

# *St. Mary of the Visitation Parish*

16 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario N3C 2N2

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Rev. Ed Henhoeffter, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Michael Foulger, Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca, Administrative Assistant



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Requested by
Tuesday, December 26	7:00 p.m.	Intentions of Leila Galera Souls in Purgatory	The Garcia Family The Lopez Family
Wednesday, December 27	8:00 a.m.	+ Dennis Doye	Ellen Doye
Thursday, December 28	8:00 a.m.	+ Ed Teixeira	The Teixeira Family
Friday, December 29	8:00 a.m.	+ John Pellegrini	Sharon Sanders
Saturday, December 30	5:00 p.m.	+ Maria Rosa and Joe Afonso Intentions of the de Oliveira Family Intentions of Mauricio Gomes	The Afonso Family Lucinda de Oliveira Maria Gomes



### WELCOME TO ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH

A special welcome to all new members and visitors! We encourage all new members to register with the parish. Please pick up a registration form at the church entrance or complete an online form: [www.stmaryhespeler.ca/new-parishioners](http://www.stmaryhespeler.ca/new-parishioners)



**CHRISTMAS THANK YOU:** As we gather as God's people to celebrate the birth of our Lord the Christian people give thanks for the gift of the Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ. On this Christmas Day I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who support the life of our Parish Community. I say thanks to our parish secretary, Rosanne Nusca, to our parish minister, Catherine Garcia, to Deacon Mike and to all who volunteer in the various ministries and organizations in the parish, a special thanks to our music ministry for their dedication. I would also like to thank the parishioners who sent cards and gifts to the office, your kindness and generosity is much appreciated.

*Wishing you and your families a blessed celebration of Christmas.*  
Father Ed

### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve	Christmas Day
Sunday, December 24 <sup>th</sup>	Monday, December 25 <sup>th</sup>
5:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
7:00 p.m.	
10:00 p.m.	

*The Choir at 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 a.m. will perform a 20-minute program of Christmas music before Mass.*

Mary, the Holy Mother of God	Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, December 31 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday, January 7
5:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m. (Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> )
Monday, January 1, 2024	9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.



### JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD:

On the eighth day of Christmas, the Church honours Mary as the Mother of God. In Canada, **January 1<sup>st</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation.** This year with New Year's falling on a Monday the vigil mass will be celebrated on Sunday evening. The morning Masses on Sunday are for the *Feast of the Holy Family*. The New Year's Mass schedule is December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and New Year's Day at 11:00 a.m.

**WEEKDAY MASSES:** This week the weekday Masses will be celebrated at their regular times. During the Octave of Christmas, we have several beautiful feast days: *Feast of St. Stephen, Feast of St. John the Baptist* and *Feast of the Holy Innocents*. If you are able, please plan to join us.

### PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:

- Mon., Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> to Thurs. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>: **Closed**
- Friday, Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>: Open 9:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 1<sup>st</sup>: **Closed**
- Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Open 9 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.
- Wed, Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Thurs. Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>: **Closed**
- Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>: Open 9:00 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

**THE END OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:** The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord marks the last day of the Christmas Season and is celebrated on the Sunday after January 6. In Canada where the Solemnity of the Epiphany is transferred to the Sunday after New Year's, depending on the year, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord can lose its place in the calendar and is transferred to the following Monday. This year the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord will be celebrated on **Monday, January 8**. In honour of the Feast, Father Ed will celebrate Mass at 8:00 a.m. Join us for the last day of the Christmas season.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** The Children's Liturgy program has paused for the holidays and will resume on Sunday, January 14, 2024.

**O COME LET US ADORE HIM**

Jesus, who was born in a stable in Bethlehem, is waiting for you in our Chapel of Adoration. Each moment that you spend in His Eucharistic Presence will increase His divine life within you and deepen your relationship with Him. Please visit our Chapel of Eucharistic Adoration located off the lower parking lot. **There are numerous hours that need to be covered throughout the Christmas season.** For more information please call: Sheila or Frank at (519) 658-9414.



**CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTES:**

Thank you for your dedications of flowers for the Christmas season. Christmas flowers for the church have been placed in memory of your loved ones and their names will be kept near the altar and remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

**YEAR-END GIVING:** We kindly ask that any donations to the Parish are **submitted by Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**. Mail slots in the office doors can be safely used when the door is locked. *Thank you!*

**PARISH OFFERINGS**

**December 16/17, 2023**

*To be reported in the next bulletin.*

**PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING FOR DECEMBER 2023**

Sunday Offerings (79):	\$ 4,963.00
Building Fund (49):	\$ 995.00

***Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated.***

If you are looking for ways to support the parish, please visit [www.stmaryhospeler.ca/donate](http://www.stmaryhospeler.ca/donate)

*Please note: donation cheques must be payable to 'St. Mary of the Visitation Parish'.*

**COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS:** We all know people who have fallen away from regular Mass attendance, and Christmas provides a privileged occasion to welcome them home. All parishioners are encouraged to join in this effort to extend a warm invitation to return – to *Come Home for Christmas!*

Visit <https://hamiltondiocese.com/comehome/>

**VOCATIONS:** From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God's plan for her life and she said "Yes!" ...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God's will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com). Visit <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** Thank you to the 50 ladies and Father Ed who attended our turkey supper last week. It was an amazing event with great food, fun and fellowship. Having a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Claus was so exciting!

The Catholic Women's League of St. Mary's would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We hope that 2024 is filled with every good blessing for you and your families.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS:** Msgr. Paul J. Meyer Council 4916 extends to all our fellow parishioners and their families a most Blessed and Holy Christmas. May this Holy season bring Peace, Joy and Happiness to you and your family.

**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 will be available online in December at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

**RENEWED BY LOVE CAMPAIGN:** Are you seeking to make a difference in the lives of seniors? Renewed by Love is a joint fundraising campaign by Major Decorating LTD. and Marian Residence Retirement Home. It seeks to transform the living spaces of the residents of Marian Residence Retirement Home and nurture an environment at Marian Residence that fosters the five values of our organization: Faith, Compassion, Dignity, Respect and Responsibility. Marian Residence is a registered charity and will offer tax receipts for all donations. Your support empowers us to continue the compassionate care and Catholic living that our residents experience every day at Marian Residence. Join our family today! Visit [bit.ly/renewedbylove](https://bit.ly/renewedbylove) to donate.



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