



# 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. Parishioners are invited to join our choirs. Please contact the choir directors:

9:30 Choir - Bob Reinhart (robertreinhart182@msn.com)

11:30 Choir - 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** - Celebrated once a month. 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:

**Finance Council**  
Terry Collins, 519-741-1534

**Maintenance Committee**  
Bob Lorentz, 519-576-5556

**OOTC Community Suppers**  
Keith & Sharon Schnarr 519-801-8687

**Parish Webmaster**  
Daniel Delattre, daniel@uwaterloo.ca

**Altar Servers Coordinator**  
Dave Pagett, 519-744-7705

**Catechesis Of The Good Shepherd,  
Youth Ministry**  
Kelly Krause, 519-743-4101

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

**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

**St. Vincent De Paul**  
For food hamper or more  
information call 519-743-4101



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

#### **Monday, December 9 – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - No Mass**

9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
5:30 PM	Good Shepherd Catechesis	Nursery
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Church
7:30 PM	Bible Study- Bible Timeline (23/23)	L. Hall

#### **Tuesday, December 10 (office closed in the morning)**

9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving for Graces Received – Estrada Family	
9:30 AM	Book Group – Movie “Mary”	L. Hall
7:00 PM	Painting with Kelly	L. Hall

#### **Wednesday, December 11**

9:00 AM	† Rosemary Peterson – Peterson Family	
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym

#### **Thursday, December 12 – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9:00 AM	† Andy & Millie Schlupp – Rosemary & Shaun MacNeil	
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#### **Friday, December 13 – St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr**

9:00 AM	† Alex MacKinnon – Esther MacKinnon	
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
7 PM	Advent/Christmas Concert & Social	Church L. Hall

#### **Saturday, December 14 - St. John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor**

9 AM – NOON	SVDP Sandwich Project	Kitchen
9 AM – 3 PM	Handcrafting	L. Hall

#### **Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent**

5:00 PM	† Richard Mulhall – Pat & Joan Forde	
	† Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel	
	† Paul Schnarr – John & Sharon Carey	
	† June Flieger nee Winkler – Lorne & Elizabeth Winkler	
6:00 PM	Youth Group Christmas Party	L. Hall

#### **Sunday, December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish	
10:30 AM	Coffee Time	L. Hall
11:30 AM	† Connie Strickler – The Family	
	† Jocelyn Haroun – Martin Family	
	† Deceased Members of the Reitzel Family – Audrey Reitzel	
	For Healing of Judy Hardie – Sprout Family	
4:30 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym

#### **Reflection on the First Reading: Baruch 5:1-9**

In the Book of the Baruch, describing and analyzing the Babylonian exile, the author considers four themes – sin, exile, repentance, and return. Today's reading, coming from the final portion of Baruch's poem of consolation, considers the return from exile.

After having offered a sincere confession of Israel's sin, an interpretation that considers the exile to be a just punishment for that sin, and a reflection upon the mysterious ways of God, the last part of Baruch's poem declares that Israel will return to Jerusalem. He addresses Jerusalem with several directives. She is to “take courage”, for God now looks kindly upon her and is putting down her enemy (Babylon). She is to “look towards the east”, for her children are returning. Coming to today's passage, we read more of Baruch's exhortations to Jerusalem: “take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction... and put on forever the beauty and glory from God.” Jerusalem is to “stand upon the height.” All of the glorious things described in this reading – splendour, justice, peace, eternal glory – and the safe arrival of Jerusalem's children come from her benevolent God, which is accompanied by “mercy and righteousness.” With such a future vision filled with hope, the sins of the past vanish and the trials of the present diminish. (From Workbook for Lectors)



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.

**Second Theme: Peace** - The Advent theme of peace centers on the tranquility and wholeness that Jesus brings to the world. Celebrated during the second week of Advent, peace reminds us that Christ's coming is meant to reconcile humanity with God and with one another. In Scripture, peace is more than just the absence of conflict—it's a deep, lasting harmony rooted in God's presence.

What is the importance of peace during Advent?

Isaiah 9:6 foretells Jesus as the “Prince of Peace,” whose kingdom will bring justice and peace to all who follow him. This is a common Scripture verse to read during Advent.

As we light the second Advent candle, we reflect on the ways Jesus calls us to be peacemakers in our lives, showing kindness, understanding, and forgiveness to others. Advent peace encourages us to let go of our anxieties, trusting in God's love and guidance. (From ascensionpress.com)

Check the parish website main page for links to various Advent reflections.



St. Louis CWL would like to thank everyone who made our recent Mission Craft and Bake Sale a huge success.

Together we raised nearly \$6000 for the following missions: Catholic Missions in Canada, Development & Peace and Resurrection Missions in Tanzania. Whether you purchased items, donated baking or other goods, helped set up and take down for the sale, worked at the tables or just stopped by to say hello, it all made a difference. Thank you for supporting our efforts for 100 years and counting!



**St. Louis Advent/Christmas Concert** - Please join us at St. Louis Church on Friday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM for an hour of music, featuring members of the 11:30 music group. A freewill offering will be collected, with all proceeds going to the St. Louis CWL & St. Vincent de Paul. Following the concert, the reception in the Large Hall will be hosted by CWL & SVDP.



**Youth Group Christmas Party for all those youth in Gr. 5 – Gr. 8** on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> after the 5 PM Mass. There will be food and games and fun to be had. Please register with Kelly Krause at the parish office. We need to know numbers to help with the planning of food.



**Dramatization of the Gospel at the 5 PM Christmas Eve Mass.** Older children interested in singing are invited to join the Dramatization as members of a choir. – Practices will take place after the 11:30 AM Mass on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. A hotdog lunch will be provided for children and parents. Parents must stay with the children during the practice. Please sign up with Kelly Krause at the parish office or in the nursery.

**Christmas Sing-a-long with Michael Kelly Cavan @ St. Mary's Church** (56 Duke St. W., Kit.) on Sun., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> from 2-3:30 PM. Hosted by the St. Mary's Truth & Reconciliation Circle. Proceeds to Healing of the Seven Generations Christmas appeal for Indigenous families in our region. Refreshments to follow. Free will offering graciously accepted or bring an unwrapped toy (age 0-11) or a gift card, including movie, Bingemans, Sky Zone passes, sporting events tickets. Cash, cheques, debit card accepted. Families welcome.

Date	Sunday	Loose	Maint.	Diocesan	PAD
Dec 1	3585.00	423.30	45.00	0.00	2178.61

*Thank you for your donation*



The **Immaculate Conception** is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That's what "immaculate" means: without stain.

It's important to understand what the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception is and what it is not. Some people mistakenly think that the term refers to Christ's conception in Mary's womb without the intervention of a human father. Others think the Immaculate Conception means Mary was conceived "by the power of the Holy Spirit," in the way Jesus was, but that, too, is incorrect.

The essence of original sin consists in the deprivation of sanctifying grace, and its stain is a corrupt nature. Mary was preserved from these defects by God's grace; from the first instant of her existence she was in the state of sanctifying grace and was free from the corrupt nature original sin brings.

When discussing the Immaculate Conception, an implicit reference may be found in the angel's greeting to Mary. The angel Gabriel said, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Luke 1:28). The phrase "full of grace" is a translation of the Greek word *kecharitomene*. It therefore expresses a characteristic quality of Mary.

The grace given to Mary is at once permanent and of a unique kind. *Kecharitomene* is a perfect passive participle of *charitoō*, meaning "to fill or endow with grace." Since this term is in the perfect tense, it indicates that Mary was graced in the past but with continuing effects in the present. So, the grace Mary enjoyed was not a result of the angel's visit, but it extended over the whole of her life, from conception onward. She was in a state of sanctifying grace from the first moment of her existence.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is joyfully celebrated on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> each year by the Catholic Church (or moved to Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> when Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is a Sunday). This feast takes place exactly nine months prior to the celebration of her Nativity on Sep. 8<sup>th</sup>. (From catholic.com)

**Our Lady of Guadalupe** (Dec. 12) - The feast in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Chronicles of that period tell us the story. A poor Indian named Cuauhtlatohuac was baptized and given the name Juan Diego. He was a 57-year-old widower, and lived in a small village near Mexico City. On Saturday morning Dec. 9, 1531, he was on his way to a nearby barrio to attend Mass in honour of Our Lady. Juan was walking by a hill called Tepeyac when he heard beautiful music like the warbling of birds. A radiant cloud appeared, and within it stood an Indian maiden dressed like an Aztec princess. The lady spoke to him in his own language and sent him to the bishop of Mexico, a Franciscan named Juan de Zumarraga. The bishop was to build a chapel in the place where the lady appeared.

Eventually the bishop told Juan to have the lady give him a sign. About this same time Juan's uncle became seriously ill. This led poor Juan to try to avoid the lady. Nevertheless the lady found Juan, assured him that his uncle would recover, and provided roses for Juan to carry to the bishop in his cape or tilma. On Dec. 12, when Juan Diego opened his tilma in the bishop's presence, the roses fell to the ground, and the bishop sank to his knees. On the tilma where the roses had been appeared an image of Mary exactly as she had appeared at the hill of Tepeyac.

**Reflection:** Mary's appearance to Juan Diego as one of his people is a powerful reminder that Mary—and the God who sent her—accept all peoples. In the context of the sometimes rude and cruel treatment of the Indians by the Spaniards, the apparition was a rebuke to the Spaniards and an event of vast significance for the indigenous population. While a number of them had converted before this incident, they now came in droves. According to a contemporary chronicler, nine million Indians became Catholic in a very short time. God's love for and

identification with the poor is an age-old truth that stems from the Gospel itself. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patron Saint of: The Americas & Mexico. (From Franciscanmedia.org)



Book Group will be watching the new Netflix (2024) movie *Mary*, on Tue. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Large Hall. Refreshments provided. All welcome to come.

## Special Events coming up at St. Louis parish

**December** – Advent Reconciliation/Confession in KW parishes – See parish website for detailed calendar & below this box.

**Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22** – Advent Mission *Prepare the Way* preached by Fr. Jim Link, C.R. during all the Sunday & Saturday Night Masses

**Dec. 13** – Advent & Christmas Concert & Reception (7 PM)

**Dec. 14** – Youth Christmas Party (Grades 5 - 8) (6 PM)

**Dec. 15 & 22** – Rehearsals 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 –

Pope Francis to open the Jubilee Doors in Rome

**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 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Louis Parish.

*Fr. Theobald Spetz was placed in charge of the first Waterloo parish (St. Louis) in 1889. The subscription of funds started and in the spring of 1890 the preparation of the ground, formation of the hill and pouring of the foundations took place. The construction was advanced enough for the consecration to take place on the Feast of Epiphany (Jan. 6, 1891) by Bishop Dowling. Year 1890 is accepted as the inaugural year of St. Louis Parish and Feast of the Epiphany as the consecration date.*

**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 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our parish.)

**Jan. 5** – Feast of the Epiphany

**Feb. 8** – Potluck & Ceili Dance with a Medieval Theme – As part of our parish 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary we will transform for one night our Gym into 13<sup>th</sup> century Hall (King Louis IX times were 1214 – 1270). Wear a medieval costume, if you wish. If interested, help making decorations ahead of the event (contact parish office for details).

## Sacrament of Reconciliation/ Confessions this coming week:

Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 7 PM at St. Joseph's Church, Kitchener

Wednesday, Dec. 11 @ 7 PM at St. Aloysius' Church, Kitchener

Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 7 PM at St. Mark's Church, Kitchener

Thursday, Dec. 12 @ 7 PM at St. Teresa's Church, Kitchener

St. Louis' Church Confession time: Saturdays from 4 to 4:30 PM or by appointment. (For more details check the parish website.)

**Resurrectionist Vocation Minute** - It's easy for us to feel stuck, like nothing we do makes any difference. But the word "Advent" comes from the Latin words "*ad*", and "*venire*", which means "to come to". But who is coming to whom? We often think that we have to come to God, and perhaps we feel stuck there too. But the good news is: it is the Advent of the Lord. God is coming to us. That makes a big difference. Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR; resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com



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this Advent and Christmas season  
to see our growing Jessie Tree.**

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