

St. Louis Catholic Church

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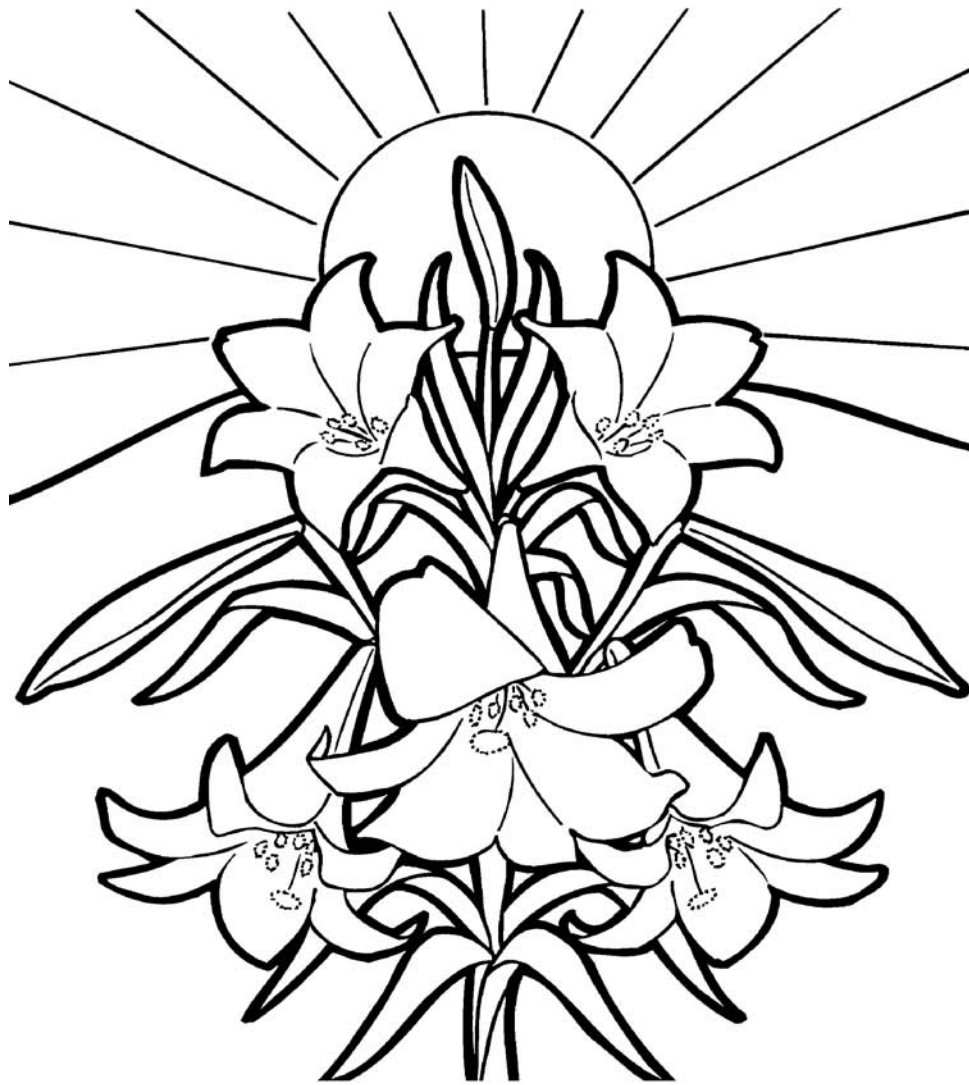
Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

Pastor: Father Phil Reilly, C.R. preilly@hamiltondiocese.com

Parish Secretary: Anna Malton stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com

Coordinator of Youth and Children's Ministries: Kelly Krause kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com

Custodian: Doug Lichty



**The Lord has Risen,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS



ALLELUIA!
CHRIST
IS
RISEN!
INDEED
HE IS
RISEN!
ALLELUIA!

ON THIS GREAT FEAST
FR. PHIL
AND THE STAFF OF ST. LOUIS
WISH YOU ALL EASTER BLESSINGS.
MAY THE JOY OF THE
RESURRECTED CHRIST
REMAIN WITH YOU
THROUGHOUT THIS COMING YEAR!

PRAYER FOR EASTER MORNING:

AS WE BEGIN THIS DAY CELEBRATING JESUS'S VICTORY OVER DEATH, WE PRAY, O HEAVENLY FATHER, THAT YOU BE NEAR TO US AND CONTINUE TO GUIDE US UNTIL WE JOIN IN THE UNENDING CELEBRATION IN HEAVEN. IN YOUR NAME WE PRAY. AMEN. (From Hallow.com)



On **Holy Saturday**, we remember that Jesus descended into hell where He preached the Gospel to those who died before and opened the way to heaven for all those who were worthy. There is no Mass of the Day on Holy Saturday. Rather, we spend the day in prayer, waiting at the Tomb for the Glorious Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Saturday Evening is the Easter Vigil Liturgy. In keeping with the ancient Hebrew understanding, the Vigil, sundown, begins the new day.

The **Easter Vigil** liturgy is the most beautiful liturgy in the Catholic Church. It is divided into four parts: Service of Light, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Baptism, and Liturgy of the Eucharist.

- **Service of Light** - The atmosphere in the church is different: the holy water fonts are drained, all the lights are out, the tabernacle is empty. The service begins outside the church. A new fire is lit and blessed. The



Monday, April 21–Monday of the Easter Octave–No Mass			
9 – 11:30 AM	Pickle Ball	Gym	
7:30 PM	Bible Study – Revelation 11/11	L. Hall	
Tuesday, April 22 – Tuesday of the Easter Octave			
9:00 AM	† Moe Webster – Family		
9:30 AM	Book Group	L. Hall	
7:00 PM	Painting with Kelly	L. Hall	
Wednesday, April 23 –Wednesday of the Easter Octave			
9:00 AM	† Janet Stevens – Family		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym	
Thursday, April 24 – Thursday of the Easter Octave			
9:00 AM	† André Duval-Russell – Catherine Duval-Russell		
6:00 PM	First Com. Prep - Practice	Church	
Friday, April 25 – Friday of the Easter Octave			
9:00 AM	Intentions of Nigel Ayoung-Chee – Amanda Ayoung-Chee		
Saturday, April 26 – Saturday of the Easter Octave			
Vigil of the 2nd Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday			
5:00 PM	† Ken & Phyllis Ayoung-Chee – Amanda Ayoung-Chee		
	† Bernice Walls – Rob Walls		
	† Walter & Kaye Hartman – Children		
	† Henry Brick – Linda Brick & Family		
Sunday, April 27 – Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday			
9:30 AM	† Don Miller – Ruetz Family		
	† Bert & Katie Ruetz – Ruetz Family		
	† Valsamma Varghese – Philip & Biniangel Varghese		
	† Rosetta Benninger – Webster Family		
	10:30 AM Coffee Time	L. Hall	
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Church		
	4:30 PM OOTC Community Supper – last one for 2024/2025 season	Gym	

Reflection on the Gospel: John 20:1-18

Darkness often slows our behaviour and keeps us indoors or near light-casting devices. The reason is simple: our eyes need light to see. Without light we're blind and left to our other, less-developed senses; we stumble. Light helps us negotiate much of life. Accordingly, light is often a symbol or metaphor for knowledge and understanding. To be enlightened or illuminated about a particular topic is to have or gain an intellectual grasp of what that topic is about. When we "see" what's going on we understand our context. John's initial account of Jesus' Resurrection plays on the literal and symbolic meaning of darkness and sight.

The scene opens with Mary Magdalene approaching Jesus' tomb "while it was still dark." This is the literal darkness. Daylight has yet to dawn. We anticipate her movements to be slow and uncertain. Yet, seeing the stone is removed from the tomb quickens her feet. She runs to Simon Peter and the Beloved Disciple. They, in turn, respond with haste as well. Each in his own way runs to the tomb. Still, while literal darkness does not hinder their physical movements, metaphorical darkness clings to their minds. On the one hand, in the light of faith, they enter the tomb and they believe. As John informs us, this seeing enlightens their minds, for prior to this seeing, "as yet they did not understand the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead."

For Mary, who weeps outside the tomb during the inspection, more lies in store. Like so many others who weep in Scripture, Mary will capture the Lord's attention with her tears. To her the Lord will send two Angels and they appear Himself, so that she might see and believe in the Resurrection. (From Workbook for Lectors)

EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20, 2025

paschal candle, representing Christ, is brought to the priest, who cuts a cross into the candle with a stylus. Then he makes the Greek letter Alpha above the cross, the letter Omega below, and the four numerals of the current year between the arms of the cross, saying: *Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to Him and all the ages. To Him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen.*

Then the priest inserts five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, meanwhile saying: *By His holy and glorious wounds, may Christ the Lord guard us and protect us. Amen.*

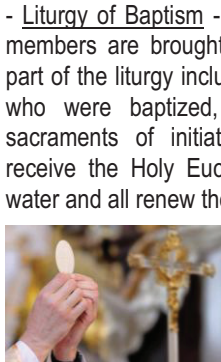
The priest lights the candle from the new fire, saying: *May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.*

The Pascal Candle is brought into the church and all light their tapers from it. The Easter Proclamation - *Exsultet* is sung. It tells of humanity's sin, of God's mercy, and of the great love of the Redeemer for mankind, admonishing us in turn to thank the Trinity for all the graces that have been lavished upon us.



- **Liturgy of the Word** - During the Easter vigil, nine readings are provided: seven Old Testament and two New Testament. Not all are required to be read, but at least three OT readings must be read, including Exodus 14. These readings help us meditate on the wonderful works of God for His people since the beginning of time. The readings are: The story of creation, *Gen 1:1-2:2*; Abraham and Isaac, *Gen 22:1-18*; Crossing of the Red Sea, *Exodus 14:15-31;15:20*; The Love of God, *Isaiah 54:5-14*; The Everlasting Covenant, *Isaiah 55:1-11*; Wisdom, the Prerogative of Israel, *Baruch 3:9-15, 32-4:4*; Oracle of New Heart *Ezekiel 36:16-17,18-28*; Baptism in Christ, *Romans 6:3-11*; and *Gospel of Luke 24:1-12*. The Gloria is sung, then the reading of the Epistle of the Romans. Alleluia is sung before the Gospel.

- **Liturgy of Baptism** - The Easter water is blessed. New members are brought into the Church through baptism, part of the liturgy includes the Litany of the Saints. Those who were baptized, but haven't received the other sacraments of initiation are confirmed and will later receive the Holy Eucharist. Afterwards the faithful are blessed with water and all renew their baptismal promises.



- **Liturgy of Eucharist** - The Mass continues, with the special prayers inserted during the Eucharist Prayer. The whole church is called to join at the sacrificial table that Christ prepared for us through His death and resurrection. After Communion the Mass concludes with the Solemn Blessing: *May almighty God bless you through today's Easter Solemnity and, in His compassion, defend you from every assault of sin. R. Amen. And may He, who restores you to eternal life in the Resurrection of His Only Begotten, endow you with the prize of immortality. R. Amen. Now that the days of the Lord's Passion have drawn to a close, may you who celebrate the gladness of the Paschal Feast come with Christ's help, and exulting in spirit, to those feasts that are celebrated in eternal joy. R. Amen. And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. R. Amen. and closes with the glorious dismissal: Go in peace, Alleluia, Alleluia. R. Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia. (From Catholicculture.org)*

Resurrectionist Vocation Minute - The stone wasn't moved for Jesus - He could pass through walls. It was rolled away for us, inviting us to encounter resurrection hope. Saying 'yes' to religious life means stepping into that emptiness, trusting God will fill it with purpose. What 'stone' of doubt or comfort is Christ asking you to walk past to follow Him? Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR; resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com



VBS Camp 2025 – morning theme will be **Weird Animals**, where Jesus' love is one of a kind. The afternoon theme will be **Spanish language and culture**. It is for campers ages 6 – 11. If you are 12 yrs old or older, you are invited to join our camp counselling team. Please contact Kelly if interested. The camp will run **July 14-18 from 9 AM – 4 PM for full day**. Half day is an option, please refer to the registration form for details. To register, pick up a form from the back of the church or in the Nursery. Questions? Please contact Kelly Krause at the parish office.

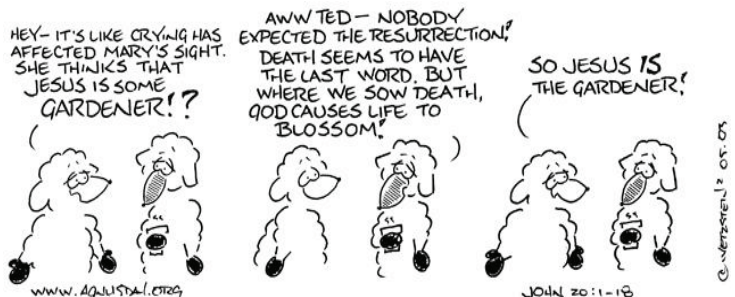
Divine Mercy Sunday (April 27th) Services in KW area:

At St. Aloysius Parish in Kitchener Divine Mercy Sunday Service begins at 1 PM with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Confessions will take place from 1 - 2:30 PM. Recitation of the Divine Mercy Chaplet will begin at 3 PM.

At St. Agnes in Waterloo the Divine Mercy Holy Hour with Exposition & Benediction will start at 3 PM.

Retreat at the Carmel - The Carmel of St. Joseph Guild is hosting their annual retreat at the Carmelite Monastery on Saturday, May 24. The theme of the Retreat is "Hope". The retreat will give you an opportunity to experience the graces and blessings of the Jubilee Year. The day will begin with the Rosary, Holy Mass, two short conferences, and a time for prayer and reflection. The retreat will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at 2:30 p.m. A light lunch and refreshments will be provided. If you wish to attend, please see the poster for more details and register on the Carmel of St. Joseph website: www.thecarmel.ca.

Diocesan Heroes of Hope for April are the extraordinary individuals and ministries who serve in the healthcare services in the Diocese of Hamilton! Arriving in the 1850's, the SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH have provided health care in communities throughout the Diocese – with a special concern for the "dear neighbour". The health care facilities they built still welcome thousands daily, as they have for the past 170 years. They "lift us up", giving hope when hope seems far away. The Hospice Ministry is a specialized service, caring for those who are in the final stages of life, providing a clean and safe environment to die with dignity. Emmanuel House in Hamilton, Margaret's Place in Dundas, and Stedman Community Hospice in Brantford provide such wholistic care. And there are other hospices supported by the Catholic community. Hospital chaplaincy services and Parish Priests provide pastoral visitation and Sacrament of the Sick. Prayer Shawl ministry is a "wrap around" assurance of prayer for health and well-being.



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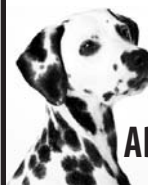
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