

St. Louis Catholic Church

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Served by the Congregation of the Resurrection since 1890.

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

Custodian: Doug Lichty

Epiphany of the Lord



**The Wise
Still Seek Him.**

MASS INTENTIONS & EVENTS

Monday, January 5			
9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym	
5:30 PM	SVDP Exec Meeting	L. Hall	
Tuesday, January 6			
9:00 AM	In Thanksgiving for Graces Received by Estrada Family – Estrada Family		Gym
	12:15 - 1 PM	Fit Club	Gym
Wednesday, January 7 – St. André Bessette, Religious			
9:00 AM	† Michelle Toussant – Cecilia Beechey		Gym
	9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Thursday, January 8			
9:00 AM	Intentions of Pope Leo XIII		
	12:15 - 1 PM	Fit Club	Gym
Friday, January 9			
9:00 AM	† Jerome Andrews – Larry Ertel		Gym
	9 AM – NOON	Pickle Ball	Gym
Saturday, January 10			
Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord			
5:00 PM	† Carol Schneider – Ron Schneider		
	† Edna Ertel – Larry Ertel		
	† Betty Mulhall – Pat & Joan Forde		
Sunday, January 11 - The Baptism of the Lord			
9:30 AM	† Phyllis Ertel – Larry Ertel		
	† Don Miller – Miller Family		
	† Katie & Bert Ruetz – Ruetz Family		
	† Samran, Khampheng, Kasem & Johnny Xaysy – Xaysy Family		
	10:30 AM	Coffee Time	L. Hall
11:30 AM	People of St. Louis Parish		
	12:30 PM	Lunch & Bible Study – Acts – 11/20	L. Hall
	5 PM	OOTC Community Supper	Gym



As the Christmas decorations come down some people write the following on their front doors with a chalk that was blessed for the occasion on the feast of the Epiphany.



20 * C † M † B † 26

A key to the code:

— The “*” symbolizes the star that led the wise men to Jesus.

— The letters ‘C’, ‘M’, and ‘B’ signify the

Wise Men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They are also the first three letters of the Latin phrase ‘CHRISTUS MANSIONEM BENEDICAT’ which means ‘May Christ Bless the house’.

— The three crosses ‘†’ signify the Holy Trinity made known to us through the Incarnation.

— Encompassing them all is the year we have just entered into: ‘2026’. It is a nice devotion for Epiphany – great for families – and is an active reminder for us through the year of the wonder of Christmas.

(Pieces of the blessed chalk will be available at the back of the church.)

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar: Who were the three wise kings?

Gaspar, Melchior and Balthasar have gone down in history as the Three Kings. They are an essential part of every Nativity set.

The three men came from the so-called East, now from the Middle East. Their costume, described as oriental, indicates that they came from Persia. There, the sages were probably astrologists. In this function they observed the rise of a new celestial star at Christmas.

This star appeared in the sky with a bright tail and, according to modern scientific studies, probably was not a comet, but a close encounter of the two planets Jupiter and Saturn.

Many legends intertwine around the lives of the three men, whose appearance is usually described as quite rich. One of them says that each of them was named bishop from Apostle Thomas. In addition, they are said to have worked as successful missionaries and died one after the other. According to another legend, the Magi were buried in a common tomb, which is said to have been found by St. Helena in 326. In July 1164 the bones arrived in the Cathedral of Cologne, where since then they rest and are venerated as relics in the sanctuary of the Magi.

The three wise men: the meaning of names - The name Gaspar comes from Persian and means “treasure keeper” or “treasurer”. Gaspar is often depicted in images as an African with dark skin colour and presents myrrh as a gift. Myrrh is a symbol of humanity and is in some interpretations also associated with the later suffering of Jesus.

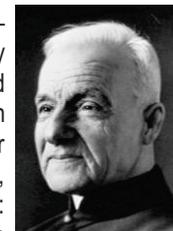
Melchiorre is a Jewish name and stands for “King of Light”. He has European characteristics and brings gift of gold. Gold is considered the most precious commodity worthy of a king, the Son of God.

The name Balthasar also comes from Hebrew and means “God save his life” or “God will help”. Translations of the name from Ancient Syrian also read “God save the king”. It is associated with an Asian origin. He carries incense, which is considered a divine symbol.

Epiphany cake - The Dreikönigskuchen (Three-Kings-Cake) is a popular sweet cake made for the Epiphany day. It is known in England as “King’s Cake”, in France as “Galette des Rois” and in Spain as “Roscón de Reyes”. Although the recipes are very different, all cakes have one thing in common: a good luck charm in the shape of almond, coin, bean or porcelain figure is baked into the cake, making the person who finds it a family king for a day.

Three Kings Parade – In various European and South American cities there are parades on the day of this Feast. Each parade is unique, but all include three kings and a destination of a stable with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. *(From lignoma.com)*

Saint André Bessette’s Story (August 9, 1845 – January 6, 1937) Br. André expressed a saint’s faith by a lifelong devotion to Saint Joseph. Sickness and weakness dogged André from birth. He was the eighth of 12 children born to a French Canadian couple near Montreal. Adopted at 12, when both parents had died, he became a farmhand. Various trades followed: shoemaker, baker, blacksmith—all failures. He was a factory worker in the United States during the boom times of the Civil War.



At 25, André applied for entrance into the Congregation of Holy Cross. After a year’s novitiate, he was not admitted because of his weak health. But with an extension and the urging of Bishop Bourget, he was finally received. He was given the humble job of doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. “When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years,” he said.

In his little room near the door, he spent much of the night on his knees. On his windowsill, facing Mount Royal, was a small statue of Saint Joseph, to whom he had been devoted since childhood. When asked about it he said, “Some day, Saint Joseph is going to be honored in a very special way on Mount Royal!”

When he heard someone was ill, he visited to bring cheer and to pray with the sick person. He would rub the sick person lightly with oil taken from a lamp burning in the college chapel. Word of healing powers began to spread.

When an epidemic broke out at a nearby college, André volunteered to nurse. Not one person died. The trickle of sick people to his door became a flood. His superiors were uneasy; diocesan authorities were suspicious; doctors called him a quack. “I do not cure,” he said

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

again and again. "Saint Joseph cures." In the end he needed four secretaries to handle the 80,000 letters he received each year.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to buy land on Mount Royal. Br. André and others climbed the steep hill to plant medals of St. Joseph. Suddenly, the owners yielded. André collected \$200 to build a small chapel and began receiving visitors there—smiling through long hours of listening, applying St. Joseph's oil. Some were cured, some not. The pile of crutches, canes and braces grew.

The chapel also grew. By 1931, there were gleaming walls, but money ran out. "Put a statue of Saint Joseph in the middle. If he wants a roof over his head, he'll get it." The magnificent Oratory on Mount Royal took 50 years to build. The sickly boy who could not hold a job died at 92.

He is buried at the Oratory. He was beatified in 1982 and canonized in 2010. At his canonization in October 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said that Saint Andre "lived the beatitude of the pure of heart."

Reflection - Rubbing ailing limbs with oil or a medal? Planting a medal to buy land? Isn't this superstition? Aren't we long past that superstitious people rely only on the "magic" of a word or action. Brother André's oil and medals were authentic sacramentals of a simple, total faith in the Father who lets His saints help Him bless His children. (*From franciscanmedia.org*)



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 @ 6:30 PM** in St. Paul Catholic Elementary School, 45 Birchcliff Ave, Kitchener. The link to registration is: <https://sites.google.com/view/fne-kwc/timberwolf-program>.

Pro-Life Prayer Vigil - Thursday, January 8 from 10 – 11 AM opposite Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking - across the road, Schneider Park. Any queries, please contact Cathy at: cmlamers@rogers.com



Resurrectionist Vocation Minute - The Magi are not content with staying where they are; they see a sign and embark on a journey to find the King. Similarly, discerning a vocation requires movement, leaving behind the comfortable and familiar to seek where God is revealing Himself in your life. Are you ready to offer your own life as a gift and follow the star that leads to Him? Fr. Pawel Szymanowski, CR; resurrectionistvocation@gmail.com



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

SOCIAL EVENTS AT ST. LOUIS PARISH COMING UP:



Saturday, January 31 from 4:30 to 10 PM Annual Midwinter Potluck, Ceili Dance & Children Games with Fairy Tales Theme – Mark your calendars!

The evening will start with Children Games and Crafts in the Nursery from 4:30 to 5:45 PM. Potluck dinner at 6 PM. Ceili Dancing from 7 to 10 PM with intermission and entertainment by Fairy Singers 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 instructions, you can dance. If dancing is not your thing, come and listen to the music and socialize. This is an event for all ages! The decorating theme will be "Fairy Tales". Wear a costume, if you wish for more fun! Watch for posters with more information.

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). We keep both sessions in parallel, so you can come when it suits you better in a given 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 their 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.

New Year's Resolution to become more active and fit? Maybe St. Louis clubs can help:

St. Louis Fit Club –Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:15 – 1 PM at St. Louis Gym. Low-impact, mobility-oriented workout delivered by certified trainer and Globe and Mail fitness columnist Paul Landini. Free (donations accepted). Bring indoor shoes & exercise mat, if you have one.

St. Louis Pickle Ball Club – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 AM till Noon. Bring your own indoor shoes. Paddles, balls and nets provided. Free will donation. Drop in. First come, first play.

Date	Sunday	Christmas	Loose	PAD
Dec. 28	10,993.10	970.00	313.65	2139.84

Thank you for your generous donations!

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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