

MASS INTENTIONS -- December 10 - 15, 2019

Tuesday, 10th	- Advent Weekday
9:00 am	Intentions of Anne & Tom Shoniker – Anne Pritchard
Wednesday, 11th	- Advent Weekday
9:00 am	+Suzanne Martin – Peter & Chris Higgins
Thursday, 12th	- Our Lady of Guadalupe
9:00 am	Intentions of Maria Cabral
Friday, 13th	- St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
9:00 am	In Thanksgiving – Gene Furtado
	+Beatrice Scheffter
	+Stanley Krafcheck – Mike & Diane Uniac
	+Brian Thomson – Anne Pritchard
Saturday, 14th	- 3rd Sunday of Advent
5:00 pm	Intentions of Cathy Vanzielegem – Maria Cabral
	+Lorne MacDonald – Aunt Margie & Dana Marsh
	+Albert MacDonald – Dorothy MacDonald & Family
	+Antonio Cardoso – the Family
	+Mildred Fisher – Bob Adams
	+Patricia Steimann – Janice McKay
	+Deceased Members of the Longo & O’Grady Families – Eileen & Mary Longo
Sunday, 15th	- 3rd Sunday of Advent
9:00 am	Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi
11:00 am	+Nancy Westman – the Westman / Voll Family

December 8, 2019

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Collection Nov. 21/22	\$6,529.04
Collection Nov. 30 / Dec. 1	\$3,139.00
2019 Total Collection to date	\$260,526.32
2019 Total Budgeted Collection	\$322,300.00

Looking Ahead to December 8, 2019

3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10
James 5: 7-10 Matthew 11: 2-11

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 9: Very Rev. Con O’Mahony
Tues. Dec. 10: Rev. Felix Nwatu
Wed. Dec. 11: Sisters of St. John the Baptist
Thu. Dec. 12: Rev. Czeslaw Kolasa, SAC
Fri. Dec. 13: Rev. Ranjan D’Sa, OCD
Sat. Dec. 14: Rev. Louis Lenssen, CRSP

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

Sunday	
Songs of Advent and the Birth of Jesus	
with John Miller & Friends (C)	7:00 pm
Monday	
Parents for Community Living (ER)	7:00 pm
Celebrating the Word (RR)	7:30 pm
Overeaters Anonymous (H)	7:30 pm
Tuesday	
Christmas Hamper Setup (H)	1:00 pm
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR)	4:15 pm
Wednesday	
Christmas Hampers (H)	2:00 pm
Thursday	
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR)	4:15 pm
Choir Practice (C)	7:30 pm
Saturday/Sunday	
Bambinelli Sunday	At Masses
St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive	At Masses
Sunday	
Youth Ministry (H)	7:30 pm

AN ADVENT CALL

As our ministry leaders make up the ministry schedules for Christmas Masses we have realized how many of our wonderful volunteers have retired over the past year or moved to different ministries. During this season of Advent please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to ministry in His church here at St. Francis. We particularly need Hospitality Ministers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. To be a Communion Minister you must be confirmed and have a desire to share Christ’s body with the congregation. Hospitality Ministers can be adults, couples, maybe your whole family would like to do this ministry together. Training is provided for both ministries. If you would like to learn more or sign up please contact the parish office. Thank you for being Christ’s hands and feet by serving our parish community.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Our Christmas St. Vincent de Paul Food Drive is next weekend, December 14/15. As we prepare for Christmas and invite all our family and friends to join in the feasting and celebrations, let us remember those who will not have a special meal this Christmas. Let us pray that the spirit of the season and the miracle of Christ’s birth still shines in their lives and brings them hope. For our food drive we especially need canned pasta, canned fruit and peanut butter.

CHURCH ENVELOPES 2020

Church envelopes for 2020 are now available for pickup in the church 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.

MISSALS for 2019-2020 are available for \$3.50 after Masses or in the parish office.

“With this Letter, I wish to encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene in the days before Christmas, but also the custom of setting it up in the workplace, in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares.” ~ @Pontifex, Dec. 1, 2019



See our parish website, www.stfranciskw.ca to read Pope Francis’ letter.

CATHOLIC REGISTER NEWSPAPER

We are currently receiving complimentary copies of the Catholic Register weekly newspaper. If you wish to take a copy new ones are put out in the pamphlet display rack at the main entrance of the church each week.

AROUND TOWN

Advent Novena 2019 This 9-day Advent Novena of 6:30 am Masses has been an annual tradition in K-W for the past 41 years. Start a new tradition by inviting your family and friends



to attend this year. Each day there will be a different celebrant for Holy Mass, along with musicians from across the twin cities. St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo, Dec. 6 – 14. For more information call Marg Weber @ 519-747-5937 or marg.weber@sympatico.ca. We come together in joyful praise and worship to prepare for Christmas and give thanks to the Lord! Plan to join us! See the full schedule at www.stfranciskw.ca.

From the Pastor's Desk:

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI HAS ARRIVED!

As part of the anniversary year for our parish it was agreed that visual symbols would help commemorate the anniversary. So a banner announcing the anniversary to our local neighbours was placed on the front outside wall of the church; 60 bird houses were made by parishioners and now hang from the trees on the church property; in the spring an anniversary tree will be planted on the grounds; and the absolute highlight was the commissioning of a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi for the front lawn of the church.

We turned to local artist Timothy Schmalz, whose work is found all over the world, including most recently in Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City. A statue that somehow captured the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, as inspired by Saint Francis himself, was our desire. We desired a statue that showed a spirit of praise and great joy for all that God has done, a spirit that takes great delight in all of creation, a spirit of welcome and hospitality, and a spirit that was not afraid to dance with joy. The resulting statue was "Saint Francis in Exultation".

The inspiration for the statue was found in Psalm 149. "Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful. Let Israel be glad in its Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King. Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre. For the Lord takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. Let the high praises of God be in their throats ..." The life-size statue of Francis of Assisi

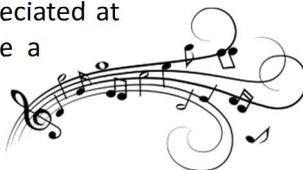
shows him dancing and singing with great joy with arms outstretched in praise of God. Saint Francis is clearly inviting all creation to join with him in praising God with song and dance. Francis of Assisi now stands at the entrance to our church calling us to come and worship together in praise of our God. For 60 years of un-ending blessings and graces from God the people of Saint Francis of Assisi Parish dance and shout for joy!

Father Tim, C.R.



SONGS OF ADVENT AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Join us for a musical evening of traditional and contemporary seasonal music with John B. Miller and Friends, featuring Steve Martin, Donna McLellan, Joe Orlando and Andrea Weber Steckly. **Sunday December 8th** at 7pm, cash donation is appreciated at the door. This will be a fun and prayerful event, a great break from the bustle of Christmas preparations.



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 loved ones at all the Christmas Masses.

ADVENT CHARITY COLLECTION

You can still make donations to our Advent Charities Collection until Dec. 22. This year the collection will go to our second North of 60 anniversary project, Health for Fort Hope. You can learn more about this project on our website.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

During this Advent season of spiritual preparation we invite you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession times are Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 pm, or if you prefer a different time please call the office to make an appointment. There are also Penance Services at some of the other local churches if you prefer that option. A complete list of services can be found on our website.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Pope Francis traditionally blesses the Baby Jesus figurines from nativity scenes that belong to families in St. Peter's Square in Rome, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the Bambini Jesu reminds us that the nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. **You are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines** from your home nativity scenes to Mass on Dec. 14 and 15 to be blessed as we celebrate Bambinelli Sunday with Catholics around the world. After the blessing please take your Bambini Jesu home and wrap it as a Christmas gift. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas Day, and as you lay Jesus in the manger, allow the moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas season approaches and the days get darker, we invite you to join us for an ecumenical service on Fri. Dec. 20. 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. All are welcome.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Due to weather our last Youth Ministry meeting had to be cancelled, so when we meet on **Sun. Dec. 15 at 7:30pm**, our theme will be **Relationships**. Meet in the parish hall. All high school youth are welcome, bring your friends! Snacks provided.



Plus, follow us on Instagram!
[stfrancisyouthkw](https://www.instagram.com/stfrancisyouthkw)

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24th

4:30 pm

7:00 pm

9:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday, December 25th

10:00 am

Parish Office will be closed from Dec. 24 at noon until Dec. 27 at 8:30am, and from Dec. 31 at noon until Jan. 2 at 8:30am.

*There will be **NO Weekday Masses** Dec. 26 – 27, or Jan. 2 – 3.*

FEAST OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve

Tuesday, December 31st

5:00 pm

New Year's Day

Wednesday, January 1st

10:00 am



Anything But Merry Workshops When you're grieving the death of a loved one, the holiday season can seem Anything But Merry. It can be a time of overwhelming emotions, new challenges and unrealistic expectations from family and friends. Anything But Merry is a community information session where we acknowledge the difficulties the holiday season can bring, and share coping strategies to help you through. There are many sessions:

- Waterloo Public Library, Dec. 9
- Guelph WMCA-WYCA, Dec. 12
- Cambridge Idea Exchange, Dec. 12

Free of charge, registration is required. Visit www.bfomidwest.org or call 519-603-0196.

Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Wednesday, December 25th at 12:00 a.m. The celebration will be live streamed and telecast on S+L and CHTV. The broadcast will begin on Christmas Eve at 11:30 p.m. with Carols from the Cathedral. All are welcome to attend or to watch via live stream or television.

Bishop Crosby's Christmas Message 2019

For many, Christmas is a wonderful time of year! Homes are decorated, families gather, gifts are shared, the best meal of the year is served, and the music at Christmas Masses is always uplifting – to say nothing of the Christmas homily!

Sadly, for others Christmas is a time to dread! The unemployed, those who are on the streets, those who are alone perhaps isolated from family, those who are in prison, those who are in hospitals or suffering from mental health or other serious illnesses, and those who are mourning the loss of a loved one, can find this time of year challenging and very difficult indeed!

If we have been blessed, we must bless. Can we make the Christmas season a time of blessing for others? We bless when we recognize others to be sisters and brothers, and treat them with the dignity that is theirs, listening to them and speaking to them with respect and affirmation. We bless when we support the *Good Shepherd Ministries* of the Brothers of St. John of God, the *DeMazenod Door* at St. Patrick Parish, Hamilton, the *Out of the Cold* programs, hospice care and other similar programs in our diocese, where people are respectfully cared for and lovingly nourished!

At Christmas, we celebrate our belief that "God comes to us"! God comes to us as a baby, unthreatening, dependent, and in simplicity. All we have to do is open our hearts to welcome the Lord of life and love. We recognize and welcome Him in every person who comes to us in the same simplicity of spirit, seeking from us the same generous greeting of peace.

May God bless you this Christmas and always! Let us pray for one another.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

St. Francis of Assisi Parish



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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

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)
Associate Pastor:	Fr. Raphael Ma, C.R. (rma@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."*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths:
All flesh shall see the salvation of God."*

Luke 3: 4, 6

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 8, 2019

