

St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

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Feast of the Holy Family

2025 – YEAR OF JUBILEE – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 29 – St. Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Tuesday, December 30 – 6th Day of Christmas		
9:00 AM	† Deceased Members of St. Louis Book Club	
Wednesday, December 31 – 7th Day of Christmas		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		
5:00 PM	In Thanksgiving for Graces Received	
Thursday, Jan. 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God		
9:30 AM	For God's Blessings on Canada	
Friday, January 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church		
9:00 AM		
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Saturday, January 3 – The Most Holy Name of Jesus		
Vigil of the Epiphany of the Lord		
5:00 PM	† Jocelyn Haroun – Elizabeth Schwarz † Loretta Potvin – Giselle, Cathy & Colette † Kitty Forde – Pat & Joan Forde Intentions of Christian & Alan Martin –Marg & Tom Hutter	
6:00 PM	Epiphany Potluck & Party	L. Hall
Sunday, January 4 - The Epiphany of the Lord		
9:30 AM	† Mary Smith – Heather Ivall † Louise Lefebvre – Paul & Betty Gross	
10:30 AM	Coffee Time	L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish	
5 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym



The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph is normally celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. This feast developed at the beginning of the 19th century in

Canada and then spread to the entire Church in 1920. At first, it was celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. It is a Feast that seeks to portray the Holy Family of Nazareth as the “shining example” (cf. Opening Prayer) from which our families can draw inspiration and know where to find help and comfort.

Family in movement - If there is a fact that is striking when reading today's Gospel text (Mt 2:13-15, 19-23), it is all the “motion” verbs: depart, arise, flee, take refuge, stay.... There is even a map that is no less impressive: Bethlehem, Egypt, then Nazareth. Certainly, the key to all this “movement” is found in the citation of the Prophet Hosea: “*Out of Egypt I have called my son*” – a place of refuge for the persecuted and the place of departure for Israel's Exodus. The Family of Nazareth thus traces the journey of many persecuted people and refugees down through history. At the same time, it recalls the powerful hand of God who knows how to liberate His people.

The experience of the Family of Nazareth cannot but make us think of the many families today who are also “in movement” – certainly of those families forced to leave their homes and their own land in search of peace, serenity and work, but also of those families who live with the apprehension and anxiety of not making ends meet, of unstable marital situations, the fear of illness...

In the Family of Nazareth, our families, as well as the human family, can learn to allow ourselves to be guided by God's powerful hand. If it is true on the one hand that in many situations people feel like refugees, strangers in their own homes, or in the heart of a dear one, it is also true that every obstacle, every difficulty can be transformed into

an opportunity to “depart”, an opportunity for a “journey toward conversion” which alone can lead to serenity, peace, stability.

The Holy Spirit speaks to today's families - Today, the Holy Spirit still continues to guide “all peoples”, “all couples”, “all parents”. But we need to listen to the Spirit who speaks in us. If the Son of God came to live with us as a child, and only the eyes of faith can perceive His presence, how important it is to remind ourselves that everyday things are never of little importance, that daily occurrences are never useless or purely coincidental. The eyes of faith are necessary to grasp the hidden and the beyond. Everything becomes a “place” to encounter or reject God's presence. Everything is a sign for those who believe.

The gospel of the family - To live the gospel of the family is not easy today. Those who want to defend life from the moment of conception are criticized or attacked. Yet in the Gospel we find the way to live a beautiful life on the personal and familial level, a way that is certainly challenging, but attractive and all-embracing. It is a way that still deserves to be trusted and undertaken after the example and through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth itself. There are happy and sad, serene and difficult moments in every family. This is life. To live the “gospel of the family” does not exempt us from experiencing difficulties and tensions, of encountering moments of pleasant fortitude and painful weakness. Families who are wounded and marked by weakness, failure, difficulty...can rise again if they learn how to draw from the font of the Gospel. There, they can rediscover new possibilities of starting over.

(Excerpt from *Vaticannews.va*)



Pope Benedict XVI on Mary in Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, Dec. 25, 2005: Outstanding among the saints is Mary, Mother of the Lord and mirror of all holiness. In the Gospel of Luke we find her engaged in a service of charity to her cousin Elizabeth, with whom she remained for “about three months” (1:56) so as to assist her in the final phase of her pregnancy.

“My soul magnifies the Lord” she says on the occasion of that visit (Lk 1:46). In these words, she expresses her whole program of life: not setting herself at the center, but leaving space for God, who is encountered both in prayer and in service of neighbor — only then does goodness enter the world. Mary's greatness consists in the fact that she wants to magnify God, not herself. She is lowly: Her only desire is to be the handmaid of the Lord (Lk 1:38, 48). She knows that she will only contribute to the salvation of the world if, rather than carrying out her own projects, she places herself completely at the disposal of God's initiatives.

Mary is a woman of hope: only because she believes in God's promises and awaits the salvation of Israel, can the angel visit her and call her to the decisive service of these promises. Mary is a woman of faith: “*Blessed are you who believed,*” Elizabeth says to her (Lk 1:45). The Magnificat — a portrait, so to speak, of her soul — is entirely woven from threads of Holy Scripture, threads drawn from the Word of God. Here we see how completely at home Mary is with the Word of God, with ease she moves in and out of it. She speaks and thinks with the Word of God. ... Since Mary is completely imbued with the Word of God, she is able to become the Mother of the Word Incarnate.

Finally, Mary is a woman who loves. ... We sense this in her quiet gestures, as recounted by the infancy narratives in the Gospel. We see it in the delicacy with which she recognizes the need of the spouses at Cana and makes it known to Jesus. We see it in the humility with which she recedes into the background during Jesus' public life, knowing that the Son must establish a new family and that the Mother's hour will come only with the Cross, which will be Jesus' true hour (Jn 2:4; 13:1). When the disciples flee, Mary will remain beneath the Cross (Jn 19:25-27); later, at the hour of Pentecost, it will be they who gather around her as they wait for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:14).

DEC. 28, 2025 – HOLY FAMILY & JAN. 1, 2026 – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The lives of the saints are not limited to their earthly biographies but also include their being and working in God after death. In the saints one thing becomes clear: those who draw near to God do not withdraw from men, but rather become truly close to them. In no one do we see this more clearly than in Mary. The words addressed by the crucified Lord to his disciple - to John and through him to all disciples of Jesus: "*Behold, your mother!*" (Jn 19:27) - are fulfilled anew in every generation.

Mary has truly become the Mother of all believers. Men and women of every time and place have recourse to her motherly kindness and her virginal purity and grace, in all their needs and aspirations, their joys and sorrows, their moments of loneliness and their common endeavors. ... Mary, Virgin and Mother, shows us what love is and whence it draws its origin and its constantly renewed power. To her we entrust the Church and her mission in the service of love:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son – the Son of God. You abandoned yourself completely to God's call and thus became a wellspring of the goodness that flows forth from him. Show us Jesus. Lead us to him. Teach us to know and love him, so that we too can become capable of true love and be fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.

This Solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation.



When most Catholics think about Mary, we have one of two images in our heads: the virginal Jewish teen from Galilee who says Yes to God's plan; or the mother of Jesus, the woman of mercy and tenderness, "our life, our sweetness and our hope." We can too easily forget that Mary is also the woman clothed in the sun who crushes the head of the serpent. She embodies in her purity the greatness of humanity fully alive in God. She's the mother who intercedes for us, comforts us and teaches us — but who also defends us.



In this picture from a 13th century manuscript illustration Mary is punching the devil in the nose. She doesn't rebuke him. She doesn't enter into a dialogue with him. She punches the devil in the nose. (Illustration from *De Brailes Hours*,

c. 1240, British Library) (Excerpt from Abp. C. Chaput address on Oct. 19 at the 2016 Bishops' Symposium at the University of Notre Dame.)



First Communion Preparation Classes will start on Wed. Jan. 28th from 6 to 7 PM in the Nursery. If you wish your child to receive their First Communion at St. Louis Parish on May 3rd, 2026 at 9:30 AM Mass, then please contact Kelly Krause to register. (kkrause@hamiltondiocese.com)



The Federation of North-American Explorers (FNE) is an international association of the Catholic Church for youth and young adults that builds its members into saints through an adventurous outdoors program. **Timberwolf FNE program (ages 8-12) is coming to KW area.** The registration is now open. The first meeting is on **Friday, January 30 @ 6:30pm** in St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, 45 Birchcliff Ave, Kitchener. The link to registration is: <https://sites.google.com/view/fne-kwc/timberwolf-program>.

Christmas Young Adults Night - During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30 - 7:30 PM), social with food (7:30 - 8 PM), praise night with vocations testimony (8 - 9 PM), and Compline (9 PM) on Sat., Jan. 3rd at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/ For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST. LOUIS PARISH COMING UP:



Saturday, January 3rd – 6 PM – Epiphany Potluck, Carols and Games – Bring your favourite dish to share and come and join as we celebrate together the Feast of the Epiphany.

We will have Children's Procession of Three Kings. We will sing a few carols and play fun group games for all ages! Organized by Kelly & Anna.

Saturday, January 31 – 4:30 – 10 PM - Annual Potluck, Ceili Dance & Children Games – Mark your calendars. The evening will start with Children Games and Crafts in the Nursery at 4:30 - 5:45 PM. Potluck dinner at 6 PM. Ceili Dancing from 7 to 10 PM with intermission around 8:45 PM. Once again, our fiddler will be Shane Cook, Canadian and US National Champion. Bev Bernbaum (our Caller from last year) will teach us all the dance steps. If you can follow instruction, you can dance. This is an event for all ages! The decorating theme will be "Fairy Tales". Wear a costume, if you wish! Watch for posters with more info in January.

Bible Study of the Book of Acts resumes on Sunday, Jan. 11 at 12:30 PM (with lunch), or on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 PM (with refreshments). So far, we covered 10 of the 20 sessions and studied the first ten chapters of this book. It is still possible to join the study groups for the remainder of the Book of Acts. Link to the detailed schedule is on the main page of our parish website.

Book Club just completed our Fall book "How to Share Your Faith with Anyone" by Terry Barber. The participants found it very beneficial to our own faith journey and very informative about how to share it with others. In January, the **Book Club will start a new book**, one that the members selected in winter of 2020 and never got to read it together. It is "**Jesus and the Jewish Roots of Mary – Unveiling the Mother of the Messiah**" by **Dr. Brant Pitre**. Here is what the author writes in introduction to this book: "*As I hope to show, far from being "unbiblical," Catholic doctrines about Mary are deeply rooted in Scripture – if you interpret the New Testament in light of the Old Testament. Keep looking at the New Testament by itself, and you'll never see them. Start looking at Mary through ancient Jewish eyes, and all will become clear.*" This is the way this club works: the book is read aloud by the participants during the meetings for part of the time, and then the text just read is discussed. No homework. Come when you can. The meetings are on Tuesday mornings right after the daily Mass and last for about an hour. You are free to leave earlier or come later. Refreshments provided. If interested, then please contact the parish office to order the book.

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".

Mass Times for Christmas Season:

Feast	Date	Mass Times
5 th Day of Christmas	Mon. Dec. 29	No Mass
6 th Day of Christmas	Tue. Dec. 30	9 AM
New Year's Eve	Wed. Dec. 31	5 PM
New Year's Day	Thu. Jan. 1	9:30 AM ONLY
Sts. Basil & Gregory	Fri. Jan. 2	9 AM
Eve of Epiphany	Sat. Jan. 3	5 PM
Epiphany	Sun. Jan. 4	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Parish office hours this week:

Mon. & Tue.	Dec. 29 & 30	9 AM – NOON & 1 PM – 4 PM
Wednesday	Dec. 31	9 AM – NOON
Thu. & Friday	Jan. 1 & 2	closed

This bulletin was sent to the printers on Dec. 17th.

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