

# *Our Lady of Lourdes*

## **Catholic Parish, Waterloo**

### **CONTACT US**

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[www.facebook.com/LOLWaterloo](http://www.facebook.com/LOLWaterloo) [http://twitter.com/our\\_parish](http://twitter.com/our_parish)

### **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)



## **Epiphany of the Lord**



JAN 9 to JAN 14



TRANSFORMING THE WORLD THROUGH EDUCATION

Dear Fr., Rafal and Parishioners,

Many greetings from Ghana and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On behalf of all our sisters in the Province of Africa and the orphan and vulnerable children in Nyalienga, Kenya, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to you for your financial contributions towards the building of the school for these children in Nyalienga, Kenya. The contribution from these appeals will truly assist and give us the opportunities to put our faith into action. We continue to be grateful for the ways you partner with us in the mission of God on the continent of Africa. Our economic times are difficult for all of us, and thus the sacrifices you have made, financial and otherwise, are even more precious to us.

Know that we pray for you often in our local communities. We truly know that we could not do what we do without you! Please accept our sincere gratitude for the ways you enable us to reach out to those who simply want a chance to develop their potential and in turn to share the gift of themselves with others.

Gratefully,  
Sister Oyin-ozo Rosemary Asishana, SSND  
Provincial Leader  
School Sister of Notre Dame Province of Africa

**Provincial Office**  
PMB Achimota School Post Office, Accra, Ghana  
Land: 0302-411-725 ~ Cell +233-542-884-603 ~ oyinssnd@gmail.com  
~ <http://africassnd.org>

**ORNAMENTS FROM THE TREE OF LIFE:** Those who had a child baptized or a loved one called to Eternal Life (and buried from Lourdes) in 2023 may pick up their angel or cross after any weekend Mass **beginning January 27/28** in the parish hall.

**SMART STEPS** Are you a parent or stepparent adjusting to blended family life? This program is designed to offer practical insights and suggestions on how to make relationships work well for all. Sessions are held at Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, 28 Norfolk Street. TIME: 9:15AM - 3:30PM. PRICE: \$50 per person (includes lunch). DATE: Saturday, March 9, 2024. Register online at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and look under Upcoming Events. For more information, contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

**REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL** kicks off the 2024 season on **January 25, 2024, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**, with the film *Gather*, an intimate portrait of the movement among Indigenous communities to reclaim their spiritual, political, and cultural identities through food sovereignty. **The dynamic duo of Kitty R Lynn Lickers and Dr. Adrienne Xavier from McMaster University's Indigenous Studies Department will be guest speakers for the evening.** Educators in Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Food Sovereignty, they also managed the *Our Sustainance* program, a sustainability and food sovereignty program in their community of Six Nations. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register and view our full schedule of events at: <https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/>** A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Patricia Murphy – James & Jessie Cairney
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	8:30 a.m.	+ Val & Jack Cassidy – Joan Cassidy
<b>Luther Village</b>	10:00 a.m.	Special Intention
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Rosemary Paul – Rita & Horace Coelho
<b>FRIDAY</b>	8:30 a.m.	+ Rohan Jayasundera – Family
<b>SATURDAY</b>	7:00 p.m.	+ Gordon Rinnear – Valerie & April Philpotts
<b>SUNDAY</b>	9:00 a.m.	Living & deceased members of our parish
	11:00 a.m.	Special Intention

**Monthly Budget Review as of Dec 29, 2023**

Weekly contributions year to date	\$189,507.26	
E-transfer	\$6,281.23	
Pre-authorized giving (year to date)	\$142,204.92	<u>\$337,843.41</u>
Building fund		\$9,433.10
SSND – School Project in Kenya		\$4,720.00
Christmas Collection		\$22,452.00



*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.

**WORK CREW:** Volunteers are required on **Sunday, January 21**, immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. to take down the Christmas decorations. As we will be carrying the parts of the manger scene to the basement storage area, the assistance of some younger volunteers would be very helpful. Refreshments will be served following the project.



**CHRISTMAS COOKIE PROJECT:** Your response to this request was well beyond expectations! We set out 107 beautiful tins containing over three dozen cookies. All the recipients of your generosity were touched by this gesture of kindness. May your celebration of Christmas be filled with joy as you recall the happiness your cookies brought to those special people within our community. Thank you for making this tradition at Lourdes so successful. With prayers of thanksgiving Fr. Rafal

## EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi seek out Jesus and do him homage.

### Background on the Gospel Reading

The visit of the Magi occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family's flight into Egypt. Matthew's Gospel tells a version of Jesus' birth that is different than the one in Luke. Of the actual birth of Jesus, Matthew tells us little more than, "When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod . . ." The story of the census is found only in Luke's Gospel, but we hear about the visit of the Magi only in Matthew's Gospel.

We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the naming of their three gifts. The Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus. In Matthew's Gospel, they represent the Gentiles' search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe the meaning of the gifts to be Christological. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The word Epiphany means "manifestation" or "showing forth." Historically several moments in Christ's early life and ministry have been celebrated as "epiphanies," including his birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, his baptism by John, and his first miracle at Cana.

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

Jan. 8	Jan. 9	Jan. 10	Jan. 11	Jan. 12	Jan. 13
Baptism of the Lord	Rev. David Reilander	Sisters of St. John the Baptist (C.S.J.B)	Rev. Franjo Sprajc	Rev. Matthew Durham	Rev. Aurimas Paulius Rudinskas

**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

**THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS** Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 26, 2024, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is now available online at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

**FUNERAL LUNCHESES:** Are you looking for a way to get involved at our parish this New Year? Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve funeral lunches, and clean up afterward. If you can help, please email our parish office to be added to the list. We are looking for 5 – 10 volunteers to join the team.



### 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 family 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 Christmas parish cookie project, 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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 145 Dearborn Place  
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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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