



Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Parish, Waterloo

Mass Times

Saturday: 7:00 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet 20 minutes before Mass

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday & Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Holy Rosary 20 minutes before Mass

Tuesday & Thursday: 7:00 p.m.

Confession Times

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.,
20 minutes before weekday Masses.

Sacraments

For baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, marriages, please contact parish office.

Blessing of Expectant Parents

Last Sunday of each month after all Masses.

Anointing of the Sick / Hospital Visitation

If you or someone you know is in need of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office or see Father after Mass. Please advise the office of the hospital admissions to request anointing or pastoral visit.

St. Vincent de Paul

Church door collections - last Sunday of each month. For information on food distribution call 519-886-0342 ext 2.

Welcome New Members

Welcome! We're glad you want to join our parish! Please fill out a form from the church lobby or website, drop it in the collection basket or at the parish office. Please call if you would like Father to bless your home.

Offertory Envelopes / Pre-Authorized Debit

To receive an annual tax receipt for your donations you are encouraged to use offertory envelopes and/or to enroll in our monthly debit plan. Offertory envelopes can be requested by filling out a parish registration form, or if you are already registered, simply call the office to request a box. Debit plan enrollment forms are available in the church lobby.

PARISH TEAM

Pastor: Rev. Rafal Tomon

lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek

lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com

Music Director: Mr. Bruce Cameron

brucecameron57@gmail.com

Organist: Mrs. April Philpotts aaphilpotts@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

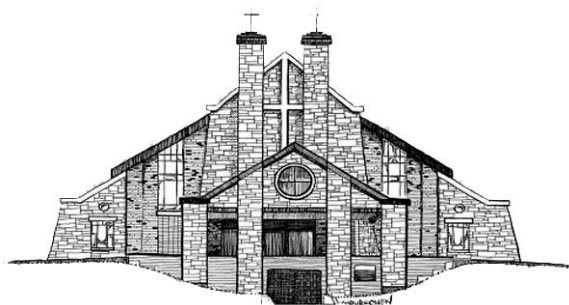
Monday to Thursday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Parish Bequests

Keep your love for your parish alive.

Remember ***Our Lady of Lourdes Parish*** in your will and when recommending expressions of sympathy.



CONTACT US

173 Lourdes Street

Waterloo, ON N2L 1N5

519-886-0342

lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com

<https://www.ourladyoflourdeschurchwaterloo.com>

 www.facebook.com/OLOLWaterloo

 http://twitter.com/our_parish



DEC 19 to DEC 24

TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	+ Ettore Volpini – Charmaine & Frank Volpini
WEDNESDAY	8:30 a.m.	+ Alda & Joe Dacosta – Naomi & Nevelle de'Rozario
THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	Special Intention – Elizabeth Kassee
FRIDAY	8:30 a.m.	+ Dave Eckert – Mitzie Eckert & Family
SATURDAY	7:00 p.m.	+ Jack Cassidy – Joan Cassidy
SUNDAY	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish Special Intention
Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Pageant Christmas Eve Mass

Monthly Budget Review as of Dec 10, 2023

Weekly contributions year to date	\$172,661.98	
E-transfer	\$3,111.23	
Pre-authorized giving (year to date)	\$129,936.92	\$305,710.13
Building fund		\$8,685.10

please join us

Our Lady of Lourdes Café

When: Sun. Jan 14, 2024
Where: Parish Hall
Time: 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 p.m.



MENU: Coffee, tea \$1 and Cake & desserts \$2
BAKERS AND VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Dec 10, 2023, funds \$270.50

All proceeds from OLOL Café support our parish ministries

Please be a part of something extraordinary.

Please call the parish office if you can help as we hope to have the Café open 2nd Sunday of the Month.



CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTE: During the Holy Season of Christmas, it is a fitting gesture to dedicate floral tributes to be placed in the church in memory of deceased relatives and friends. These tributes are a sign of remembrance and an expression of faith in Christ's promise of eternal life. Forms are available at the church entrance if you wish to make such a tribute. The floral tribute sheets will be placed in the sanctuary in a gift-wrapped box. Those loved ones named will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

Volunteers needed!

Things to sign up for during this Christmas season.

- Christmas Eve Family Choirs (all ages)
- Pageant (grades 1 to 8)
- Minister of Hospitality (Usher)
- Christmas floral decoration design (Dec 22)
- Deliverer of Christmas flower (Dec 22)

Please email our parish office at

lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com

Starting Dec 1, we are continuing a parish family Christmas tradition. It will focus on giving and the true meaning of Christmas. **The Giving Manger** will help families shift their focus of Christmas back to giving. You will be asked to place a piece of straw in the manger located at Mary's altar, for each kind deed or act of service performed. On Christmas Day, Baby Jesus will be placed in the Church manger filled with service and love. We ask each family to work together to give gifts of service to one another, and you will find your hearts and home filled with more joy during the holiday season than ever before.



Christmas Pageant

Once again, this year, students from grades one to eight, along with parent volunteers, are invited to become involved in the Christmas pageant which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Registration online by filling out the google form.

<https://forms.gle/rbvHtfuqLffnAah37> Deadline to register for the pageant is

Sunday, December 10.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSALS

Tuesday, December 19
from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Children and parent volunteers are asked to meet in the church hall on the above dates in preparation for the rehearsal that will take place in the church. *"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."*—attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY (USHERS): Men and women of the parish are invited to serve as ministers of hospitality (ushers) on Christmas Eve (5:00 and 7:00 p.m.) and at midnight Mass as we welcome one and all to our parish for Christmas, signup sheet at the back of the church.

ADVENT RESOURCE FOR TEENS The Office of Youth Ministry is pleased to announce the release of the 2023 Advent Resource, "Shine Your Light". This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The resource is an interactive journal, inspiring prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospels, in addition to suggestions for living out the Advent Season. Special links and videos are included to help teens meditate on the weekly themes. You are invited to share this resource with the teens of your school communities. The resource is located here: <https://tinyurl.com/2s3h2ejs>

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gospel Reading

John 1:6-8,19-28

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

The Gospel for today combines a brief passage from the prologue to John's Gospel with a report about John the Baptist. As in Mark's Gospel, the Gospel of John contains no birth narrative. Instead, John's Gospel begins with a theological reflection that has come to be called the "prologue." This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah. Upon answering the next question, John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice," is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass. This theme is echoed in today's second reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians. It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

Diocesan Prayer Calendar – This week let us pray for...

Dec. 18	Dec. 19	Dec. 20	Dec. 21	Dec. 22	Dec. 23
Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman	Single Catholics	Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Del)	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino	Rev. Ronald Hodara	Rev. Donald Wilhelm

Prayer for Vocations... God, the source of creation and love, you invite each of us to serve you through the life which is your gift. May your grace encourage men and women to heights through service to the Church as priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. Make me an instrument to encourage others to give themselves and challenge me to do the same. Amen

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Dec 17	Christmas decoration setup	12:00 p.m.
Dec 22	Deliver white poinsettias	12:00 p.m.
Dec 24	Pageant	5:00 p.m.



Sister Oyin-osa Asishana, Provincial Leader of the School Sister of Notre Dame – Province of Africa, is visiting Waterloo Region. She will be at OLL next weekend Dec. 16/17 to thank the parish for its past support of the Notre Dame Children Outreach program in Kenya. Sister Oyin-osa would also like to share information about the new Blessed Theresa of Jesus Gerhardinger Education Centre currently under construction for the benefit of the NDCO. "Brick" Christmas ornaments (handcrafted in Waterloo) will be available for \$10 with all proceeds benefiting the new school.

BIG THANK YOU – for the collection of Christmas shoe boxes for children in need. We are grateful to all families who participated, as we were able to fill 65 boxes, and some food and clothing, which were delivered to Canadian Food for Children this past week, our shoe boxes are on a container on its way to Zambia. If you have missed the opportunity to bring your filled shoe box to the church, you can still drop it off at the parish office. Thank you again.



HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH OUR

BOWING ANGEL: A long-standing tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is the presence of the bowing angel by the manger scene, who graciously bows her head after an offering is made. Again, this year, all donations received from the bowing angel will be sent to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Children's Project in Kenya who work with children whose parents have died of HIV-AIDS. Since the bowing angel cannot digest paper, a plate will be by the angel to accept paper offerings. (Cheques should be made payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes Church".)

CHRISTMAS GIFT BEARERS: Volunteers are needed to serve as gift bearers at our Christmas Masses: 5:00 p.m. (Pageant) and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, midnight Mass and 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. You are also welcome to volunteer as gift bearers for New Year's Eve/Day.

DIOCESAN BOOKKEEPING POLICY: As we approach year end, parishioners frequently wish to make contributions to the church that will be credited to their tax receipt for the current year. Diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31. Contributions made in January cannot be applied to 2023 offerings.

THE POPE'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS FOR 2023

For persons with disabilities
We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the center of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.





Thinking of buying or selling? I can HELP! I have a team of professionals who will make the process go as smooth as possible. I have been a member of Our Lady of Lourdes church for 25 yrs and would love the opportunity to help my fellow parishioners with their real estate needs.

Charlene Cardow 519-498-3274 RE/MAX

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 Eat in call **Manager 519-884-2060**
 Wednesday Spaghetti: Take out/Eat in call
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