

**MASS INTENTIONS
December 19 - 25, 2017**

Tuesday, 19th - **Advent Weekday**
9:00 am Intentions of Alice Soeder – Alice Preiditsch & Marj Simon

Wednesday, 20th - **Advent Weekday**
9:00 am +Anne Maria Oeser – Anne Darby-Watchorn
7:00 pm +Ron Gray – Pat Gray & Family

Thursday, 21st - **Advent Weekday**
9:00 am +Sean McGuire – Marj Simon
7:00 pm Longest Night Service

Friday, 22nd - **Advent Weekday**
9:00 am +Sharon Soeder – Michelle Krulicki & Donna Renaud

Saturday, 23rd - **4th Sunday of Advent**
5:00 pm +Ed Yendruck – June Yendruck & Family
+Anne Mary Schmalz – the Family
+Jerry Hinds – Terry Duggan
+Margaret Meyer – Ruthann Fisher
+Joan MacDonald – Don & Linda MacDonald & Family

Sunday, 24th - **4th Sunday of Advent**
9:00 am +Reno & Tony Ianni – Angela Ianni
+Teresa Czeslaw & Marysia Janiczak – Grace Grundy & Family
+Allan Grundy – Kevin & Grace Grundy
+Lorne McMahon – Bernard & Rose Hanley
+Doreen Hehn – Francis & Brenda Hehn & Family
+Joan Haid – Brenda Hehn
11:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
- Christmas Eve
5:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
7:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

Monday, 25th - **Christmas Day**
10:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

December 17, 2017

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 9/10 Collection \$5,967.00
Total Collected to Date **\$269,794.00**
2017 Budget to Date **\$305,405.00**

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 18: **Rev. Junghyuk Choi**
Tues. Dec. 19: **Rev. Allen Varlaki**
Wed. Dec. 20: **Missionaries**
Thu. Dec. 21: **Rev. James Malone**
Fri. Dec. 22: **Rev. Stephen Csiszar**
Sat. Dec. 23: **Rev. Jerome Mascarenhas, OCD**

Looking Ahead to Dec. 24, 2017

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16
Romans 16: 25-27 Luke 1: 26-38

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

Monday Dec. 18
Bereavement Group (AR) 1:00 pm
Celebrating the Word (RR) 7:30 pm

Wednesday Dec. 20
Parish Team Mtg (Office Closed) 10am - noon

Thursday Dec. 21
Longest Night Service (C) 7:00 pm

Friday Dec. 22
Parish Office Closes at Noon 12:00 pm

**MASS INTENTIONS
December 26 - 31, 2017**

There are no Weekday Masses Dec. 26 – 29.

Saturday, 30th - **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
5:00 pm Intentions of Diane Uniacke – Fr. Tim Uniacke, CR
+Maureen Crolla – Jerry & Joanne White
+Joyce MacCallum – Helen & Stan Krafchek
+Ray O'Brien – Bob Livingstone
+Agnes Dever – Mary Anderson
+Bill Renaud – Donna Renaud & Family

Sunday, 31st - **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**
9:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 am Intentions of Helen Shantz – Barbara Diemert & Karin Manley
Intentions of Sue Steiner – Sandy Milne
+Sharon Soeder – Emilie Totzke
+Doug Totzke – Brenda Karges
+Helen Keller – Barbara Diemert
+Deceased Members of Grandeza Navarro's Family
- Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Years Eve)
5:00 pm Intentions of our Mothers, Living and Deceased

Monday, 1st - **Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (New Years Day)**
10:00 am Intentions of our Mothers, Living and Deceased

Looking Ahead to Dec. 31, 2017

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

Sirach 3: 2-6, 12-14
Colossians 3: 12-21 Luke 2: 22-40

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Tues. Dec. 26: **Rev. Roshan D'Souza, OCD**
Wed. Dec. 27: **Franciscan Fathers (OFM)**
Thu. Dec. 28: **Rev. Lawrence Parent, OFM**
Fri. Dec. 29: **Rev. Zygmunt Baranowski**
Sat. Dec. 30: **Rev. Brian Quigley, MCCJ**

SENIORS' LUNCHEON

The next Seniors' Lunch will be **Thurs. Jan. 11, 12 noon** at **Martin's Restaurant at Luther Village**, 139 Father David Bauer Dr., Waterloo. The lunch buffet is \$14.95 plus tax and tip. Please RSVP when you receive a phone invitation or by calling the parish office **by Jan. 8, 2018.**



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

Monday & Tuesday Dec. 25-26

Parish Office Closed

Friday Dec. 29

Parish Office Closes at Noon 12:00 pm

VOCATION CORNER

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Toby Collins CR, Resurrectionist Director of Vocations crvocations@gmail.com or Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations for the Diocese at mking@hamiltondiocese.com 905-528-7988.

www.vocationculture.ca

From the Pastors Desk:

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally called “*Gaudete Sunday*”. The word “Gaudete” (gow-day-tay) in Latin means rejoice. Why should we rejoice on this Sunday right in the middle of the Advent season? The answer to this is found in the “Roman Missal” (the Priest-Presider book used while celebrating the sacraments) which refers us to the antiphon (the short piece of scripture that sets the tone for the celebration) for today: “*Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near*”. Simply put, Christmas, the time for the Lord's Incarnation, is almost upon us – what greater reason to rejoice than the possibility that the Lord is near to us.

The intensity of our preparations for Christmas within our liturgies now increases. We are called to spiritually, within the next two weeks, prepare for the coming of Christ anew into our lives. John the Baptist tells us to rid ourselves of sin. The prophet Isaiah invites us to make room for the Messiah. The lights of our Advent wreath grow brighter preparing us to be blinded by the star of Bethlehem. Our waiting for the Incarnation now takes us to a level of belief and hope that makes clear we believe this great event will indeed occur. Are you ready?

~ Father Tim, CR



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE



If you are grieving, lonely, or sad for any reason as the Christmas season approaches, we invite you to join us for an ecumenical service on Dec. 21, the longest night of the year. This will be an evening of scripture, reflective music and prayer in solidarity with one another. The service will begin at 7pm and a time of fellowship will follow in the Hall. No one should be alone at this time of year, so please come and spend some time with us.

LECTORS NEEDED for the Saturday 5pm Mass. If you are a confident public speaker and feel called to proclaim God's Word to His people please contact the office.

If you were unable to attend our **ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** and would still like to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas, Fr. Tim is available in the St. Claire Chapel on Tuesday mornings from 8:30 – 8:45am and Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 6:45 pm (before Masses), as well as Saturdays from 4-4:30pm or by appointment. Other area services can be found on our website.

PRAYER NETWORK

If you or someone you love is in need of prayers, we have dedicated parishioners who want to pray for you. It's confidential, just call the Parish Office to request an intention. Let us bring the power of prayer to your life.

“We all possess God-given talents. No one can claim to be so poor that they have nothing to offer others.”

~ @Pontifex, December 7, 2017



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24th

5:00 pm

7:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday, December 25th

10:00 am

Parish Office will be closed from Dec. 22 at noon until Dec. 27,

and from Dec. 29 at noon until Jan. 3.

*There will be **NO Weekday Masses***

Dec. 26 – 29, or Jan. 2

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday, December 30th at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 31st at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve

Sunday, December 31st

5:00 pm

New Year's Day

Monday, January 1st

10:00 am



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 6th at 5:00 pm

Sunday, January 7th at 9:00 am & 11:00 am

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY EVENT will be hosted this year by St. George's Anglican Church, on Sun. Jan. 21 at 2pm. More information will follow. Organized by the Churches of Forest Hill.

St. Paul School Nutrition for Learning is in need of volunteers, Mon to Fri from 8 to 8:45 am, packing bags for each classroom. Help is needed for at least 3 months to cover for other volunteers. Contact Carla Santomero, principal of St. Paul's School, for more information, at 519-743-4401. Thank you.

HOW TO HAVE A “GREEN” CHRISTMAS

1. **Look for locally made gifts.** Many gifts in today's marketplace come from halfway around the world, and the impact of transportation contributes significantly to greenhouse emissions and global warming. Local craft fairs and artisan shops are a good source for gifts that come without the added costs of transportation. And gifts made locally often have a story which goes with the gift!
2. **Choose gifts made from recycled sources.** Many individuals and small businesses have developed great products using recycled materials. Supporting these businesses reduces waste while promoting the concept of making the best use of available materials.
3. **Give 'battery-free' gifts.** According to the EPA, about 40% of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Discarded batteries are an environmental hazard. Even rechargeable batteries find their way into the waste system eventually.
4. **Give experiences to enjoy and remember.** Giving the gift of an experience can bring fun, learning and memories that hold value for years. For example, tickets to a show or concert can offer lasting value with minimal impact on resources. Sports events, local attractions, gift certificates for rock-climbing, ice rinks, horseback riding, swimming programs or museums are other examples.

BAD WEATHER AND WEEKDAY MASSES

In this season of winter, please remember that if Kitchener **SCHOOL BUSES** are cancelled, then **WEEKDAY MASSES** are cancelled. You can find out if buses are cancelled by listening to AM 570 News or online at www.570news.com.



AROUND TOWN

The Christmas Mass on TV For those who cannot make it to church, please join the Catholic Community this Christmas by watching the Christmas Eve Mass on VisionTV at 9pm ET and on yesTV at 10pm ET. Christmas Day Mass will be on VisionTV at 8am and 12 noon ET, on Salt & Light at 11pm ET and on yesTV at 1pm ET. You can also watch online at www.dailytvmass.com.

Marriage Tip Rita McNeil's Christmas song titled *With My Family* has the following line: "All I want under my tee is peace and love and harmony." It is what we all want in our relationships, but it is important to ask ourselves what we are willing to do to get it. Will we take a peaceful approach to conflict, will we love the good pieces and the struggling pieces of our spouses and will we act in ways that bring us together in our decisions. The line ends with "Wrap it with a ribbon please, I'll share it with my family." What a great Christmas gift to your spouse – a promise to work on peace and love and harmony!

~ Family Ministry Office

The Franciscan Friars in collaboration with a Muslim Production Company, have produced a film about St. Francis of Assisi's pilgrimage of peace to the Muslims in the midst of the

Crusades using both Christian and Muslim sources. It is a strong statement for peace and understanding between Christians and Muslims. *The Sultan and the Saint* will be broadcast on PBS Tues. Dec. 26 at 8pm.

Adoration for Life Come, let us adore Jesus in the Eucharist and pray for respect for the sanctity of life. Two locations: Fri. Jan. 5 at St. Boniface RCC in Maryhill from 8:45-10am and Sat. Jan. 6 at St. Mary's RCC in Kitchener from 11am-12noon. Call KW Right to Life for more information, 519-746-5433.

World Meeting of Families in Dublin – The Diocese of Hamilton is planning a trip to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland, Aug. 21 – 26, 2018. This international event is designed to be significant to people of all ages at all stages of life. Every keynote address and workshop will be based on Pope Francis' *Amoris Laetitia*, or *The Joy of Love*. If you are interested in attending and making use of the accommodations booked by the Diocese please contact Teresa Hartnett (905-528-7988 ext. 2250) by mid-January. For more info go to <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/wmof-2018>.

Come join us to find the "Keys to Loving Relationships" in a nine week video-based program meant for anyone looking for a more meaningful relationship with a spouse, family member or friend. Learn how to become a better "me" in all your relationships! Program runs Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm starting Jan. 23, at St. Mark's Parish, Kitchener. Cost is \$45. For more info call Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4E2
519-745-7301 www.stfranciskw.ca
stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com



Administered by the Congregation of the Resurrection: www.resurrectionists.ca

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am
Wednesday 7:00 pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday 8:30 – 8:45 am
Wednesday 6:30 – 6:45 pm
Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 pm
or by appointment

Sunday Children's Liturgy

Sunday 9:00 am Mass

Prayer Network

Call parish office to request prayers

Communal Baptism

Each month, please call the parish office to register.

Marriages

Congratulations! Please contact the parish one year before wedding date.

Pastor:	Fr. Tim Uniack, C.R. (tuniack@hamiltondiocese.com)
Pastoral Minister:	Miss Ruthann Fisher (rfisher@hamiltondiocese.com)
Music Ministry:	Mrs. Terrienne Moulton
Admin. Assistant:	Ms. Alice Soeder
Building Manager:	Mr. Gary Howell

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 12 noon
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Vocations Information: www.vocationinfo.ca
www.vocationculture.ca



"We are a Christ-centred faith community seeking to be instruments of God's peace."

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 17, 2017

and

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dec. 24, 2017

