

# ST. MARY OF THE VISITATION PARISH

16 Cooper Street, Cambridge, Ontario N3C 2N2

**519-658-4443**

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**Rev. David Reitzel**, Pastor [dreitzel@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:dreitzel@hamiltondiocese.com)

Mr. Jangho Hong, Seminarian

Mrs. Catherine Quinto Garcia, Pastoral Minister

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Mrs. Ruth Ann Milne, Office Assistant



# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Date	Time	Mass Intentions	Requested by
Tuesday, December 30	7:00 PM	+ Justina Freitas Carvalho Braga and Family	Carmen & Tony Chaves
<b>Wednesday, December 31</b> <b>Solemnity of Mary</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	For the people of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish	
<b>Thursday, January 1</b> <b>Solemnity of Mary</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>	For the people of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish	
Friday, January 2	<b>No mass</b>		
Saturday, January 3	5:00 PM	Intentions of Pauline Cormier Intentions of Ellen Doye In Thanksgiving of the Adoration Chapel	SSVP Giving Tree Ada Romeno Ana Prior
Sunday, January 4	9:00 AM 11:00 AM	For the people of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish For the people of St. Mary of the Visitation Parish	



## **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)



## **HAPPY NEW YEAR: GRATEFUL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS**

As we enter this New Year, we extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who made our Christmas season so beautiful. A special thank you to our ushers, choirs, lectors, eucharistic ministers, decorators, altar servers and everyone else for their tireless dedication during our busiest liturgies.

We also honor the many volunteers who serve selflessly throughout the entire year. Your devotion keeps our parish vibrant and welcoming. May God's grace and peace be with you and your families in 2026!

*Fr. David*

## **VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO LAUNDER SACRED LINENS:**

Do you have a heart for service? We need volunteers to help launder and press our sacred altar linens. This flexible, quiet ministry can be done from your own home. This ministry would primarily involve weekly laundering of small linens used for Mass. On occasion there is need for laundering larger items like towels used in baptisms and cassocks worn by altar servers. Training will be provided. If interested, please contact the office.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** The Children's Liturgy program will **resume on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2026**.



## **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 the vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. and New Year's Day at 11:00 a.m.

## **PARISH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS:**

- Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> – Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>: Open 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>: **Closed**
- Friday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>: Open 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



**MONTHLY COLLECTION:** Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting donations after all Masses this weekend.

Please note that any donations made *after* this weekend will be receipted for 2026.



**C.W.L. NEWS:** The next Catholic Women's League meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. **The CWL membership fee of \$40.00 is now**

**due.** It can be placed in the collection basket addressed to CWL. We invite all ladies of the parish, 16 years and older, to consider joining us in 2026! Come share your unique and valuable gifts and join us in sharing a sisterhood of friendship, faith and fulfillment! We look forward to welcoming you as a new member! For any questions regarding membership please call Chris at 519-400-3657.

**SAVE THE DATE!** Our next Coffee Sunday will be **Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>** following ALL Masses. Plan to stay after Mass to wish your fellow parishioners a happy new year!

**PARISH OFFERINGS for Dec. 20/21, 2025***To be reported in the next bulletin***Your continued financial support is greatly appreciated.**

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

Please note that cheques must be made payable to "St. Mary of the Visitation Parish"

**CELEBRATING OUR SPIRIT OF HOPE SUCCESS**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent *Spirit of Hope* Collection. Together, we raised \$1,965 to support those in need within our community. These funds will be used immediately to provide essential rental assistance for three local families and to help a well-known neighbour experiencing homelessness secure the resources needed to get back on his feet. Your compassion truly reflects Christ's love in action. May God bless your generosity!

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Offertory envelopes for 2026 are available in the parish hallway. If you do not presently use envelopes and would like a set, or if you would like to switch to pre-authorized giving, please contact Rosanne in the parish office: 519-658-4443, [stmarycambridge@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stmarycambridge@hamiltondiocese.com)

**2025 OFFERINGS:** We kindly ask that you submit any 2025 donations to the parish by **Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**. Donations made after this date will be included in your 2026 donation receipt.

**YOUTH GROUP MEETING:** Hey Grade 6,7 and 8's! Our next gathering will be a movie night! Join us on **Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>** in the Parish Hall. 6 - 8 pm. Please sign up on the parish website.

**THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL** is back with another year of enlightening films and meaningful dialogue! Our lineup for 2026 explores topics of housing insecurity, intellectual freedom, Indigenous rights, and ecological debt. Visit us online at <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> to view our full event schedule, learn more about our films, and register for screenings. 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.

**WORLD DAY OF PEACE:** The 59th

World Day of Peace will be celebrated on January 1, 2026. **"Peace Be With You All: Towards an Unarmed and Disarming Peace"** is the theme for

the 2026 World Day of Peace. This theme, according to the statement from the Vatican Press Office, "invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, to embrace an authentic peace, based on love and justice." The statement continues: "It is a peace that is unarmed — that is, not based on fear, threats, or weapons; and disarming, because it is capable of dissolving conflicts, opening hearts, and generating trust, empathy, and hope. It is not enough to invoke peace; it must be embodied in a lifestyle that rejects all forms of violence, visible or structural."

"The greeting of the risen Christ, 'Peace be with you' (cf. Jn 20:19), is an invitation to all — believers, nonbelievers, political leaders, and citizens — to build the kingdom of God and to construct together a humane and peaceful future," the statement concludes.

The World Day of Peace was instituted by Pope Paul VI, who proposed it on Dec. 8, 1967, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Church first celebrated it on Jan. 1, 1968, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

**CHRISTMAS YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT:** During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Rd. West, Hamilton. Sponsored by the Vocations Office: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

**RESTART: MOVING FORWARD:** Have you experienced a divorce or separation? Are you looking to learn ways to cope, for support from others and to gain a feeling of moving forward? Our 10-week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal or simply learn more. The sessions will run **Tuesdays from Feb. 17 – April 21, 2026** from 7-9 pm and are held at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration online can be found by going to [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) and looking for the date under Upcoming Events, or by contacting Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or at [familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com)

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