

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

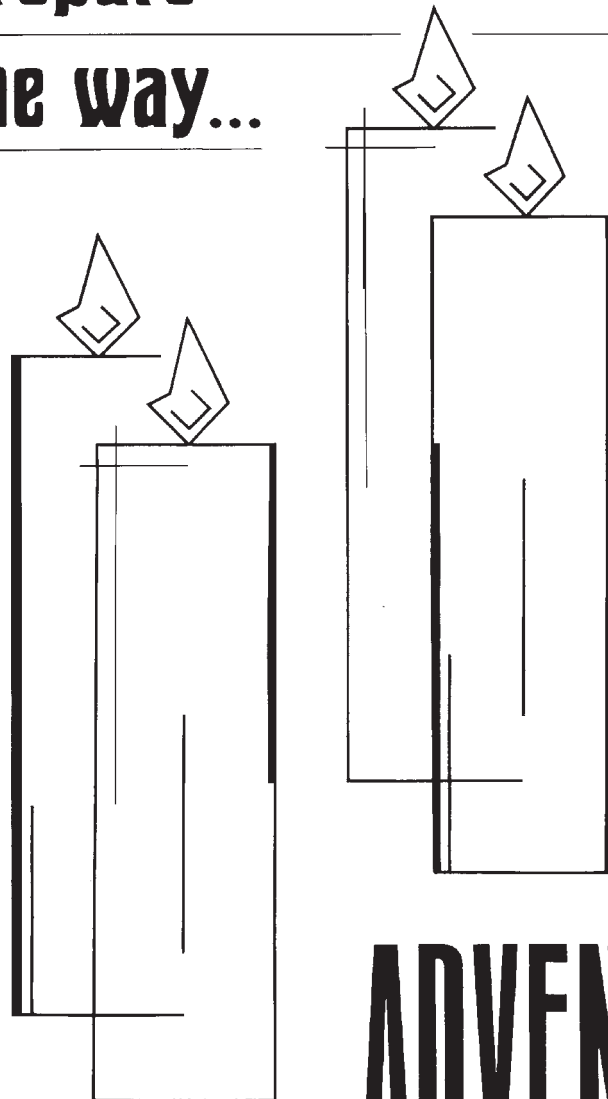
Parish Secretary: Anna Malton stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com

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

Custodian: Doug Lichty

prepare

the way...



ADVENT

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 22, 2024

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

The Advent themes traditionally focus on the virtues and qualities central to the preparation for Christmas. Each year, the Advent themes are always the same: hope, peace, joy, love.



Third Theme: Love - The Advent theme of **love** is celebrated during the fourth and final week of Advent, highlighting God's deep and boundless love for humanity. Love is at the heart of the Christmas story: God sent his only Son, Jesus, as an act of selfless love to redeem the world.

What is the importance of love during Advent?

This theme reminds us of John 3:16—"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." It's a powerful message that the birth of Christ is the ultimate expression of God's love, freely given to all.

As we light the fourth Advent candle, symbolizing love, we reflect on how Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us. This season encourages us to embody God's love through acts of kindness, compassion, and forgiveness, extending that love to family, friends, and those in need. Advent love invites us to open our hearts to receive God's love anew and share it generously, preparing to welcome Christ with a heart full of gratitude and grace. (From ascensionpress.com)

Special Events coming up at St. Louis parish

- Dec. 22** – Rehearsal for Dramatizations of the Gospel (12:30 PM)
- Dec. 23** – Decorating St. Louis Church for Christmas season (9 AM)
- Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve - Start of the Jubilee Year 2025
- Dec. 24** – Christmas Eve Masses: **5 PM & 8 PM**
- Dec. 25** – Christmas Day Masses: **9:30 AM & 11:30 AM**
- Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve Mass: **5 PM**
- Jan. 1** – New Year's Day Mass: **9:30 AM (only)**
- Jan. 1** – In 2025 we celebrate the 135th Anniversary of St. Louis Parish.
- Jan. 4** – Epiphany Potluck & Party (6 PM) (food, games & screening of the play *St. Louis - King and Parish*. In 2015 this play was written and performed for 125th anniversary of our parish.)
- Jan. 5** – Feast of the Epiphany
- Feb. 8** – Potluck & Ceili Dance with a Medieval Theme – As part of our parish 135th Anniversary we will transform for one night our Gym into 13th century Hall (King Louis IX times were 1214 – 1270). Wear a medieval costume, if you wish. If interested, help with decorating ahead of the event (contact parish office for details).

Monday, December 23 – No Mass		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Tuesday, December 24		
<i>Vigil Masses for Christmas</i>		
5:00 PM	For Children of St. Louis Parish	
8:00 PM	For Peace on Earth and Good Will to All	
<i>Wednesday, December 25- Nativity of the Lord</i>		
9:30 AM	For Families of St. Louis Parish	
11:30 AM	For Family Members Who Are Far Away	
<i>Thursday, Dec. 26-St. Stephen, the First Martyr, No Mass</i>		
<i>Friday, December 27 – St. John, Apostle, Evangelist</i>		
9:00 AM	† Krystyna Kowalska – Malton Family	
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
<i>Saturday, December 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>		
<i>Vigil of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>		
5:00 PM	† Joseph Lorentz – Bob & Giselle	
	† Luke & Loretta Potvin – Potvin Daughters	
	† Randy Dopp – Janet & Grant Ertel	
	Intentions of Elizabeth Schwarz – Morris Family	
<i>Sunday, December 29 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>		
9:30 AM	† Margaret Zettler – Friends	
	† Rose Marie Gross – John & Sharon Carey	
	† Ellie Howe – Mary Paparazzi	
	† Gregory Sloan – Mary Paparazzi	
	10:30 AM	Coffee Time
		L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish	
	4:30 PM	OOTC Community Supper
		Gym

Reflection on the First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

On this final Sunday of Advent, the themes of hope, expectation, and joy that have been building throughout the season of Advent converge in a reflection on the one who is to be born. The prophetic words of the readings point to and explain the significance and newness of what God is doing.

Micah was a Prophet from Moreshethgath in southern Judah and a contemporary of Isaiah of Jerusalem. He prophesied in the second half of the 8th century BC. His prophecies were expressed in various forms including laments, covenant lawsuits, oracles, and visions. In promoting Bethlehem, his lack of affection for Jerusalem and its corruption was evident.

As part of a series of visions, today's reading focuses on the coming of a new ruler. Micah begins his identification of the new ruler by recalling the ancient place name, Bethlehem of Ephrathah. While the association between Bethlehem (meaning "house of bread" in Hebrew) and Ephrathah (likely designating the direction toward Ephrathah) is somewhat unclear, it moves us back to the time of David. The smallness and insignificance of David's hometown recall that God often chose insignificant individuals (Gideon or David) over the expected ruler from more prestigious families, tribes, and places. Although there is a vague allusion to David and that history, the persons and events of the vision remain even more ambiguous: Who is the ruler/shepherd? Who are his kindred? Who is the woman who is to give birth? The answers are not given at the time of Micah; rather, everything in the vision points to the future. This prophecy was interpreted Christologically by early Christians seeking to understand Jesus' identity and the prophecies pointing to His birth. (From Workbook for Lectors)

Date	Sunday	Loose	Maint.	Christmas	PAD
Dec 22	3173.65	468.25	50.00	500.00	2163.61

Thank you for your donation

CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve	Tue., Dec. 24	5 PM & 8 PM
Christmas Day	Wed., Dec. 25	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
St. Stephen's	Thu., Dec. 26	No Mass
3rd day of Christmas	Fri., Dec. 27	9 AM
Holy Family (vigil)	Sat., Dec. 28	5 PM (Vigil Mass)
Holy Family	Sun., Dec. 29	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
6th day of Christmas	Mon., Dec. 30	No Mass
Mary, Mother of God (vigil)	Tue., Dec. 31	5 PM (Vigil Mass)
Mary, Mother of God	Wed., Jan. 1	9:30 AM (ONLY!)
9th, 10th day of Christmas	Jan. 2, 3	9 AM

Parish office hours this week:

Monday,	Dec. 23	9 AM – NOON & 1 PM – 4 PM
Tuesday,	Dec. 24	9 AM – NOON
Wed. & Thu.,	Dec. 25 & 26	closed
Friday,	Dec. 27	9 AM – NOON

This bulletin was sent to the printers on Dec. 16th.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have begun the Advent Season, a time of active and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent pass quickly and, almost before we know it, Christmas is upon us: the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem.

During Advent, we meet, in Sacred Scripture, figures who help us understand the importance of the Christmas event and point out the way for us to prepare well. The Angel Gabriel assures us that "with God all things are possible"! The Virgin Mary sets the high standard of openness and obedience to God's will in our lives. St. Joseph acts on revelations in his dreams. John the Baptist calls us to prepare spiritually and practically for the coming of Christ into our lives. The shepherds listen to the revelation of angels and hurry to meet the Lord. The Magi follow a star to find Him. For each, the experience is different. For all, it leads to an important encounter with Jesus.

For the past number of years, the *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* has prepared an on-line series called **Journey Through Advent**. The weekly reflections in English and French open our hearts and minds. This year, Cardinal Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, is the presenter in English. His profound spiritual reflections are gifts to us, available on the CCCB website. They nourish our faith and help us prepare well.

In our Diocese, Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Ministers, choirs and musicians, sacristans and decorators and cleaners – a bevy of gifted and generous people – help assure that all is ready for the Christmas celebrations. We are blessed that dedicated Priests, Deacons and lay-faithful care enough to do the necessary work of planning and preparing so that we might Come Home for Christmas and celebrate well. I am grateful to all who serve and I pray that, as our cloistered Carmelite Nuns so often say, "God reward you!"


Advent is a good time to celebrate the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**. We get ready "outwardly". It is wise to prepare ourselves "interiorly" as well. A good Confession does wonders for the soul and for our hearts. It frees us and lifts us up. Pastors make time to welcome you and are happy to celebrate this liberating Sacrament.

I like to send and receive Christmas cards at Christmas. The Canada Post strike has precluded that pleasure this year. It means prayers for my family and friends must be evermore intentional. As I pray for them, I pray also for you, brothers and sisters, co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and parishioners throughout this vast Diocese. As we open the **Jubilee Year of Hope** on December 29, and live the experience of being *Pilgrims of Hope*, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that provides meaning and purpose to our lives – and hope for a future in union with the One Who Comes!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI, Bishop of Hamilton

 **The Christmas Mass on TV/computer** - For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas. Watch the Daily TV Mass:

Christmas Eve: from 4:30 pm on dailytvmass.com
 11:30 pm on Salt + Light from
 Hamilton Cathedral
 Christmas Day: 8 am & noon on VisionTV
 11 am on Salt + Light

You can also watch on the web at www.dailytvmass.com

*Do not be afraid. Listen; I bring you news of great
 joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people.
 A Saviour has been born to you;*



He is Christ, the Lord."

Let us praise and glorify the Lord!

May the wonders of His birth fill you with

Joy, Thankfulness and Praise!

Christmas blessings now and in the New Year!

From Fr. Phil,

Kelly, Anna and Doug.

(Adoration of the Shepherds by Bartolome Esteban Murillo (1617-1682))

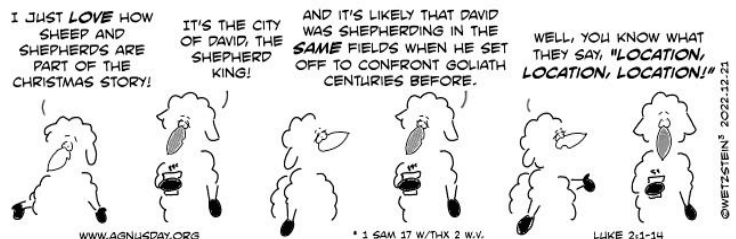


**St. Louis Parish Epiphany Potluck Dinner
 with Carols and Games & Screening of the
 play St. Louis - King and Parish.**

(In 2015 this play was written & performed for 125th
 anniversary of our parish.)

**Saturday, January 4th, in the Large Hall at 6 PM
 (after 5 PM Mass).**

Bring your favourite dish to share and come and join as we celebrate
 together the Feast of the Epiphany. Organized by Kelly and Anna.



Agnus Day appears with the permission of www.agnusday.org

Envelope News - Boxes for 2025 are ready for pickup. Please write your name & address on the first few envelopes that you use.

Donations on-line:

Via Canada Helps canadahelps.org/en/ (search for "St. Louis Waterloo")

Via diocesan website: hamiltondiocese.com/ways-to-give select "Online to a Parish" and then "St. Louis Waterloo".

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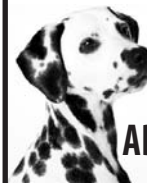
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