to the Sick:
Available upon request. Please call the office. ***

From the Pastors Desk:

Dear Parishioners,



Today marks the 4th week of advent, and a short week it is. The wax will barely dry on the 4th advent candle before we usher it away and replace it with Christmas decorations.

For those of us who are procrastinators, this poses a particular challenge. Christmas can feel like it has come too fast. We wish there was another week to get things ready.

Herein lies a meditation. Mary and Joseph did not know when their child would be born. They had an idea, but no exact day. So, when Mary's time came amid a long journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem it must have felt rushed. We know it was rushed because they couldn't even find proper lodging. We can imagine the holy couple saying, "We wish there was another week to get things ready."

But would they ever be ready? Given another week, would Mary and Joseph have found a home fit for the King of Kings? Given more time, would they have been ready to care for the prince of peace? I think not. But it's not their fault.

The child born in the manger was the Divine Son of God and all things belonged to Him. In other words, there was nothing Mary and Joseph could offer that He didn't already have.

How do you prepare for a child like that?

But that is the mystery of Christmas: that we had nothing to offer God and yet He still came.

Dwell on that for a while and it will change your perspective on being "prepared" for Christmas. Mary and Joseph were not prepared for their child, but they never could be. All they could do was prepare their hearts to receive an overwhelming gift that never could be imagined.

If you are behind in your preparations for Christmas, take some time to refocus on preparing your heart to receive that same gift.

God Bless,

Fr. David Reitzel

*** In the Parish ***

2023 Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th

Lion's Head	_____	3:00 pm
Owen Sound	_____	5:00, 9:00 pm

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th

Owen Sound	9:00, 11:00 am
Chatsworth	9:00 am
Hepworth	9:00 am
Meaford	11:00 am
Warton	11:00 am
Cape Croker	1:00 pm

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31st

Lion's Head	3:00 pm
Owen Sound	5:00 pm

New Year's Day – Mary, the Holy Mother of God, January 1st

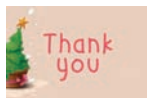
Owen Sound	9:00, 11:00 am
Chatsworth	9:00 am
Hepworth	9:00 am
Meaford	11:00 am
Warton	11:00 am
Cape Croker	1:00 pm

Parish Office Closure – Our Parish office will be closed for Christmas starting at noon on Friday, December 22, 2023. The office will open again on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 9:00 am. Merry Christmas to all our parishioners and to your families near and far and Happy New Year!



2024 Offering Envelopes - Boxed sets of envelopes for 2024 are now available. Please note that we are putting out fewer boxes than in previous years; your favourite number might not be available. Please choose any number but be sure to print your name and address on the first few you use.

Warton Food Bank/Christmas Jam - St. Mary of the Rosary, Hepworth and St. Thomas Aquinas, Warton, TOGETHER, collected 219 jars of jam for the area Food Bank Christmas shelves.



Many thanks to all who shared, it is truly appreciated.

Alpha is back! – Starting **January 9th, 2024**, at **10 am to 12 noon** at St. Mary's Parish Centre, Owen Sound. Registration forms are in the foyer of the Church, or you can call the Parish office at 519-376-0778.



What is Alpha? We believe that everyone should have the chance to explore faith, ask questions, and share their point of view.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation.

Alpha is enjoyed all around the globe, and everyone is welcome. It runs in cafes, churches, universities, homes – you name it. No two Alphas look the same, but generally

they have three key things in common: Connection, Content, and Conversation. Come and see.

Adoration – Adoration of the Holy Eucharist is **cancelled for Friday, December 29th, 2023**. Adoration will resume the following Friday, January 5th, 2024, after the 9:00 am Mass and continue until 8:00 pm.

* In the Diocese *

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 17, 2023 - From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life, and she said "Yes!" ...and so, the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's Will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com or visit the website: hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

For the Sick, our fellow parishioners and family members who need our prayers:



Connie Bell, Cheryl Watters, Lincoln Hogan, Maciej Zielinski, Lydia Foch, Alwyn D'Silva, Joan West, Colleen Wright, Andrew Gambal, Mike Adams, Bernadette Lewis, Lyn Hannigan, Becki Knisley, Marlene Ryerson, Tom McDonnell, Sharon Cantlon, Brad Cahoon, Ben Meissner, Helen Hunter, Yvette Fournier, Felix Poole, Matt Bell, Maynard Dietrich, Eunice Blom, Arnold Hodgkinson, Landon Archer, and Mike Couture. **We pray to the Lord.**

Donations received the week of Dec 9/10, 2023

Owen Sound	\$ 7, 363
Sauble Beach	283
Meaford	1, 440
Warton	532
Hepworth	507
Chatsworth	789
Tobermory	203
Lion's Head	334
	\$ 11, 451

Donations received from the weekend of December 16th & 17th, 2023, were unavailable at the time of printing.

God bless you for your generosity.

Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word." **Luke 1. 37**



We are such value to God that He came to live among us... and to guide us home. He will go to any length to seek us, even to being lifted high upon the cross to draw us back to Himself. We can only respond by loving God for His love.

St. Catherine of Siena

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