

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

(followed by Novena to St. Anthony)

5:00 pm

- + John Young
- + Antonio Caetano
- + John & Luiza da Costa
- + Manuel Sousa Moreira

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

(ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS)

8:00 am

- + Mariana Tavares & Family

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

5:00 pm

(followed by Miraculous Medal Novena)

- + Luiza & Jacinto Lima

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am (8:30 - 9:30 am adoration & recitation of Divine Mercy Novena)

- + José Pavao Farias

THE VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:00 pm - preceded by Nativity Play

7:00 pm

9:00 pm

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:00 am

11:00 am

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY PLAY

Before the beginning of the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass (December 24), the children of St. Patrick's Parish will be presenting the Nativity Play. Children ages 3 to 7 years of age will be asked to come to the front of the church and listen to the Christmas Story which will be narrated by children in the parish. Parents, please encourage your children to come forward when the announcement is made.

"May the Lord come in,
He is king of glory."

Psalm 24



If you are visiting today,

St. Patrick Parish welcomes you.

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS



Any time is a good time to invite family, friends, and neighbours to attend Mass. Especially so during the beautiful Christmas season. What better gift can we give a loved one who is away from the Church

than a warm invitation to Come Home for Christmas? Whether they have been away for a short time or a long time, we want all Catholics to know that they are warmly welcomed back to our Parish community. Please consider extending this invitation to loved ones, neighbours, and colleagues – for more information, visit <http://hamiltondiocese.com>

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

5:00 pm (preceded by the Nativity play)

7:00 pm

9:00 pm

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

9:00 am & 11:00 am

No registration required. Incense will be used at all Masses. All are welcome!



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 DiCKSon Streets).



SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, commemorates the divine motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord and God, Jesus Christ. This is a Holy Day of Obligation for Catholics.

Masses will be offered at St. Patrick's Parish on **New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31 at 5 pm and on New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1 at 9 & 11 am.**

DECEMBER 18, 2022



COFFEE SOCIAL

We invite you to stay after the 9 am & 11 am Mass this **Sunday, December 18** for our coffee social in the Parish Hall. This is an ideal time to come together to renew existing friendships and to form new ones. A

special invitation is extended to new parishioners who would like to get better acquainted with St. Patrick's Parish community. All are welcome to join us.

ADVENT STUDY SERIES

Please plan to join us for our final Advent talk. All are welcome!

Deacon Terry Osmar

Tuesday, December 20 from 7:00 - 8:00 pm:

"Shopping Through Advent (Take 2)"

THE FIRST

CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE



Francis of Assisi created the first "crèche," which we often find under the Christmas tree. Here is how this tradition began: At the end of 1223, Francis was in Greccio, Italy. His friend, a

nobleman named Giovanni di Velita, had given the friars a grotto (cave) in the mountain and Francis had transformed it into a hermitage. That year, Francis told the Lord of his desire to celebrate Christmas in the grotto and to install a manger in it. "I want to evoke the memory of the Child of Bethlehem. I want to see Him with my own eyes, as He was, lying in a manger and sleeping on the hay between the ox and the donkey."

All the inhabitants of Greccio and the hermits from the area came in large numbers to accompany Francis and to assist by torchlight at Midnight Mass. The forest was as illuminated as in broad daylight. The Mass was celebrated with the manger as the altar. Francis assisted the priest as a deacon and spoke so well to the crowd of the birth of Jesus and of the true meaning of Christmas that everyone was filled with great joy.

The legend relates the vision that Francis had of a young child lying asleep in the manger. Francis came and tenderly took the infant in his arms. Then, the baby awoke and smiled at Francis.

The following year, the inhabitants of Greccio remembered that marvelous Christmas night with great admiration. That year, they reconstructed the scene of Jesus' birth in grottoes or stables throughout the whole region. Thus began the tradition of the Christmas crèche and from Greccio it quickly spread throughout the world. *Source: Franciscans of Canada <http://www.ofmqc.ca>*

TELEVISED CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

His Excellency Bishop Douglas Crosby will celebrate Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Mass will be preceded by carols from the Cathedral beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 24. The carol service and Midnight Mass will be televised on Salt + Light, Canada's Catholic broadcaster.

LAMP OFFERING



Commencing the week of January 1, 2023, parishioners will have the opportunity to make a lamp offering at either the Sanctuary lamp or at The Lady Altar Lamp. The lamps will burn for one week and may be offered in memory of a deceased person or as a thank offering. Names will be published in the bulletin. For bookings January to June 2023, please contact the parish office by phone or **email (preferred)**.

ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER

St. Patrick's Parish has an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) donation option. EFT registration forms are located in the narthex for those persons currently not registered for this convenient option and who may wish to do so.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES

2023 offering envelopes are now available in the parish hall for pick up.

DIVINE BLESSING - REVEALED & COMMUNICATED

In the Church's liturgy the divine blessing is fully revealed and communicated. The Father is acknowledged and adored as the source and the end of all the blessings of creation and salvation. In his Word who became incarnate, died, and rose for us, he fills us with his blessings. Through his Word, he pours into our hearts the Gift that contains all gifts, the Holy Spirit (CCC # 1082).

At Christmas...

we contemplate God made man divine glory hidden beneath the poverty of a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, the Creator of the universe reduced to the helplessness of an infant. Once we accept this paradox, we discover the truth that sets us free and the love that transforms our lives. On Bethlehem night, the Redeemer becomes one of us, our companion along the precarious paths of history. *Urbi et orbi message, Christmas 2005 Pope Benedict XVI*

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Msgr. Ivan Vuksic
Tuesday	Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.
Wednesday	Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.)
Thursday	Rev. Louis DeVaugelas, L.C.
Friday	Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.
Saturday	Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.