

Holy Spirit Catholic Parish A Welcoming Community

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PASTORAL TEAM

Father Geoffrey Kerslake, Pastor, pastor@holyspiritparish.ca
Alex Ducharme, Youth/Sacramental Coordinator, youth@holyspiritparish.ca
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Feast of the Holy Family

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Dec 28 - Holy Family



Sirach 3.2-6,12-14

Colossians 3.12-21

Matthew 2.13-15,19-23

Jan 1 - Mary, the Holy Mother of God



Numbers 6.22-27

Galatians 4.4-7

Luke 2.16-21

Jan 4 - Epiphany of the Lord



Isaiah 60.1-6

Ephesians 3.2-3a,5-6

Matthew 2.1-12

Please note:

The Parish Office is closed until January 2nd at 9:00 am.

Parish Calendar

Mon, Dec 29

Tue, Dec 30

9:00 am Mass

Wed, Dec 31

5:00 pm Mass

Thu, Jan 1 Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

10:00 am Mass

Fri, Jan 2 St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Flame of Love Prayer Group

9:30-10:30 am First Friday Adoration & Benediction

Sat, Jan 3

9:00 am First Saturday Mass

9:30 am Men's Discussion Group

4:15-4:45 pm Reconciliation

5:00 pm Mass

Sun, Jan 4 Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Mass

*Coffee Sunday hosted by the Knights of Columbus after the 9 & 11 am Masses. Everyone welcome!

*Confession available before morning Mass 8:30-8:50am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on Friday, January 2nd after the 9AM Eucharist. The Monstrance with the consecrated host (the Body of Christ) will be placed on the altar for Benediction until 10:30AM.

Support Christians in the Holy Land Through Craft Sale: after weekend Masses on December 27 and 28, we will have representatives of families from the Holy Land who make olive wood religious articles to support themselves. Christians are a tiny minority in the Holy Land and their population is shrinking due to instability, lack of jobs and opportunities. Making articles from olive wood from trees in the Holy Land is a major source of work (along with tourism) for Christians living in the land of Jesus. Please come out and see some lovely crafted goods that would make a lovely present for First Communion, Confirmation, birthday or (next Christmas!) gifts.

Have You Moved in the past year? Call or email the Parish

Office to be sure we have your new mailing address before income tax receipts are printed and distributed. Please help us stay up to date!



Mass Intentions

Tue, Dec 30 - 9:00 am

†Xavier Bastiampillai by Rita

Wed, Dec 31 - 5:00 pm

In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Suzanne O'Hara

Thu, Jan 1 - 10:00 am

Intentions of O'Hara Family

Fri, Jan 2 - 9:00 am

Intentions of Dolores Bahren by Marion & Patricia

Sat, Jan 3 - 9:00 am

For poor souls in purgatory

Sat, Jan 3 - 5:00 pm

†Kathleen Chisholm by Liska Family



Sun, Jan 4 - 9:00 am

For the intentions of all parishioners

Sun, Jan 4 - 11:00 am

Intentions of Father Geoff by Catholic Women's League

†Barry Lawrence by Anastasia

Please pray for those who are sick:

Please pray for those who have died:

†Indicates Deceased.

Shhh... it's a secret. We want to quietly let parishioners know Father Geoff's birthday is coming up on January 4th! We invite parishioners to keep him in their prayers and perhaps offer a warm birthday greeting when you see him next weekend.



ATTENTION MEN OF HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

Are you looking for deeper connection, honest conversation, and spiritual growth? Join our Monthly Men's Discussion Group—a welcoming space where men come together to explore faith, share life experiences, support one another in their spiritual journeys and encourage each other to live out our beliefs with purpose and integrity. What to expect:

- Open and respectful dialogue
- Thought-provoking topics rooted in Christian faith
- Brotherhood and accountability
- Prayer, reflection, and practical takeaways

We meet on the first Saturday of each month after the 9am Mass. Meetings last about an hour. Drop in when you can. Each session is welcoming and self-contained. Come as you are. Leave encouraged.



Donate to our Parish
or Youth Ministry

For e-Transfer please send it to admin@holyspiritparish.ca and use the password: Holyspirit (all one word with a capital H).

Reflection on the Feast of the Holy Family:

The feast today is not about celebrating the perfect family. Instead it's about recognizing how God comes to us amidst the challenges and blessings of family life. It is significant that God values the human family so much that he wanted his son to have this experience so that he might truly be one of us in every significant way. Pope Francis reflected in 2014: "in the family life of Mary and Joseph, God is truly at the centre, and He is so in the Person of Jesus. This is why the Family of Nazareth is holy. Why? Because it is centred on Jesus. When parents and children together breathe in this climate of faith, they have an energy that allows them to face even difficult trials, as the experience of the Holy Family shows, for example, in the dramatic event of their flight to Egypt: a difficult ordeal." May God bless your family!

Fr. Geoff

"Return" – A Discussion Series on Bringing Catholics Back to the Church Have you ever wondered how to help friends, children, or other loved ones reconnect with their Catholic faith? Join us for "Return," a five-part discussion series offering guidance, support, and practical tools for reaching out to those who have drifted away from the faith. The discussion will draw on Brandon Vogt's book *Return: How to draw your child back to the Church*. **When:** Immediately following the 9:00am Mass for one hour in the Conference Room on Sundays, Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8 & 22, and Mar 8. Let's come together as a parish family to learn, pray, and grow in our mission to welcome others home. All are welcome to join any or all of the sessions!

We are in the process of preparing our system to generate CHARITABLE RECEIPTS for 2025. If you have made an address change in the past year, please contact the Parish Office so that we can update our records. We wish to remind our supporters that if you wish to receive credit for contributions in 2025, donations must be received **and deposited** on or before the end of 2025. Revenue Canada does not permit charitable organizations to backdate receipts, and we are bound by that regulation. So please have your year-end donations in by **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025**, and your e-transfer donations in by December 23, 2025 before 3PM, or your donations must be calculated as donations for 2026.



Wedding Anniversary Blessing: We invite all couples who celebrated a wedding anniversary in October, November, December or January to take part in a special Anniversary Blessing during Mass on the weekend of January 24 & 25. If you would like to participate, please register with the parish office by providing your names and the number of years you are celebrating. We look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion with you!



Prayer for Families:

Lord Jesus, we come before You seeking harmony and love within our families. Bind us together with your grace that we may support and uplift one another in times of joy and struggle.

Help us to communicate openly, forgive freely, and cherish each moment together.

May our home be a sanctuary of peace, reflecting Your love and unity. Amen.

(From www.stmparish.org/prayer/family-and-relationships/prayer-for-communication/)

Beware of Suspicious Emails from the Priests!

Fr. Geoff will **never** ask parishioners for money, gift cards or favours by email. If you receive an email supposedly from Father Geoff that looks suspicious, call the parish. Do not respond to the email. Call anytime if you have questions! It's a sad reality that scammers use priests' names to prey on the generous good will of parishioners.



Fraud Prevention Seminar: Samantha Adams from the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (CAFC) will give an overview of the centre then talk about the tools that the fraudsters use, the top reported frauds, how to protect yourself and how to report a fraud. Tuesday January 6th 2026 from 1:00-2:00 pm. Hosted by St. Paul's United Church, 3760 Carp Rd

Mary Mother of God: Why do we celebrate this Solemnity? At one point in the Church's history this Feast was controversial. How could Mary, a finite human being, give birth to God who is infinite? The solution to this problem is apparent when we look at what happened at Christmas: as the mother of Jesus Christ, who is the second person of the Holy Trinity, Mary was indeed the Mother of God. This realization was an important moment because in affirming Mary as the Mother of God, the Church was teaching us that Jesus was "consubstantial" with the Father in his divinity and "consubstantial" with us in his humanity. We use this word "consubstantial" in the Creed to affirm our belief that Jesus is "of the same substance as" God and of humanity. Jesus truly is God and Jesus is also really human. So – Jesus did enter into our experience, to share with us all the challenges, struggles, pains, sufferings and joys of human existence, except sin. Because he was able to share our humanity with us, Christ was able to redeem us on the Cross. And because he was divine, his "yes" to God's plan which he assented to out of love for us on the Cross, could bring the saving grace of redemption to all who were open to receiving it. The title Mary Mother of God, it turns out, is significant for our salvation. Jesus needs to be both human and divine to deliver us from sin and death. Plus, Mary is also our spiritual Mother to whom we can turn in our need, knowing she will intercede for us on our behalf with her Son, Jesus. Can you imagine a better person to have praying for us than Mary?

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