



Our Parish Family

Our Lady Help of Christians

432 Victoria Street P.O Box 212
Watford, Ontario N0M 2S0
519-876-3240



St. Christopher's

68 Union Street,
Forest Ontario N0N 1J0
519-786-5243



A welcoming Catholic faith community who gathers to celebrate the Word of God as a Eucharistic People.

Pastoral Team

Pastoral Administrator:

Father Mark B. Maloney
mmaloney@dol.ca
519-476-9069

Office Administrator:

Sarah Minten
sminten@dol.ca
stchrisfor@dol.ca
olhcwat@dol.ca

Financial:

Connie Burns
cburns@dol.ca

Deacon:

Tony Hogervorst
519-670-0891
thogervorst@dol.ca

Office Hours:

By Appointment Only
Please call 519-786-5243 or
519-876-3240
to book

Sunday Eucharist

Saturday - 4:30 pm Forest
7:00 pm Watford
Sunday - 9:00 am Watford
11:00 am Forest

Confessions

Please call Fr. Mark to book

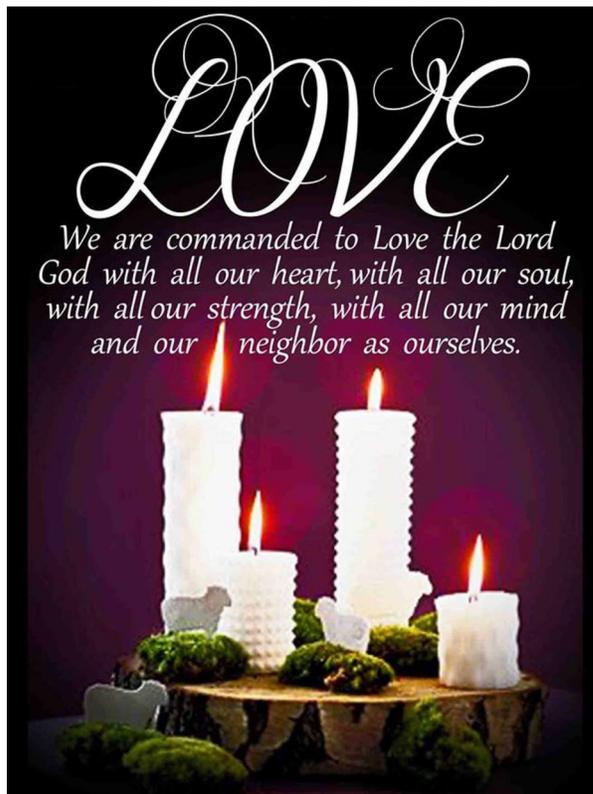
OFFICE IS CLOSED

December 21st - January 5th.
In an emergency call Fr. Mark;
519-476-9069

Forth Sunday OF Advent December 20, 2020

LOVE

*We are commanded to Love the Lord
God with all our heart, with all our soul,
with all our strength, with all our mind
and our neighbor as ourselves.*



With the number of COVID cases rising in Ontario, we must do our part, out of love, to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. We are asking all parishioners that have made a reservation for Christmas Eve or Christmas morning mass, that they not attend if they have / had family or friends visit from a grey or lockdown area, this includes college or university students. Travelling from an area under lockdown to attend Mass here might risk spreading the coronavirus to our community. There are many online Mass options available over the Christmas season (dol.ca/outreach has a few listed). We thank you for your understanding and your cooperation.

Masses for the Week



Wednesday, December 23 - CANCELLED

Weekday masses will resume on January 13th

Weekend masses are first come first served.

St. Christopher's - 4:30pm Saturday's & 11:00am Sunday's

OLHC - 7:00pm Saturday's & 9:00am Sunday's

Please Pray Each Day For:



Rev. Matthew George

Mrs. Lynn Di Pinto, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Deacon Joseph Manzara

Rev. Michael Ryan

Rev. Steven Huber, C.S.B

Re. Seejo John

Year to Date Month End Operating Financial Position:

St. Christopher's Income: \$133,203.17

OLHC: \$94,578.35

Expense: \$130,292.40

Expense: \$91,908.65

\$ 2,910.77

\$ 2,669.70

Christmas Masses

Reservations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day masses is CLOSED!

THERE WILL BE NO WALK INS ALLOWED.

News Year Day Masses - 9:00 am - Watford; 11:00 am - Forest.

First Come First Served.

*The following masses will be cancelled at both parishes:
Wednesday, December 23, December 30 & January 6.*

Saturday, December 26 & January 2

Sunday Masses WILL run at regular scheduled times.



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FlipGive Fundraising

FlipGive

Fundraising for our Parishes is going to be so much easier with FlipGive, a free fundraising app.

We earn cash back on every purchase we make all year long! All you have to do is shop anytime with the brands you already love, like Home Depot, Walmart, Amazon, Sport Check, Indigo, Old Navy, Apple, Esso, and Loblaw's.

No more going door-to-door selling chocolate bars - it's completely virtual and contactless.

Join our "team" now and you'll get a \$5 bonus the first time you shop

For OLHC please click the following link: https://flipgive.app/link/teams/join?fundraiser_name=Connie&joincode=KCGZ7W

Or enter this code: KCGZ7W

For St. Christopher's please click the following link: https://www.flipgive.com/teams/join?fundraiser_name=Connie&joincode=LQPLMY

Or enter this code: LQPLMY

Please considering using this App when you are online shopping through out the year. It is free for you to use and it does not cost the church anything either! Buy the things you were already going to buy, and raise extra money for the church!!

With the restrictions of COVID, we are hoping this will help supplement the funds that would have been raised through various events.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES FOR 2021 ~ These will be handed out at the church entrance. ***A REMINDER THAT AS OF JANUARY 1, 2021 YOU WILL HAVE A NEW ENVELOPE NUMBER. PLEASE DISCARD YOUR OLD ENVELOPES AFTER JANUARY 1.***

Pre-Authorized Giving— As we approach a new year, we ask you to consider the benefits of signing up for pre-authorized giving. It has many advantages: simplifies the offering process; helps in household budgeting; maintains reliable income for the parish operations (especially during these pandemic times); reduces printing costs; reduces time counting and accounting. Many benefits and its an easy process. Request a form by email from Sarah in your parish office.

Journey Through Advent Video Series - Forth Sunday of Advent

The video series "Journey through Advent" – Forth Sunday of Advent is now available on the CCCB website in [English](#) short reflections on the Sunday Gospel readings throughout this joyful liturgical season and is available each Monday in advance of the upcoming Sunday celebration. The initiative was developed by the CCCB as a way, through the modern method of video messaging, to offer a resource that enriches faith formation during a time of joyful anticipation for the coming of the Lord and Saviour into the world. The videos serve as an introduction to the liturgical Season and present reflections on the Gospel readings for each Sunday in Advent. The Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton and the Most Reverend Pierre Goudreault, Bishop of Saint-Anne-de-la-Pocatière, provide spiritual and pastoral guidance on the readings that illustrate the true meaning of Christmas. We invite you to share this information with catechists and all with whom you work. Graphics to assist with the promotion of these videos in bulletins and on websites are available in [English](#).

Additional information is available in the CCCB website in [English](#)

Bishop Fabbro's 2020 Christmas Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christmas will be different this year. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, we will not be able to enjoy all the usual festivities: gatherings with family members who are far from us, concerts and pageants, and parties with friends and coworkers.

As we experience the government restrictions during this pandemic, we find inspiration in the example of Mary and Joseph. They respected the Emperor's decree and made the difficult journey

from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be registered for the census. Mary was expecting a child. There was no place for them in the inn. They were away from home and family, isolated from everything that was familiar, but the promise of a child was fulfilled – a child who was Emmanuel, God-with-us. So much was taken away, yet so much more was given.

By his coming among us in such humble circumstances, Jesus blesses every home and family. Confident that he is with us in all things, we can celebrate his birth simply and genuinely in our homes – putting up the crib, telling the Nativity story, exchanging gifts, eating and praying together. Practices such as these build strong families of faith.

Yes, Christmas will be different this year, but it can be an especially graced time – an opportunity to enter into the mystery at the heart of this holy season. Christmas without the usual extravagance and busyness. Christmas as it is meant to be.

On December 8, Pope Francis proclaimed a *Year of St. Joseph*, which extends until December 8, 2021. "Joseph's attitude," the pope writes, "encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (1 Cor 1:27). He is the 'Father of orphans and protector of widows' (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst."

Christmas has always been a special time for us, and for our parishes, to help the poor on our streets, the working poor struggling to make ends meet, single mothers, refugees, and those who are isolated, marginalized and vulnerable. When we love "the stranger in our midst", we encounter Jesus and discover the true gift of Christmas.

I thank you for your continued support of our parishes this past year, and I extend my special thanks to our parish teams and volunteers who have worked so hard to ensure the faithful can safely access our churches and celebrate the sacraments.

During this holy season, I want to assure you that you will be in my thoughts and prayers. May it be a blessed time for you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B.*

Most Rev. Ronald Fabbro, C.S.B. Bishop of London

