

The Third Sunday of Advent

Masses this Week

Tuesday, December 18

5:00 p.m. + Adolfo Serpa - *Delia Serpa*
 + The Morais Family - *Joe Madruga*
 + Don Mclsaac - *Rosemary & Theresa*
 + Ron Guse - *Rosa Fransisco*

Wednesday, December 19

8:00 a.m. + Joe Brasil & Family - *Fernanda Brasil*
 11:00 a.m. - Riverbend Mass (Riverbend Place)

Thursday, December 20

5:00 p.m. + Bernadette Stark - *Emilia Moura*

Friday, December 21

8:00 a.m. + Michael & Maria Santa - *The Kovac Family*

Saturday, December 22

5:00 p.m. - Sung Mass
 + Vicente Moniz - *Goretti Moniz*
 + Luiza DaCosta - *John & Maria DaCosta*
 + David Borges - *The Borges & Vicente Families*
 + Norberto & Odilia Branco - *Maria Branco*
 + José Moura - *Maria Moura & Family*

Sunday, Dec 23 – 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 a.m. - Said Mass at the Altar of Our Lady
 9:00 a.m. - Sung Mass + Teresa Moniz - *Antonio Moniz*
 11:00 a.m. - Sung Mass - *Pro populo*



If you are visiting today,

St. Patrick's Parish welcomes you.

Extra Confessions

Extra confessions will be heard this week on Tuesday, December 18 from 3:45 - 4:30 pm and again on Thursday, December 20 from 1 - 3 pm.

Gaudete Sunday

Rejoice!

On the third Sunday of Advent, the penitential purple of the season changes to rose and we celebrate "Gaudete" or "Rejoice" Sunday.

Gaudete means "rejoice" in Latin. It comes from the first word of the Entrance antiphon on Sunday. The spirit of joy that begins this week comes from the words of Paul, "The Lord is near." This joyful spirit is marked by the third candle of our Advent wreath, which is rose colored, and the rose colored vestments often used at the Eucharist.

The second part of Advent begins on December 17th each year. For the last eight days before Christmas, the plan of the readings change. The first readings are still from the prophecies, but now the gospels are from the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. We read the stories of faithful women and men who prepared the way for our salvation. We enter into the story of how Jesus' life began. These stories are filled with hints of what his life will mean for us. Faith and generosity overcome impossibility. Poverty and persecution reveal glory.

Our celebration of the coming of our Saviour into history is opening us up to experience his coming to us this year, and preparing us to await his coming in glory.

This Week In Our Parish

Tuesday, December 18

3:45 - 4:30 p.m. – Confessions (Church)
 5:30 p.m. - Holy Spirit Prayer Community (Church)

Wednesday, December 19

8:30 a.m. – Confessions, *immed. following mass until finished* (Church)
 7:00 pm - Choir Practice (Church)

Thursday, December 20

1:00 - 3 p.m. – Confessions (Church)

Friday, December 21

8:30 a.m. - Adoration (Benediction 9:30 a.m.)

Saturday, December 22

3:45 - 4:30 p.m. – Confessions (Church)

Preparing For Next Week

Micah 5: 2 - 5a ; Psalm 80;
 Hebrews 10: 5 - 10 ; Luke 1: 39 - 45

2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 offering envelopes are now available for pick up in the parish hall. Please be sure to take yours home with you after mass. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like a set, please contact the parish office at 519-623-3773.

Liturgical Ministers - December 22 & 23

	5:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m.	11:00 a.m.
Greeters	<i>Vol. Needed</i> <i>Vol. Needed</i>	<i>Vol. Needed</i> <i>Vol. Needed</i>	R. France H. France
Lectors L1 L2	A. Kelly J. Kelly	N. Applebee M. Applebee	J. Frias C. Cabral
Communion	H. Nearing T. Nearing	J. Bui B. Sousa	R. St. Cartier J. St. Cartier

Diocesan Prayer Calendar

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

For information about diocesan workshops and events, including the One Heart, One Soul Capital Campaign, please visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com>

December 16, 2018



The Awesome Power Of The Christmas Story

One of the best Christmas sermons I have ever read appeared some years ago in the pages of Rolling Stone magazine. In the course of a wide-ranging interview, the Irish rocker Bono, leader of the group U2, spoke of his religious faith. Prompted to articulate why he embraces Christianity, Bono said, "I believe that there is a logic that stands behind all things, and as a poet, I see the wonderful appropriateness that this awesome power would express itself as a baby born in straw poverty."

Mary and Joseph, two nobodies in a dusty corner of the Roman Empire, made their way from the tiny hamlet of Nazareth to the little town of Bethlehem. They were too poor and unimportant to secure lodging, even in the pathetic travelers' hostel, and thus were compelled to take shelter in a cave, surrounded by animals. In that dirty and forgotten place, the baby who is God came into the world.

This poetic and theological illumination compels us to think differently about many things, but especially about the nature of power. The maker of the cosmos in its entirety is undoubtedly a supreme power, but now we know that authentic power is not a matter of domination and manipulation, but of nonviolence. Willing the good of the other (the classical definition of love) is moving with the deepest rhythms of creation and with the very nature of God. And this is precisely why it can transform society. If you doubt me, look at the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s remaking of American culture or Mahatma Gandhi's Indian revolution — both prompted and sustained by love, not violence.

St. Augustine offered, in the 4th century, a pithy definition of sin: *libido dominandi* (the lust to dominate). Although it applies to any and all types of sin, Augustine's characterization is particularly compelling in regard to the sins that have been on public display these last months and years. What we see in the abuse of children, in the exploitation of the weak, in human trafficking, in cruelty to the families of immigrants, and in the sexual harassment of women is, fundamentally, the *libido dominandi*, the twisted exercise of power.

There is an extraordinary passage in the book of the prophet Isaiah in which the seer envisions the coming of God's reign, which will put an end to suffering and injustice: "The Lord bares his holy arm for all the nations to see; to the furthest corners of the earth, he makes known his saving power" (Is. 52:10). The image is bold, even aggressive — God pulling up his sleeve and revealing his mighty arm. As the Anglican theologian N.T. Wright pointed out, the supreme irony of Christmas is that the holy arm of the Lord God is revealed as the tiny arm of a baby emerging from the crib of Bethlehem.

The power that made the universe is not the assertion of personal prerogatives; it is not pushing people around; it is not manipulating others for the aggrandizement of one's ego; it is not preening self-display; it is not the lust to dominate. The logic that lies behind all things is a baby born in straw poverty. When we get that in our bones, we will understand the meaning of Christmas.

Adapted from: <https://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-barron-christmas-power-20171225-story.html>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday, December 22 at 5 pm

Sunday, December 23

8 am - Said Mass at the Lady Altar

9 am - Sung Mass

11 am - Sung Mass (Incense will be used)

Please note that these Masses fulfill the Sunday obligation only.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve - Monday, Dec. 24

5 pm (preceded by the Nativity play)

7 pm

10 pm (Incense will be used)

Christmas Day - Tuesday, Dec. 25

10 am - only (Incense will be used)

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH

Saturday, December 29 at 5 pm

Sunday, December 30

8 am - Said Mass at the Lady Altar

9 & 11 am - Sung Mass

Please note that these Masses fulfill the Sunday obligation only.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

New Year's Eve - Monday, Dec. 31 at 5 pm

New Year's Day - Tuesday, Jan. 1 at 10 am

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday, January 5 at 5 pm (Incense will be used)

Sunday, January 6

8 am - Said Mass at the Lady Altar

9 am - Sung Mass

11 am - Sung Mass (Incense will be used)

Christmas Overflow Parking

Overflow parking for Christmas Masses is available in the parking lot at the corner of Wellington and Main Streets, behind City Hall off of Cambridge Street and across from the David Durward Centre (Beverly and Dixon Streets).