

Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Parish, Waterloo

CONTACT US

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PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Fr. Stephen Murrin smurrin@hamiltondiocese.com

Permanent deacon: Rev Mr. T.J. Han tjhan@hamiltondiocese.com

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com

Music Director: Mr. Bruce Cameron brucecameron57@gmail.com

Organist: Mrs. April Philpotts aaphilpotts@gmail.com

prepare the way...



ADVENT



DEC 23 to DEC 28

TUESDAY – DEC 23 Ferial	7:00 p.m.	No Mass
WEDNESDAY – DEC 24 Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.	+Luke McAuley – Wiecek Family
	7:30 p.m.	+Phonsine & Vincent Morrison – Family
THURSDAY – DEC 25 Christmas Day	9:00 a.m.	+David Eckert – Mitzie Eckert
	11:00 a.m.	In loving memory – Christmas flowers
FRIDAY – DEC 26 Feast – St. Stephen	9:00 a.m.	No Mass
SATURDAY – DEC 27 Feast, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	5:00 p.m.	+Robert Denomme – Gisele & Peter Denomme
SUNDAY – DEC 28 Feast, Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9:00 a.m.	+Marilyn Goodyear – Goodyear Family
	11:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish
Parish Finance Report Week of CHURCH'S FINANCIAL HEALTH	Nov 23, 2025	Nov 30, 2025
<i>Sunday Envelope Collection</i>	\$ 2604.00	\$ 2557.00
<i>Sunday Loose Collection</i>	\$373.40	\$375.00
<i>E-transfer</i>	\$ 342.00	\$ 447.00
<i>PAG/ Direct Deposit</i>	\$ 2,755.64	\$ 2,755.64
<i>Other (Building fund, funerals, flowers missals, Votives...)</i>	\$372.32	\$372.32
<i><u>TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTION</u></i>	<u>\$ 6,447.36</u>	<u>\$ 6,506.96</u>
<i>Budgeted</i>	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
<i>Net Income /Loss</i>	\$-52.64	\$6.96

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Thank you for your generosity and continued support of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and our community.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

There are four Masses that are celebrated for the Feast of Christmas, and each is given its own set of readings to help us contemplate Christ's birth. The Gospel for the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve is taken from the beginning of the Gospel of Matthew. The Mass at midnight proclaims the birth of Jesus through the Gospel of Luke. The Mass at dawn on Christmas morning continues the story of the birth of Jesus as found in Luke's Gospel, ending with the shepherds' visit to the infant Jesus. In each of these Gospel readings, we hear portions of the infancy narratives with which we are familiar.



The Gospel for the Christmas Mass during the day is taken from the beginning of John's Gospel, but this part of John's Gospel is not an infancy narrative like those found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Instead, John's Gospel starts at the very beginning and presents the Creation story as the framework for announcing the Incarnation. John's opening words echo the first verse in the Book of Genesis. This framework invites us to view Jesus' birth from God's perspective. Each of the Gospels makes clear that Jesus' birth was the result of God's initiative. John's Gospel, however, emphasizes that Jesus' birth was the divine intention from the moment of Creation. God comes to dwell among us. John's Gospel reminds us that through the Incarnation, God saves us from the darkness of sin and makes us his children.



**Feast of the
Holy Family
Sunday,
December
28th**

In celebrating the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, the Gospel Story invites us to consider Joseph's protection of Jesus in the face of danger. Just as in the announcement of Jesus' birth, an angel

appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel warns him of Herod's plans to harm Jesus. Joseph follows the command of the angel and takes Joseph and Mary to Egypt, returning only after receiving word in another dream that it was safe to do so.

This feast is part of the Christmas season, so we should look at today's Gospel in the context of what Scripture tells us about Jesus' birth. Today's reading is found in the Gospel of Matthew, following the story of the visit of the Magi. Matthew in his gospel story about the birth of Jesus makes Joseph the primary character and shows Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.



On this 4th Sunday of Advent, we have now entered into the Octave (8 days) before Christmas, a time of joyful celebration. The days following Christmas Day are also called an Octave and celebrated as Solemnities or Feasts. In our own celebrations we are reminded that it is the Season that we celebrate, extending beyond Christmas Day.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The events remind us of the difficult reality of Jesus' birth. Not everyone received Christ's birth with joy or obedience. Herod's jealousy and malice contrast with Joseph's obedience to the words of the angel. The Holy Family's escape to Egypt and the massacre that Jesus is saved from remind us of the struggles and sacrifices that are required as preparation for God's salvation.



Mary, the Mother of God January 1st

The reading of the Mass today is a continuation from the Gospel proclaimed at the Christmas Mass at midnight. In it the shepherds act upon the message they receive from the angel and go to find Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. In their visit to the manger, the shepherds find things just as the angel had said. The shepherds' visit, therefore, is a moment of fulfillment, manifestation, and the beginning of the salvation we receive through Christ.

In the context of today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. Way back in 431, there was a bitter controversy among theologians over the role of Mary in the Catholic Church. They debated the question: Who is Mary in God's plan?

In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary's relative Elizabeth called her "Mother of my Lord." When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary's great faith in accepting it. For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith.

Monday, December 22th - No Mass
Tuesday, December 23th - No Mass

Nativity of the Lord - Solemnity

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24th

5:00 pm
7:30 pm

Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th

9:00 am
11:00 am.

Friday, December 26th - No Mass

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 27th

5:00 pm

Sunday, December 28th

9:00 am

11:00 am

Monday, December 29th - No Mass
Tuesday, December 30th - No Mass

Mary, the Mother of God - Solemnity

New Year's Eve, Wednesday, December 31st

5:00 pm.

New Year's Day, Thursday, January 1st

10:00 am

Friday, January 2nd - No Mass

There will be no Confessions on Saturday, December 27th and no first 9:00 am. First Saturday Mass on January 3rd.

There will be no bulletin on the weekend of December 27-28.



Merry Christmas

I would like to wish everyone a very happy and joyful Christmas; and may God bestow on all of us and our loved ones his blessings during this holy season. May we all take the opportunity to contemplate the mystery of God taking flesh in Jesus and assuming our human life to be with us. May our time with family and friends be filled with good will and time to reflect on our memories of the past with a smile and thankful heart to God. Merry Christmas. Fr. Steve and Nicholas.

**12 Days of Christmas
Christmas Day, December 25th to Epiphany, January 6th.**



- 1 True Love refers to God
- 2 Turtle Doves refers to the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens refers to Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
- 4 Calling Birds refers to the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
- 5 Golden Rings refers to the first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
- 6 Geese A-laying refers to the six days of creation
- 7 Swans A-swimming refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
- 8 Maids A-milking refers to the eight beatitudes
- 9 Ladies Dancing refers to the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords A-leaping refers to the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers Piping refers to the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers Drumming refers to the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

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