

# *St. Mary of The Assumption and Missions*

554 15th Street East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 1X3  
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~ 1854 ~

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[www.stmarysandthemissions.ca](http://www.stmarysandthemissions.ca)

## PASTORAL TEAM

### PRIESTS

**Pastor:** Fr. Wojciech Kuzma [wkuzma@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:wkuzma@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Associate Pastor:** Fr. Francis Hubilla [fhubilla@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:fhubilla@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Retired Priest in Residence:** Fr. Luc Payette [lpayette@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:lpayette@hamiltondiocese.com)

**PERMANENT DEACON:** Deacon Philip Dwyer [ptdwyer@gbtel.ca](mailto:ptdwyer@gbtel.ca)

### ADMINISTRATION

**Secretary:** Brenda Lee [stmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Bookkeeper:** Amy Harrison [adminstmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:adminstmaryowensound@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Cemeteries Manager:** Lynn Curley 519-379-5537 [cemeteriesofstmarys@gmail.com](mailto:cemeteriesofstmarys@gmail.com)



## The Nativity of the Lord

# Nativity of the Lord

## December 25, 2022



Dec 26 to Jan 1

**Mon 9:00 am** Fr. Wojtek Kuzma (Int)  
Private Mass: Frank Szakall +

**Tue 9:00 am** The MacDonnell Family +  
**7:00 pm** Manny & Diane Rocha (Int)

**Wed 9:00 am** Hedwig Hoedlmoser +  
Private Mass: Elisabeth Langpohl +

**Thu 9:00 am** Nancy Watson (Int)  
**7:00 pm** Scott Misener +

**Fri 9:00 am** Pat McMillan (Int)  
Private Mass: Yvette Fournier (Int)

### Saturday – December 31

9:30 am Lion's Head – Nancy Evans +  
11:30 am Tobermory – Helen Hunter (Int)  
5:00 pm Owen Sound – Bill Carey +

### Sunday – Mary, the Holy Mother of God - Jan 1

9:00 am OS – Allen Hilgendorf +  
11:00 am OS – Shelley Gilkinson +  
9:00 am Chatsworth – Brenda Moran (Int)  
11:00 am Meaford – Jean Wheeler +  
9:00 am Hepworth – Eunice Blom (Int – Healing)  
11:00 am Warton – Julius & Catharine van Aalst +  
1:00 pm Cape Croker – Mass

### From the Hamilton Diocese Prayer Calendar

This week we pray for:

Mon Feast of the Holy Family  
Tue Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.  
Wed Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)  
Thu Rev. Nishil Varghese, C.M.I.  
Fri Rev. Peter Nwachukwu, O.C.D.  
Sat Very Rev. Cornelius O'Mahony, E.V.

\* **Sacrament of Anointing & Communion to the Sick:**  
Available upon request

Bishop Crosby's Christmas Message



Christmas 2022

*"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby*

*wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*  
Luke, Chapter 2

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas crèche: what do you see here? The King of the Universe – lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty – wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word – an infant, unable even to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes *looks up at his mother* – and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that *he comes to us*, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us – taking on the frailty of the human form, yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervor our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas – may it fill our hearts during these holy days!

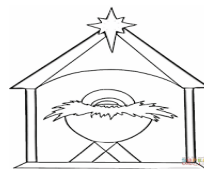
*May God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favour and make you sharers with the Church in heaven!*

(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas!

+ *Douglas Crosby*, OMI  
(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

### *From the Pastors Desk:*



When we ask children what they look forward to most during Christmas you will hear a very excited and uniform answer: "gifts". The practice of offering gifts at Christmas time has become so widespread that it may overshadow the story of Christ's birth. But perhaps it may be helpful to look at it in a different way, that gift giving is not a departure from the true theme of Christmas but, rather, its most natural consequence.

**The “what” of Christmas.** The story of Christ's birth is well known to us and well loved. Today I would like to focus not so much on the “what” of Christmas but on the “why” of Christmas. We know the what! After all, we have heard the details of this wonderful event since we were children. The angel announces the coming of the long awaited Messiah, Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem where the prophets foretold the Messiah would be born, and after encountering difficulties and rejection, Jesus is born in a stable as the poorest of the poor.

**The “why” of Christmas.** But “why”? Why is God born as a human being? What is at the heart of this amazing event? The answer is “we are”. Over and over again we are reminded that God is born “for us”, the son is given “to us”, “he it is who gave himself for us”. And that is the true origin of offering gifts at Christmas, the origin of God offering us the first gift, the gift of Himself.

Let's just think about this for a moment, God offers himself to us, to you, to me. He wants to be with us, He wants us, and He desires us. God's greatest desire is to be with us. And even though there is a cost of being with us, the cost of entering into our way of life: pain and suffering, poverty, struggle, and even death, God wants to be with us so much that he is willing to accept all the difficulties that come with it.

My dear friends, Christmas offered us the greatest gift of all, the gift of God's love and an invitation to be with Him. Christmas reminds us that we are loved by God, loved with such intense passion the likes of which have never been seen before. If we respond to this love, if we choose to be with Him, to love Him, to follow Him, we will experience the greatest gift of all, the gift of joy, peace, and true freedom. Merry Christmas my dear friends. I love you all!

*Fr. Wojtek Kuzma*

*\* In the Parish \**

New Year's Schedule

**New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31**

**Lion's Head – 9:30 AM      Tobermory – 11:30 AM**  
**Owen Sound – 5 PM**

**New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1**

**Owen Sound – 9 AM, 11 AM**  
**Chatsworth – 9 AM      Meaford – 11 AM**  
**Hepworth – 9 AM      Wiarton – 11 AM**  
**Cape Croker – 1 PM**

The Parish Office will be closed from Dec 23 at noon until Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

*\* In the Diocese \**

Christmas – The birth of Our Lord – We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, deacon, religious brother or sister, or a consecrated virgin. Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com) or visit the website: [www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/)

Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton - His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass on Sunday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m. The celebration will be livestreamed and can be accessed by visiting the Cathedral's website – [www.ctkbasilica.ca](http://www.ctkbasilica.ca).

For the Sick, our fellow parishioners and family members



who are in need of our prayers: for –

Landon Archer, Yvette Fournier, Helen Hunter, Nancy Watson, Therese Pinnegar, Geoff Solomon, Peggy Hayward, Bruce Berge, Cameron Gibbons, Brad Cahoon, Eunice Blom, Norm Gibbons, Ben Meissner, Matthew Fitzsimmons, Shane Fleming, Dalyce Kinderwater, Maynard Dietrich, Lyn Hannigan, Anne Loisel, Karen Ellis, Matt Bell, Pete & Edna van Aalst, Sharon Cantlon, Carolyn & Noah, Arnold Hodgkinson, Doug Woolway, Gordon Dion, Glenda Emma Dupont, Colleen Warmington, Mike Couture, Madelyn van Veen, Collin Rier, Phyllis Cooper, Marilyn Schinbein, Mike Adams, Pat McIntyre and Brenda Richter.

**We pray to the Lord.**

**Donations received Dec 10/11**

Owen Sound	\$ 4, 900
Sauble Beach	277
Meaford	1, 650
Warton	633
Hepworth	739
Chatsworth	302
Tobermory	83
Lion's Head	<u>314</u>
	<b>\$ 8, 898</b>

**Donations received for the weekend of Dec 17/18 were unavailable at the time of printing.**

*God bless you for your generosity.*

Boxed envelopes for 2023 are now available for pick up. Please be sure to print your name and address on the first few you use.

But the Angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord.  
 Luke 2. 10-11

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