

**MASS INTENTIONS
December 5 - 10, 2017**

Tuesday, 5th - *Advent Weekday*
9:00 am +Nettie Beskoveny – Kevin Clarke

Wednesday, 6th - *Advent Weekday* **Sacrament of Sick at Masses today**
9:00 am +Ross Haller – the Haller Family
6:00 pm +Sharon Soeder – Catholic Women’s League

Thursday, 7th - *St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*
9:00 am +Craig Darby – Anne Darby-Watchorn

Friday, 8th - *Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*
9:00 am Intentions of Maria Cabral

Saturday, 9th - *2nd Sunday of Advent*
5:00 pm Intentions of Fred Wesson – June Yendruck
Intentions of Joao & Rosalina Pereira
+Jessica Sullivan – Bernie & Bernice Sullivan
+Bernice Meyer – the Family
+Peter, Rose & Mary Bergamin – Mary & Alvina Bergamin
+Ray O’Brien – Zita Donnelly & Family

Sunday, 10th - *2nd Sunday of Advent*
9:00 am Intentions of Pat Gray – Jennie Rodzen
+Don Pickett – Ruthann Fisher
+Al Barna – Josie Côté
+James LeFlamme – Brenda Karges
+Kelly Hatch – Alice & Bernie Preiditsch
+Dorothy Pacosz – Marg Hummel & Family
11:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

**WOODEN CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS BY THE KNIGHTS**

Some talented members of the Knights of Columbus Kitchener Council 1504 have developed and constructed a wooden Nativity Scene, and other festive decorations. You will have a chance to purchase these items after Masses on Dec. 9/10. Proceeds from the sales go to support the Knights good works. If you wish to see pictures and prices of the items available please check out the St. Francis website.

COATS FOR KIDS

Thank you from the Kitchener Knights of Columbus for your donations to the 2017 Coats for Kids campaign. We received over 300 winter coats, a large quantity of baby clothes, winter socks, gloves and scarves. We can always rely on our parishes when called upon for support. The baby clothes were forwarded to Marillac Place and the winter wear will be distributed to needy youngsters through the assistance of the Waterloo district Catholic School board. Thank you again and God Bless.

AROUND TOWN

You are invited to a **Healing Mass for those Mourning the Death of a Child**. The death of a child is a painful and life-altering experience for parents, grandparents and other family members. The feeling of loss, regardless of the amount of time that has passed, is often more profound during the Christmas season. A Diocesan Healing Mass, will be offered by Bishop Crosby at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Sun. Dec. 3 at 4pm. Anyone who has lost a child of any age, including those who have died prior to birth or in still birth, is invited. Registration is preferred but not necessary. Please call Lena at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

Prayer Vigil Thurs. Dec. 7 from 9-10am in front of Freeport Hospital for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice but our own. Parking in Schneider Park, any queries please contact Cathy at kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com.

39th Annual Advent Novena – Invitation to Prepare Well for Christmas Nine daily Masses at 6:30am at St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo, Friday Dec. 8 to Saturday Dec. 16. Note exception: Sun. Dec. 10 you are welcome to attend your own church or St. Agnes at 9 or 11am. There will be breakfast in the Parish Centre following Mass on Dec. 16. A free will offering will be taken for St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers. Make this Advent a special time of preparation for Christmas by joining your twin-city friends who have been keeping this tradition for many years!

Annual Advent Hymn Festival with the Diocesan Choir will take place on Sun. Dec. 10 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King at 7pm. Special guest choir: St. Michael’s Spanish Choir (Oakville). All are welcome!

December 3, 2017

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 25/26 Collection \$5,349.00
Total Collected to Date \$257,569.00
2017 Budget to Date \$292,275.00

Looking Ahead to Dec. 10, 2017

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11
2 Peter 3: 8-14 Mark 1: 1-8

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 4: **Rev. Charlie Jordan**
Tues. Dec. 5: **Rev. Mark Sullivan**
Wed. Dec. 6: **Disalced Carmelite Sisters OCD**
Thu. Dec. 7: **Rev. Bernard (Mike) Francis**
Fri. Dec. 8: **Rev. Edward Mahony**
Sat. Dec. 9: **Rev. Peter Ciallella**

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

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

Wednesday
CWL Seniors’ Christmas Dinner (H) 6:30 pm
St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (RR) 7:30 pm

Thursday
Health & Wellness Cmte (RR) 7:00 pm
Choir Practice (C) 7:30 pm

*“When we encounter others,
do we bring them the warmth
of charity or do we stay closed up
and warm only ourselves
before our fireplace?”*

~ @Pontifex, November 22, 2017



CWL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Anyone who renews their Catholic Women’s League membership before Dec. 6th will be eligible to win back their 2018 CWL membership. Envelopes are in your 2018 Church Envelopes, or place your cheque for \$30 made out to St. Francis CWL in the Sunday collection. Please include your name, address, phone # and email. New members welcome!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you wish to donate towards our Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope in your box. We will pray collectively for our deceased loved ones at all the Christmas Masses.

From the Pastors Desk:

Today we begin the Season of Advent, four weeks of preparation for the celebration of the Incarnation of Christ. Traditionally Advent has been seen as a season of prayer, preparation, renewal and waiting for the coming of the Lord. Advent is a time to prepare for the Incarnation, not a reliving of the actual event, but rather to reaffirm the effects the coming of Jesus has in our life in the here and now. Advent is also a time to prepare for the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. During Advent we are called to prepare by continuing to build up the kingdom of God here on earth. How can we do this?

I offer you four suggestions for you to consider for the season of Advent. One, to pray daily; more specifically at two important times of the day (but not to limit your prayer to only two times a day), morning and evening. Each morning pray that God will walk with you in the day ahead, and each evening pray in thanksgiving for the presence of God throughout the past day. This does not require an elaborate prayer; it can be as short as one sentence in length. Two, place an Advent wreath in your home, perhaps on the table where you eat your meals. Light the appropriate candles at your main meal and say a brief prayer seeking God's grace to prepare well spiritually for the Incarnation of Christ. Three, consider attending Mass during the weekday. And four, avail yourself of the sacrament of penance as a method to make yourself spiritually prepared for Christmas.

~ Father Tim, CR



CWL SENIORS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday December 6 at 6:30pm (following Parish Mass at 6pm). Full turkey dinner catered by Kennedy's! Adults are \$15.50, children 12 and under are \$7.75. Tickets can be purchased after Masses this weekend or in the parish office. All CWL members, their families, and all seniors of the parish are invited to attend.

WEDNESDAY SETUP Please help us set up and decorate the hall for our Christmas Dinner, after the 9am Mass on Wed. Dec. 6. Thank you for your help!

COOKIES FOR HOMEBOUND

One of the simple joys of the Advent and Christmas Seasons is enjoying homemade cookies like Momma used to make. Many of our homebound parishioners unfortunately miss out on this tradition, so if you have a favourite recipe and would like to make some extra cookies to share, please bring them in by Dec. 4. Thank you!

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Our Advent Penitential Service will be Tues. Dec. 12 at 1pm. Fr. Tim will be joined by several other priests, all of whom will offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation following the short service. If this time is not convenient for you, there is a list of other area services included in the bulletin insert this week.

Tupperware If you donated baking to the Bazaar in Tupperware containers please check the Church Kitchen and take yours home. After Wed. Dec. 6 any still left will be donated. Thank you!

SONGS OF ADVENT & THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Join us for an evening of traditional and contemporary seasonal music on Fri. Dec. 15 at 7pm in the church. Our evening will be led by John B. Miller and Friends, a group of professional musicians featuring Andrea Weber Steckly, Steve Martin, John B. Miller, Donna McLellan and Joe Orlando. This will be a fun and prayerful event, a great break in the busy time of preparation for Christmas. A free-will offering will be taken to cover expenses.

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. Everyone is welcome.



VOCATION CORNER

"Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come." As we enter the season of Advent keep your heart open and prepared to receive Jesus anew. If God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life contact 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

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

1. **Adjust winter clothes for children's needs.** Dress babies and young children in one more layer of clothing than an adult would wear in the same conditions.
2. **Keep exposure to the cold at a minimum.** Babies and young children don't have the same tolerance for cold that adults do. It's important to limit time outside
3. **Pack extras.** Pack extra mitts, socks and hats for school or for a day of snowy fun. Wet hands from soggy mitts can lead to uncomfortable skin breakdown and takes the fun out of enjoying the snow!
4. **Protect skin** from being exposed to harsh temperatures to avoid frostbite. Be especially careful with small areas such as hands, feet and ears. Wear sunscreen! You can still get a sunburn in the winter.
5. **Always supervise children.** Injuries can occur quickly when kids are tobogganing. Keep a close eye on them, and encourage them to sled feet first, not backwards or head first. Helmets are recommended!
6. **Keep away from motor vehicles** while tobogganing, as motorists may not see a child or be able to stop in time. Remind kids not to play on snowbanks along roads or in parking lots, including digging tunnels which could collapse and trap them.
7. **Wash your hands** with soap and water frequently to reduce the spread of germs and the number of illnesses in your home.
8. **Cover your mouth.** Sneezing or coughing into the bend of your elbows also helps prevent spreading germs.
9. **Get immunized.** Keep vaccinations current, including the flu shot (for children 6 months and older). Flu shots are offered at most pharmacies, walk in clinics, doctors' offices and at Public health.

~ from the Health & Wellness Cmte

Join us on Fri. Dec. 8, for the next **Lecture in Catholic Experience** hosted by St. Jerome's University. Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB, from St. John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, will help us to consider the profound insights that artists such as calligraphers and illuminators can offer us, especially with regard to the illuminations in *The Saint John's Bible*. Vanstone Lecture Hall, Academic Centre, St. Jerome's University at 7:30pm, doors open at 6:45pm. This lecture is available on a complimentary basis. Please register at: www.sju.ca/lce

Pope Francis to attend World Meeting of Families in Dublin – The Diocese of Hamilton is planning a trip to the World Meeting of Families in Dublin, Ireland, which takes place 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*. This is a family event with workshop streams for those 18 and older, 6 – 17 years and day care for those 5 and younger. The Diocese has booked a block of rooms for anyone interested in attending, but registration for the conference portion and travel are to be booked by each individual participant. For Conference Registration go to <http://www.worldmeeting2018.ie/en/>. For more information or to book accommodation at our hotel, the Maldon Hotel Tallaght, go to <https://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/wmof-2018> or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2250 (Teresa Hartnett). Diocesan accommodation must be booked by mid-January, so please contact us soon.

Special Messiah Concert at Centre in the Square On Dec. 9, 7:30p.m., breathtaking images of handcrafted illuminations from *The Saint John's Bible* will be projected as the

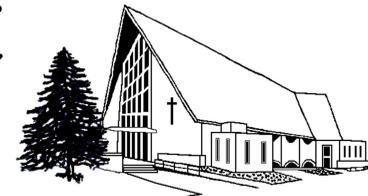
Grand Philharmonic Choir sings Handel's *Messiah*. In addition, six of the seven volumes of this Bible will be on display in the lobby of the Centre in the Square, courtesy of the Diocese of Hamilton. And there will be a pre-concert presentation by Fr. Eric Hollas, OSB, St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN. Tickets are available from the Centre in the Square Box Office.

Birthright is a faith-founded, love motivated crisis service. We encounter women and men with acceptance, friendship, local resources, and free infant and maternity wear, to give hope and encouragement to those facing an unexpected pregnancy. Can you help make a difference as a volunteer or with financial contributions? Call 519-579-3990 or visit www.birthright.org. Please join us at our Christmas Reception and Open House on Dec. 9, 2-5pm at 96 Highland Rd. W. Kitchener.

Coping with the Holidays... when a loved one has passed away Join us for an evening of reflection and strategies for coping at Christmas, facilitated by Dr. Wendy Hofman. At St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, 16 Cooper St. Cambridge, Mon. Dec. 11, 7-8:30pm. Free of charge, please call to reserve a seat, 519-658-4443. If you haven't registered you are still welcome to attend.

Come join us to find the "Keys to Loving Relationships" "Keys" is a nine week video-based program meant for anyone (married or single) who is looking for a more meaningful relationship with a spouse, family member or friend. Learn how to become a better "me" in all your relationships! The program runs Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9 pm starting Jan. 23, at St. Mark's Parish, Kitchener. Cost is \$45. For more information, please call the 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 Uniak, C.R. (tuniak@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."



"Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation."

~ Psalm 85: 7

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 3, 2017

