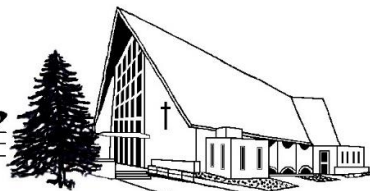




St. Francis of Assisi Parish

49 Blueridge Ave. Kitchener N2M 4E2 519-745-7301 www.stfranciskw.ca



Christmas 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Soon we will once again celebrate that “THE WORD OF GOD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONGST US”, so that we could come to know, love and serve Him. Perhaps, at times, this good news can feel too good to be true. However we are blessed with the knowledge that IT IS TRUE, and look forward to celebrating this year’s Christmas Liturgies with you, our parish community. We thank God that COVID no longer prevents us from this incredible privilege of our faith.

Recently, I signed off my correspondence as Fr. Murray McDermott C.R., soon to be retired priest in residence. It is with great pleasure that we welcome back to our parish, Fr. Paul Voisin C.R., as our new Pastor. Fr. Paul is looking forward to this ongoing journey in pastoring at St. Francis, beginning January 1st, 2024. I had the privilege of not only belonging to the same parish as Fr. Paul growing up, but also attending the same elementary and high school as him. On top of that, we were also ordained on the same day, May 14, 1977!

St. Francis has come alive post COVID with the return of all of our masses including: regular Sundays, Memorial, School and Laudato Si’, as well as our Sacraments: Confirmation, First Communion and First Reconciliation. I am happy to say that our dynamic choir has also fully returned, and once again leads us in song during these celebrations! Through the hard work and commitment of our volunteers, we have been able to bring back our parish initiatives and events such as the Christmas Dinner, Spaghetti Supper, Garage Sale, Bazaar, Games day, Laudato Si’ Garden, Indigenous Garden and Celebrations of Resurrection and New Life for those who have died.

We are grateful for all of our parishioners who have left their place of isolation and fear of COVID to return to our living, loving, vibrant and faith filled community. As a Parish Community, we laugh, we cry, we sing, we share, we give, we receive, we grow and mature in our Catholic Christian faith and practice together.

For those of you who are able to come to Church, it is wonderful to have you here. For those who are unable to come due to age or sickness, please be assured that you continue to be thought of as a valued and cherished brother or sister of our St. Francis family, in Christ.

We pray, we think, we ponder and we grieve for all the victims of war in our world today. Our hearts hunger, yearn and thirst for peace on earth and good will toward all men and women.

In wishing all of you a wonderful and beautiful Christmas, our hope is that Jesus will continue to become flesh in all of your hearts this Christmas, and that you will journey more deeply into the well of God’s love for you.

I wish you all a blessed and Christ filled Christmas!

Your Almost Retired Pastor,

Fr. Murray McDermott C.R.