



St. Louis Catholic Church

53 Allen Street East, Waterloo ON N2J 1J3 Tel: 519-743-4101
Email: stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com Web site: www.saintlouisparish.ca
Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9 - 12 and 1- 4 p.m.
Summer hours (Canada Day to Labour Day): Mon. - Thurs. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Weekday Masses:
Tuesday – Friday 9:00 a.m.
*Rosary: Tuesday to Friday
before 9:00 a.m. Mass*

Sunday Masses:
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m.



Pastoral Team:

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

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

Parish Secretary
Anna Malton
stlouiswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com

Custodian
Doug Lichty

Welcome new members - Whether you are just passing through the area or looking for a spiritual home, we welcome you to St. Louis Catholic Church. We hope you will find our worship environment hospitable and prayerful. People often attend Mass at a parish for months or years without officially registering. Registration here at St. Louis is an expression of your commitment to being an active member of our community. Parish registration simplifies the process with regard to sponsoring a sacramental candidate; obtaining pastoral references and for preparation of baptisms, weddings and funerals. Registration is easy and can be completed at the Parish Office during regular office hours. Registration forms are available at the back of the Church.

Parish Records - Our parish records are very important. We try to keep them up to date. Please advise the office of any changes.

Music in the Liturgy - Music plays an integral role in the liturgical life of the parish.

Our music directors are: 5:00 p.m. & 9:30 a.m. - Bob Reinhart (robertreinhart182@msn.com)
11:30 a.m. - Donna McLellan (donna-ipad@hotmail.com)

Sunday programs for children - During the Sunday morning 9:30 a.m. Mass there is babysitting for children under 3 years of age, Sunday School for 3 to 6 years of age and Children's Liturgy of the Word for children ages 7 and up.

Sacramental Life - St. Louis Parish celebrates the sacraments for its members who are registered and regularly attending. If you are not registered you are automatically a member of a parish closest to you.

Baptism - Please speak with a priest after Mass on Sunday.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Saturdays 4 - 4:30 p.m., or by appointment.

Marriage - For registered and supporting members, please contact the parish office at least one year in advance of your date.

Becoming Catholic - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, preparing adults for baptism and/or to join the community. Please contact the office for further information.

Anointing and Pastoral Care - Our parish community cares about the sick and elderly and the lonely. Please notify the parish office to arrange for them to receive the Anointing of the Sick, or to have the Holy Communion brought to them.

Pastoral Care to those in Hospital - A family member is asked to contact the parish whenever a parishioner is in hospital and requests a pastoral visit, or Sacrament of the Sick (Anointing).

Priesthood and Religious Life - Is God calling you to religious life, as a Brother, Deacon or Priest? If so, please contact the Vocation Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection, at resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com or www.resurrectionists.ca

Diocesan Newsletter - For information about Activities and Events of interest in the Diocese of Hamilton, subscribe to the online Diocesan Newsletter at www.hamiltondiocese.com

Parish Organizations and Contacts:

Altar Servers Coordinator
Dave Pagett, 519-744-7705

Catechesis of The Good Shepherd,
Kelly Krause, 519-743-4101

Finance Council
Terry Collins, 519-741-1534

Grounds & Gardens
Peter Brill, 519-886-5266

Catholic Women's League
Donna Herbstreit, 519-884-9380
donna.marie2000@icloud.com

Knights of Columbus - Waterloo
Council 5135 - 519-884-2060

OOTC Community Suppers
John Pendergast, 519-574-3384 &
Debbie Delattre

St. Vincent de Paul
For assistance or information
call 519-743-4101

Ministry to the Elderly & Homebound
Cecilia Beechey, 519-572-5435

Prayer Shawl Ministry
Sandra Williams, 519-742-9239

Prayer Chain
Sharon Carey, 519-746-8073

Parish Webmaster
Daniel Delattre,
daniel@uwaterloo.ca



2025 – YEAR OF JUBILEE – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

Monday, December 8 – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
5:30 PM	Good Shepherd Catechesis	Nursery
7:30 PM	Bible Study – Acts – 10/20	L. Hall

Tuesday, December 9

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Graces Received by Estrada Family – Estrada Family

9:30 AM	Book Club	L. Hall
12:15 – 1 PM	Fit Club	Gym

Wednesday, December 10

9:00 AM † John Clifton Young – Elaine Young

9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
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Thursday, December 11

9:00 AM Intentions of Pope Leo XIII

12:15 – 1 PM	Fit Club	Gym
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Friday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:00 AM In Thanksgiving for Graces Received by Esther MacKinnon – Kevin Ganaouri & Family

9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
7:00 PM	Songs of Advent & Christmas	Church
8:00 PM	Post Concert Reception	L. Hall

Saturday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 PM † Richard Mulhall – Pat & Joan Forde
 † Edna Ertel – Larry Ertel
 † Walter & Kaye Hartman – Children
 † Joe Novak – Family

Sunday, December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 AM † Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel
 † Mary Catherine Smith – Elizabeth
 Intentions of Dennis Bitschy – Bitschy Family

10:30 AM	Coffee Time	L. Hall
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11:30 AM People of St. Louis Parish

5 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym
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From All About Advent from Dynamic Catholic website:

World-Wide Advent Traditions

There are amazing Advent traditions all around the world — maybe you'll be inspired to bring them into your family's celebrations, too! Here are just a few examples:

In Germany and Austria, Catholics celebrate St. Barbara's feast day in a special way. On December 4th a small cherry branch is cut and put into a vase in a warm room. The branch typically blooms right around Christmas—and if the blossoms arrive on December 25, it's considered good luck! This tradition aligns perfectly with Advent, the season of anticipation for the birth of Jesus. It serves as a symbolic reminder of the hopeful expectation and joyous blooming that accompanies his arrival.

A common tradition in Mexico and some other Latin American countries is the celebration of Las Posadas, which means "The Inns." This is a nine-day event where the community forms a parade procession to symbolize Mary and Joseph's search for an inn in Bethlehem. The parade is made mostly of children dressed up as different characters like an angel. Each night, participants dressed up as Mary and Joseph travel through the neighborhood or town and ask for lodging. They are denied, but the host provides refreshments! Christmas carols are sung. On the final night Mary and Joseph are welcomed and a feast is held. Children break open pinatas filled with candy and small toys.

In the Philippines, a unique tradition called *Simbang Gabi* is observed during Advent. It is a series of nine early morning Masses held from December 16th to 24th, often starting at 4AM! These Masses serve

as a preparation for Christmas and are often followed by festive meals and gatherings.

The Advent Fast

There is great wisdom in the Christian practice of fasting—even though its benefits are largely forgotten. Fasting is a spiritual exercise, and as such is primarily an action of the inner life. Authentic fasting draws us nearer to God and opens our hearts to receive his many gifts.

Even though it's not as common, there is an old Catholic tradition of fasting during Advent. Why? To get your heart ready for the arrival of Jesus.

Advent Feast Days and Solemnities

We become what (and who) we celebrate. If there's one thing Catholics love, it's to celebrate. We celebrate all that God has done for us, we celebrate different spiritual milestones, and we celebrate saints! During Advent, there's no exception. Here are a few powerful feast days that Catholics celebrate throughout Advent: In addition to last week's December 6th Feast of St. Nicholas, we have three important feasts this week.

December 8th - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception - This feast is an opportunity to celebrate the Catholic doctrine that Mary was conceived completely free of original sin. In many countries this solemnity is a Holy Day of Obligation, so Catholics attend Mass just like any Sunday. Additionally, you could celebrate by praying a Rosary or singing Marian hymns like "Ave Maria."

December 12th - Our Lady of Guadalupe – on this feast try praying a Rosary or saying a Hail Mary to Our Lady of Guadalupe. If you want to have the most powerful experience, join millions of pilgrims who journey to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City to see the real-life miraculous tilma with your own eyes!

December 13th - Feast of St. Lucy - If you want to celebrate St. Lucy's feast day, there are a few things you can do. First, you could pray a novena to Saint Lucy, attend Mass in her honour, or listen to the song "Sancta Lucia." In Sweden, girls will serve their family a sweet treat while wearing all white and a crown with candles. *(To be continued)*

The Story of the Immaculate Conception of Mary

A feast called the Conception of Mary arose in the Eastern Church in the seventh century. It came to the West in the eighth century. In the 11th century it received its present name, the Immaculate Conception. In the 18th century it became a feast of the universal Church. It is now recognized as a solemnity.

In 1854, Pius IX solemnly proclaimed: "The most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin."

It took a long time for this doctrine to develop. While many Fathers and Doctors of the Church considered Mary the greatest and holiest of the saints, they often had difficulty in seeing Mary as sinless—either at her conception or throughout her life. This is one of the Church teachings that arose more from the piety of the faithful than from the insights of brilliant theologians. Even such champions of Mary as Bernard of Clairvaux and Thomas Aquinas could not see theological justification for this teaching.

Two Franciscans, William of Ware and Blessed John Duns Scotus, helped develop the theology. They pointed out that Mary's Immaculate Conception enhances Jesus' redemptive work. Other members of the human race are cleansed from original sin after birth. In Mary, Jesus' work was so powerful as to prevent original sin at the outset. Reflection - In Luke 1:28 the angel Gabriel, speaking on God's behalf, addresses Mary as "full of grace" or "highly favored". In that context, this phrase means that Mary is receiving all the special divine help necessary

DECEMBER 7, 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

for the task ahead. However, the Church grows in understanding with the help of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit led the Church, especially non-theologians, to the insight that Mary had to be the most perfect work of God next to the Incarnation. Or rather, Mary's intimate association with the Incarnation called for the special involvement of God in Mary's whole life.

The logic of piety helped God's people to believe that Mary was full of grace and free of sin from the first moment of her existence. Moreover, this great privilege of Mary is the highlight of all that God has done in Jesus. Rightly understood, the incomparable holiness of Mary shows forth the incomparable goodness of God. (From Franciscanmedia.org)

Saint Vincent De Paul Toy Drive - Our St. Louis Conference of SVDP, will be setting up an Angel Tree in the lobby of the church to support our Knights of Columbus in their Toy drive for families in need this Christmas. We ask for your generosity by claiming an angel from the tree and purchasing a toy for a boy or girl whose age will be written on the angel. This year we have been asked to focus on children aged 10 to 14 as this is the area most in need. Please take an angel from Nov. 30th to Dec 14th. We ask that unwrapped gifts with the angel label attached, are brought to the church by Dec. 14th in order that they can be distributed to children before Christmas. Thank you for your generosity for our neighbours in need.

 Attention Ladies: This is a friendly reminder that November is the month we submit our membership dues of \$45. You can either use the blue envelope in your offerings box or use your own envelope plainly marked "CWL Membership Dues". Cash or cheques made out to: St. Louis CWL are welcome. We also offer e-transfer to our Treasurer, Patti Pagett: dpac@golden.net. Thank you!

The Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood, a community of Contemplative Sisters, have been present in the Diocese of Hamilton since 1946. In addition to their ministry of prayer, they produce altar breads for many of our Parishes (including for St. Louis). You are welcome to contact them if you are interested in exploring a vocation to the Contemplative way of life. www.pbsisters.ca

Heartache to Healing – Grief Support Group - Coping with Christmas - Grieving the loss of a loved one at any time is difficult but it can seem all the worse as we approach the Christmas season. This time of year often reminds us of our loved ones who are no longer with us along with feelings of loss and sadness. We may begin to worry about our sense of belonging and how we are going to cope without our loved one. Join us as we watch a video and discuss ways to cope while still being able to find joy in each moment trusting that there will be brighter days ahead. Wed., Dec. 10th, 7 – 8:30 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM) at St. Michael Parish (Parish Centre – basement) – 80 University Ave. W., Waterloo. For more information and to register, please phone or email St. Michael's Parish office (519-884-9311 / parish@stmichaelw.ca).

St. Mary's Truth & ReconciliACTION Circle - A vigil Mass for the Feast of the Our Lady of Guadalupe will be held on Thursday, Dec. 11th at 5 pm at St. Mary Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows Church, 56 Duke Street West, Kitchener. The story of *St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe* will be shared before the Eucharistic celebration. Following Mass, hospitality will be provided in the parish hall: 3 Sisters soup & Bannock. All welcome!

 **Resurrectionist Vocation Minute** - John the Baptist's vocation reminds us of the distinctiveness and transformative potential of every vocation. Because God calls us, our response, modest as it may be, can open hearts and produce surprising results. We invite and welcome others into a relationship with Christ and his Church, because Christ extended the same call to us first. Fr. Eric Wagner, CR; resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com



Concert of Songs of Advent and Christmas – Friday, December 12th at 7 PM at St. Louis Church. The concert will feature some of the members of the 11:30 music group. A free will offering will be given to the CWL and St. Vincent de Paul of our parish. Refreshments in the Large Hall will follow.

Mark Your Calendar! A Closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday, Dec. 28th, at 3 PM. It will also be the Mass of Thanksgiving offered for Bp. Douglas Crosby, OMI, 15-years of service as Bishop of Hamilton.

SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST. LOUIS PARISH COMING UP:

Dec. 12 - 7 PM - Concert of Songs of Advent and Christmas.
Jan. 3 – 6 PM – Epiphany Potluck, Carols and Games – Time to celebrate with other parishioners this festive season - more info to come.
Jan. 31 – 4:30 – 10 PM Annual Potluck and Ceili Dance, and also Children Games – More info to come. The decorating theme is "Fairy Tales". Wear a costume if you wish!

Ceili planning meeting will be on Sunday Dec. 7th at 10:40 AM (during the Coffee Time) in the Large Hall (corner near the piano).



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

Date	Sunday	Mainten.	Loose	Diocesan	PAD
Nov 30	2359.65	270.00	375.65	132.00	2310.15

Thank you for your generous donations!

Advent Penitential Services in KW area:

This coming week:
 Thursday, December 11 at 7 PM at St. Aloysius in Kitchener

Mass Times for Christmas Season:

Feast	Week Day	Date	Mass Times
Christmas Eve	Wed.	Dec. 24	5 PM & 8 PM
Christmas Day	Thu.	Dec. 25	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Boxing Day/ St. Stephen	Fri.	Dec. 26	No Mass
Eve of Holy Family	Sat.	Dec. 27	5 PM
Holy Family	Sun.	Dec. 28	9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
5 th Day of Christmas	Mon.	Dec. 29	No Mass
6 th Day of Christmas	Tue.	Dec. 30	9 AM
7 th Day of Christmas/ New Year's Eve	Wed.	Dec. 31	5 PM
Mary, Mother of God/ 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

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