

# St. Francis of Assisi Parish

49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4E2

519-745-7301 [www.stfranciskw.ca](http://www.stfranciskw.ca)

[stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com)

Administered by the Congregation of the Resurrection: [www.resurrectionists.ca](http://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

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

Monthly, please call the parish office to register.

## Marriages

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

**Pastor:** Fr. Tim Uniac, C.R.  
([tuniac@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:tuniac@hamiltondiocese.com))  
**Pastoral Minister:** Miss Ruthann Fisher  
([rfisher@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:rfisher@hamiltondiocese.com))  
**Music Ministry:** Mrs. Terriane Moulton  
**Admin. Assistant:** Ms. Alice Soeder  
**Building Manager:** Mr. Gary Howell  
**Seminarian:** Rev. Mr. Raphael Ma, C.R.

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

**Vocations Information:** [www.vocationinfo.ca](http://www.vocationinfo.ca)  
[www.vocationculture.ca](http://www.vocationculture.ca)



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

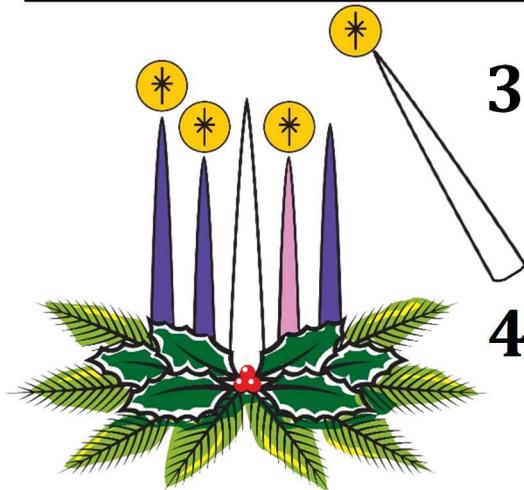
## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### December 16, 2018

and

## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### December 23, 2018



## MASS INTENTIONS

December 18 - 23, 2018

**Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup>** - *Late Advent Weekday*  
9:00 am Intentions of Mary Higginson – Marilyn Alston

**Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup>** - *Late Advent Weekday*  
9:00 am +Marica Babic – Karl & Judy Svab  
7:00 pm +Mary McCarville – the Family  
+Albert MacDonald – Dorothy MacDonald  
+Christiaan Oei – the Oei Family  
+Jennie Rodzen – Louise & Edward Rodzen  
+Vernon Dorscht – Anne Darby-Watchorn

**Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup>** - *Late Advent Weekday*  
9:00 am +Jim Subject – Gene Furtado

**Friday, 21<sup>st</sup>** - *Late Advent Weekday*  
9:00 am +Carl & Helen Bender – Bonnie & Chris, Ron & Jane & Grandchildren

**Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>** - *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
5:00 pm Intentions of Mary Ann Sellner – Sr. Anne Rektor, SSND  
+Dorothy Herzog – Karen & Dave Kowalski & Family  
+Lorne & Doris McMahon – Bernard & Rose Hanley  
+Mary Ellen & Wilfred Hanley – Bernard & Rose Hanley  
+Ed Yendruck – June Yendruck & Family  
+André Vanzieleghem – Lucille & Cathy Vanzieleghem  
+Taya Marie Flores – Gigi Rose  
+Dora Lamers – Mike & Marg George

**Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup>** - *4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent*  
9:00 am +Reno & Tony Ianni – Angela Ianni  
11:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

December 16, 2018

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Collection December 8/9 \$6,100.00  
2018 Collection to Date \$277,626.88  
2018 Total Budgeted Collection \$366,600.00

Looking Ahead to Dec. 23, 2018

### 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Micah 5: 2- 5a  
Hebrews 10: 5-10 Luke 1: 39-45

### DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 17: Rev. Sam Restivo, CR  
Tues. Dec. 18: Rev. Tim Uniac, CR  
Wed Dec. 19: Missionaries  
Thu. Dec. 20: Rev. Stephen Murrin  
Fri. Dec. 21: Rev. Timothy Higgins  
Sat. Dec. 22: Rev. Romelito Guillen

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

**Monday**  
Overeaters Anonymous (AR) 7:30 pm

**Wednesday**  
Parish Team Meeting (Office Closed) 10 – 1pm

**Thursday**  
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR) 9:00 am  
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR) 4:30 pm  
Choir Practice (C) 7:30 pm

**Friday**  
Longest Night Service (C) 7:00 pm

**Saturday**  
Special Confession Times 2 – 4 pm

**MASS INTENTIONS  
December 24 - 30, 2018**

**Monday, 24<sup>th</sup>** - **Christmas Eve**  
4:30 pm Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi  
7:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi  
10:00 pm Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi  
**Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup>** - **Christmas Day**  
10:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

**NO WEEKDAY MASSES Dec. 26 – 28**

**Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup>** - **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
5:00 pm Intentions of Deacon Raphael Ma, C.R.  
+Heinz Bechtloff – Bev & Rob Shanahan  
+Dorothy Herzog – Mike & Marg George  
+Chris Oei – Karl & Judy Svab  
+Dora Lamers – Gerry Lamers  
+Ann Hutter – Mildred Fisher & Family  
+Venette Padden – Mary & Alvina Bergamin  
**Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup>** - **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
9:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi  
11:00 am +Louis Stalzer – Anita Stalzer

**Looking Ahead to Dec. 30, 2018  
FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY**

1 Samuel 1: 11, 20-22, 24-28  
1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24 Luke 2: 41-52

**DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR**

Mon. Dec. 24: **Rev. Francis Hubilla**  
Tues. Dec. 25: **Nativity of our Lord**  
Wed Dec. 26: **Franciscan Fathers (OFM)**  
Thu. Dec. 27: **Rev. Ronald Voisin**  
Fri. Dec. 28: **Rev. Duy Van Nguyen**  
Sat. Dec. 29: **Rev. Kevin D'Souza**

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS**

During this Advent period of spiritual preparation we are providing more opportunities to receive Reconciliation. Fr. Tim will be available to hear confessions on:

- Sat. Dec. 22 from 2pm – 4pm

(The regular confession time of 4-4:30pm is cancelled this day.) If you wish to attend a Penance Service there are many in the area, please see our website for a listing of services.

**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

If you wish to donate towards our Christmas flowers and decorations 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.

**LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas season approaches and the day get darker, we invite you to join us for an ecumenical service on Fri. 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.



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

In just a little over one week, when you return to church for Christmas, the nativity scene will be set-up at the front of the church – the figures in the scene having been arranged by our children. Where and why did the tradition of the nativity scene begin?

Many people are aware, particularly if you are a member of this parish, that it was Saint Francis of Assisi who first introduced the practice of setting up nativity scenes at Christmas. Christmas was an important celebration in the spirituality of Saint Francis, for he believed that there was no revelation of God's love more total, more complete, than that of the Incarnation of God's only Son. The face of God becomes visible to all creation through the Incarnation of Jesus – as Francis would often say: what could be more powerful than that! This visual depiction of the Incarnation of Christ was for Francis to be a “hands-on” educational moment – to see and touch the figures of the nativity scene. For Francis, nativity scenes were never intended to be a piece of artwork, not to be touched; they were to be held, touched, moved around, embraced, etc, so as to better understand this great moment in our lives of faith. Where is your nativity scene set up in your home; on the mantel of the fireplace, or high on some shelf, out of reach of children? Francis would no doubt tell us it rightly belongs where children can actually touch and play with it.

The first known nativity scene was set up in a cave in Greccio, Italy, by Saint Francis in the year 1223. It was a living nativity scene with live animals (the love of Francis for animals would see live animals in a nativity scene as very fitting). The scene depicted three Kings (Magi) presenting gifts of gold (for royalty),

frankincense (for divinity) and myrrh (the burial spice). Do you know by what names the three Kings are commonly known? They were Caspar, Melchior and Balthazer.



~ Father Tim, CR

**CHURCH ENVELOPES 2019**

Church envelopes for 2019 are available for pickup now in the parish hall. If you use **Direct Deposit** please note you still have a small box of special envelopes to pick up. If you wish to sign up for Direct Deposit please call Alice in the parish office for details. Direct Deposit helps us be good stewards of creation by decreasing the amount of envelopes used.

**WARMTH and COMFORT  
CAMPAIGN**

Thank you to everyone who donated socks to help keep our neighbours warm this winter. With your incredible generosity we collected **450 pairs** of men's socks, and assorted women's sock, hats and mitts! Our parish is blessing to our community!



**SENIORS LUNCH**

Mark your calendars for our next seniors' lunch, **Thursday January 10, 12 noon, location to be announced.** Please join us for our monthly lunches at local restaurants, get to know other parishioners and enjoy some fabulous food!

*“Advent is a time to recognize the emptiness that needs to be filled in our lives, a time to smooth the rough edges of pride, and to make room for Jesus who comes.”*



~ @Pontifex, December 9, 2018

## **CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Monday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

4:30 pm

7:00 pm

10:00 pm



### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Tuesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am

***Parish Office will be closed  
from Dec. 24 at noon until Dec. 26,  
and Dec. 31 at noon until Jan. 2.***

***There will be NO Weekday Masses  
Dec. 26 – 28, or Jan. 2 - 4***

### **FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD**

#### **New Year's Eve**

Monday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

5:00 pm

#### **New Year's Day**

Tuesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

10:00 am



### **AROUND TOWN**

**Advent Lessons & Carols Service** on Dec. 16 at 7pm at St. George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church. All are welcome!

**Diocesan Newsletter** For information about activities and events of interest in the Diocese of Hamilton, subscribe to the online Diocesan Newsletter at [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com).

**Theology on Tap** will be hosting our 3<sup>rd</sup> event of the season on Tues. Jan. 15, from 7-9pm at the Albion Hotel in Guelph. Teresa Hartnett, Director of Family Ministry for the Diocese, will be speaking on the topic "Living Life in a Throw Away Culture". Free finger food will be provided. A special invite goes out to all young adults between the ages of 19 and 40. For more information please visit us on facebook "Theology on Tap Guelph" or email [theologyontapguelph@gmail.com](mailto:theologyontapguelph@gmail.com).

#### **Seeking the Sacred: The Soul's Slow Ripening**

A Senior Adult Workshop Series taking place on 7 Tuesday afternoons, starting Jan. 29, from 1:30-3:30pm at the Chancery Office in Hamilton. This series will explore twelve unique Celtic-Christian spiritual practices. These 12 practices are intended to give practical ways for us to deepen our relationship with God and all of creation. The course will be facilitated by Sr. Mary Heather MacKinnon, SSND. Cost is \$35 which includes the text. Please register by Jan. 25. For more information please call 905-528-7988 ext 2238 or check the website:

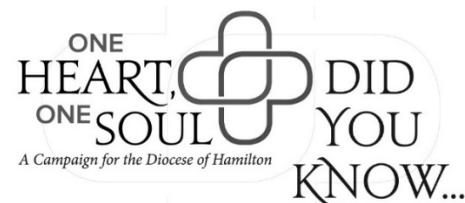
[www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

#### **Friday Night Support Group for Persons Separated or Divorced**

meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month and they can help! No need to register, just come and join us at the Chancery Office, Hamilton from 7-9m. For more information call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext 2249. No cost.

#### **Healing After an Abortion: It Is Possible**

At Project Rachel we offer a confidential service allowing people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Contact us at 905-526-1999 or 1-888-385-3850.



The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the One Heart, One Soul Campaign to raise money for every parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. Answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions appear in parish bulletins regularly. A compilation of all questions that have been published are available throughout the campaign at [oneheartonesoul.ca](http://oneheartonesoul.ca).

#### ***What is the state of diocesan finances? Is this a desperate situation that requires a campaign?***

The diocesan financial picture is strong – the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. Meanwhile, the Diocese is generous with grants and loans to parishes and Catholic organizations within the Diocese. Parish assessments have been stable in recent years but have not kept up with increases in diocesan operating costs. Property sales have been used more frequently to keep the Diocese's operating budget balanced and strong, and many assets (such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries) are restricted and not at the Diocese's disposal. This is not an emergency situation. The Diocese is looking ahead and acting before any kind of emergency could develop. Overall, the campaign is a way to ensure that more parishes will be able to be self-sufficient over the long term, building up themselves and the Diocese at the same time.

#### ***I've heard the Diocese has a lot of assets. Can't those be used?***

At the end of 2017, the Diocese reported assets of \$322 million. However, the majority of the assets are restricted assets, such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries, money legally reserved for the maintenance of cemetery

operations and funds held for pre-arranged funeral services and burials. Unrestricted assets are less than a third of the total capital. Of these unrestricted assets, more than 90 percent is used to generate investment income that – when combined with parish assessments – pays for annual diocesan operations (68 percent) and make funds available for grants and loans to help parishes and organizations within and outside the Diocese (32 percent).

#### ***Is there any chance that funds would be used to settle potential claims of abuse of children by clergy?***

The tragic stories recently in the news, thankfully, do not reflect the circumstances and history of our diocese. However, it should still be noted that funds raised during the campaign will be held in a segregated account, in trust for the parishes and ministries for which they were raised. Both civil and canon law require the diocese to use the gifts we receive for the stated purposes for which they were given – an obligation to which we are fully committed. Regarding how the Diocese handles abuse allegations, Bishop Crosby said in an August 2018 letter to all in the Diocese: "All allegations of sexual misconduct have been and will continue to be taken seriously and addressed immediately in accordance with our diocesan policy." For a link to the full letter, see our diocesan website, [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

#### ***What kind of financial transparency can we expect during the campaign and beyond?***

Transparency is a top priority for the Diocese. Summaries of diocesan financial reports from 2012 through 2017 are on the diocesan website, and copies of the full reports are available from the Diocese's financial office. Regular updates of campaign goals, projects and fundraising will be communicated during the campaign through a number of avenues – the website, emails, social media, to name a few.