

# *Our Lady of Lourdes*

## **Catholic Parish, Waterloo**

### **CONTACT US**

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### **PARISH TEAM**

**Pastor:** Rev. Rafal Tomon [lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com](mailto:lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com)  
**Administrative Assistant:** Mrs. Patrycja Wiecek [lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com](mailto:lourdeswaterloochurch@gmail.com)  
**Music Director:** Mr. Bruce Cameron [brucecameron57@gmail.com](mailto:brucecameron57@gmail.com)  
**Organist:** Mrs. April Philpotts [aaphilpotts@gmail.com](mailto:aaphilpotts@gmail.com)



## *Feast of the Holy Family*



JAN 2 to JAN 7

<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Danny Cahill – Stephen & Geraldine Dowling
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> <b>Beechwood</b>	8:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	+ Holy Souls – Joan Cassidy + Deceased DiLeo Family
<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>Westhill</b>	7:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.	Special Intention – Renata Zalewska + Deceased DiLeo Family
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:30 a.m.	In Thanksgiving Jean Rusell – Naomi & Nevelle de’Rozario
<b>SATURDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Rohan Jayasundera – Chris & Bill Belleth
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish Special Intention

## Prayer for the New Year

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises,  
thank you for the gift of a new year.  
May it be a time of grace for me,  
a time to grow in faith and love,  
a time to renew my commitment  
to following your Son, Jesus.



May it be a year of blessing for me,  
a time to cherish my family and friends,  
a time to renew my efforts at work,  
a time to embrace my faith more fully.

Walk with me, please,  
in every day and every hour of this New Year,  
that the light of Christ might shine through me,  
in spite of my weaknesses and failings.  
Above all, may I remember this year  
that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to you.

Amen

## Table Blessing for New Year’s Day

God, our Father,  
you chose the lowly maiden of Nazareth,  
to become the mother of your eternal Son.  
Through the intercession of her prayers  
make us, your children,  
grow daily in the love of you, our Father,  
and in the love of all our brothers and sisters  
in Christ.

Send your blessings upon our table,  
upon those who prepared this food for us,  
and make us always mindful  
of the needs of the poor and the hungry.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
Son of God and Son of Mary.

### Monthly Budget Review as of Dec 10, 2023

Weekly contributions year to date	\$172,665.26	
E-transfer	\$4,056.23	
Pre-authorized giving (year to date)	\$129,936.92	\$306,358.41
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 \$270.25

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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month.

**TREE OF LIFE:** It is a tradition here at Our Lady of Lourdes to call the large tree in the sanctuary the *“Tree of Life”* for the decorations on it reflect two of the great Christian mysteries: *birth and death*. On the tree, there will be **41 angels** each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and **16 crosses** in memory of those born to eternal life. When the Christmas season is over, these personalized ornaments will be available as mementos to family members. Parents with children baptized this year are encouraged to have a photo taken with the child by the tree and to keep this with the ornament.

# HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

## Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40 (or shorter form: Luke 2:22,39-40)

Mary and Joseph present Jesus at the Temple in accordance with the Law of Moses.

## Background on the Gospel Reading

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. This celebration is assigned to the Sunday within the octave of Christmas. The Gospel for today is taken from the Gospel according to Luke and is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Today's Gospel describes the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple and shows Joseph and Mary as devout Jews, following the prescriptions of the Law of Moses. The Gospel alludes to several aspects of the Law of Moses: circumcision, the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord, and the purification of a woman after childbirth.

According to the Law of Moses as presented in the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered ritually unclean during her menstrual period and for a prescribed period of time following the birth of a child. After the birth of a son, a woman was considered ritually unclean for 40 days. After the birth of a daughter, a woman was considered unclean for 80 days. In order to be restored to ritual purity, a Jewish woman performed the appropriate rites of purification and made the prescribed ritual offering.

Today's Gospel notes that Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day after his birth, in accordance with the Mosaic Law. At that time, he was called Jesus, the name he was given by the angel Gabriel. On the 40th day after Jesus' birth, Mary performed the appropriate purification rites and made her offering at the Temple. Although the Law of Moses required an offering of a lamb, those who could not afford a lamb could substitute two turtledoves or two pigeons. In this scene, Luke identifies Joseph and Mary as being poor, and indeed throughout Luke's Gospel, Jesus will show special concern for the poor.

Another Jewish rite referenced in this Gospel is the dedication of the firstborn son to the Lord. In remembrance of the feast of Passover, when the firstborn children of the Israelites in Egypt were saved from death, the Law of Moses prescribed that all firstborn males of Israel should be consecrated to the Lord. In this tradition, Mary and Joseph present the infant Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, Luke reports that Mary and Joseph encounter two devout Jews, Simeon and Anna, who recognize the infant Jesus as the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption. In Simeon's words we find a prediction of Mary's witnessing of Jesus' death on the cross. The Canticle of Simeon, also called by its Latin name, *Nunc Dimittis*, is prayed at night prayer, or compline, during the Liturgy of the Hours.

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

Jan. 1	Jan. 2	Jan. 3	Jan. 4	Jan. 5	Jan. 6
The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God	Most. Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.	Diocesan Priests	Rev. Jason Kuntz	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino	Rev. David Perrin

**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



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING CHRISTMAS



The ministers of the Word, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, ministers of hospitality (ushers), altar servers



The music ministry – organists, choirs, family choirs, cantors, musicians



The official 30<sup>th</sup> "Tree Cutters" who cut the tree for our "Tree of Life" and brought it into the church, without "breaking" a single twig. And the person who donated the tree from their property.



The craftsman who made the angels and crosses, and the artist who painted them



The work crew who helped prepare the church on Sunday, December 17 and those who will help take down the Christmas decorations



Those who prepared the beautiful nativity scene



Our parish volunteer and the children who participated in the Christmas Eve Living Scripture, as well as all the volunteers who assisted



All groups at OLOL parish, Prayer Shawl, OLOL Cafe, SVDP, Living Rosary and Bible study group, Divine Mercy prayer groups and Sunday children liturgy group, youth group.



The many bakers who provided an abundance of delicious cookies for our shut-ins and the residents of a nearby assisted-living residence for men and all those in need, and those who prepared the tins for delivery



The ambassadors of goodwill who delivered the cookies and the people who delivered the white poinsettias to the bereaved families



The many who donated floral tributes in memory of loved ones (the gift box near the manger held their names and they were remembered during the liturgies throughout the Christmas season)



To our administrative assistant, collection counters, and the support of our finance council and property maintenance committee



The parishioners for your many gestures of kindness, including all those special treats that were brought for the parish staff and to the parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and visitors to our parish for your spirit of faith and goodwill and for the joy your presence brought to our Christmas liturgies

## THE POPE'S JANUARY INTENTIONS FOR 2024

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.





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.

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Eat in call **Manager 519-884-2060**  
Wednesday Spaghetti: Take out/Eat in call  
**Manager 519-884-2060**, place orders by 2:30 pm  
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