

PRAY PLEASE FOR:

Holy Souls in Purgatory

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel (Isaiah 12:6).

WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 17 - 23)

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| Mon | 6:30 pm | Folk Choir Practice |
| | 7:00 pm | OCDS Carmelites |
| | 8:00 pm | AA |
| Tues | 1:00 pm | Finance Committee Meeting |
| | 1:30 pm | Celebrate the Word |
| Wed | 9:30 am | Rosary |
| | 10:30 am | Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion |
| | 6:30 pm | Kids Choir Practice |
| Thurs | 11:30 am | Jollymakers (Bingo & Cards) |
| | 7:45 pm | RCIA |
| Fri | 9:30 am | Divine Mercy Chaplet |
| Sat | 9:30 am | First Confessions |
| | 10:30 am | Confessions |
| Sun | 9:00 am | Sunday School |

In the event of a funeral Mass on Wednesday or Friday, Mass will be cancelled and the Mass Intentions will be offered at the funeral.

Altar Server (Dec 18 & 20) Remi Hayes



WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 8/9

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| Regular Envelope | \$ 5751.00 |
| Loose | \$ 259.85 |
| Thanksgiving Appeal | \$ 20.00 |
| Christmas | \$ 40.00 |
| Capital/Building Fund | \$ 2755.00 |
| Total | \$ 8825.85 |



MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 17-23)

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| Tues | 7:00 pm | Julia Koteles Deceased members: Sen Than Family Willy & Elizabeth Matthys |
| Wed | 10:00 am | Evenoff-DeBoey Family Joseph Zahorak Daniel McGarity Vandenbiggelaar & Biemans Family |
| Thurs | 3:30 pm | Mass - Woodingford Lodge Brian Stephenson |
| | 7:00 pm | Hank Schroder Cecil Mounce Hanne Stormgaard |
| Fri | 10:00 am | Steve & Elizabeth Bota Joseph De Medeiros Borges Tullio Cecchetto Lori VanSpronsen |
| Sat | 9:00 am | Deceased members: VanDenHeede Family Karl & Anna Kisilak Anna Manousos |
| | 5:00 pm | Parishioners of St. Mary's |
| Sun | 9 & 11 am | Parishioners of St. Mary's |

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (Dec 22/23)

Saturday (5 pm)

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| Commentator: | Carla Matos |
| 1st, 2nd Lector: | Ed DeDecker, Moma Fardella |
| Gift Bearers: | Rosemary & Siobhan Couture |
| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: | Heather Campbell, Valerie Claessens, Veronica Holly, Randy Keba |
| Greeters: | John & Adele Armstrong |
| Rosary: | Adele Armstrong |

Sunday (9 am)

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| Commentator: | Anne Stancek |
| 1st, 2nd Lector: | Mary Virag, Nicole Gubesch |
| Gift Bearers: | Dustin Donais Family/Mike & Angila Donais |

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| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: | Mariola Pleli, Barb Compeau, Liz DeWaele, Mae Feeney, Joanne Maertens |
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| Greeter: | Barbara Libon |
| Rosary: | Kathy Mynny |

Sunday (11 am)

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| Commentator: | Teena Mendonca |
| 1st, 2nd Lector: | Helen Borbely, Lorraine Gillbert |
| Gift Bearers: | Cory & Stephanie Hopper |

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| Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: | Barry Bruder, Nora Marie Bruder, Pat D'Hulster, Vicky Luki |
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| Greeters: | Jack Parker |
| Rosary: | Lorraine Gilbert |



Let your roots go down into Christ, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.
Colossians 2:7

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ONE SOLITARY LIFE BY JAMES ALLAN FRANCIS

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty when public opinion turned against him

He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life.



CHRISTMAS EVE

MASS AT 5:00 PM - 7:30 PM - MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM MASS

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

DEC 31ST @ 5 PM JAN 1ST @ 10 AM

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

51 Venison St. W.
Tillsonburg, Ontario
N4G 1V1

phone: (519) 842-3224
fax: (519) 660-7290
email: stmarytils@dol.ca
website: stmarys.dionet.ca
facebook: St Mary's Parish, Tillsonburg

Parish Clergy and Staff

Rev. John Pirt, Pastor
Andre De Decker, Deacon
Jack Grim, Deacon
Brian Hanley, Deacon
Colleen Hanley, Pastoral Minister
Teena Mendonca, Business Manager
Melissa Sioen, Secretary

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, Fri
(9 am - 12 pm, 1 pm - 4 pm)

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00 pm
Sunday Masses: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesday, Thursday: 7:00 pm
Wednesday, Friday: 10:00 am
Saturday: 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday: 9:30 am -10:30 am or by appointment

Children's "Sunday School"

Oct to May, @ 9 am Mass

Catholic Schools

St. Joseph School: (519) 660-2783
Msgr. O'Neil School: (519) 660-2772
St. Mary's High School: (519) 675-4435

Baptism Preparation

Contact Father John, ext. 22

Weddings

By appointment, and 6 months notice

ATTENTION: Bulletin submissions must be received by 4 pm Tuesdays, thank-you for your cooperation.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Sunday School is a program for children who are age 3 (or toilet trained) until they enter grade 2 to help them learn the rituals of mass and hear the Gospel story in child friendly language, through craft and song. Father John, at the beginning of Mass, calls the children forward and they process to the Parish Centre with their leader and return to you during the offertory song. This year Sunday School will be available at the Sunday 9 AM Mass. For more information please contact Colleen Hanley (chanley@dol.ca) or call the office.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Preparation meetings for Confirmation are the 1st Wednesday (6:30 – 8:30 pm) or 1st Saturday (10 am – noon) of each month. Our next preparation meetings are Wednesday January 2nd (6:30-8:30 pm) or Saturday January 5th (10am-noon) in the Father Langan Parish Centre. Our candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrating the Rite of Enrolment at the weekend Masses of January 5th @ 5 pm & January 6th at 9 am. Please continue to pray for the candidates, their families and their sponsors.

FAMILY CATECHISM

We are a group that offers family faith formation in a welcoming setting - teaching your children the fundamentals of the Catholic Faith with other like minded parents is fun and effective! We offer classes for JK - Gr. 9, as well as an adult video and discussion. Our next meeting is on Sunday, January 6 at 2:55 pm in the Father Langan Parish Centre. For more information please visit www.famfi.ca or talk to John & Karin Lansink.

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our monthly High School Nights are back! They are the second Sunday of the month from 7-9 pm and our next night is Sunday January 13th . These nights are open to all high school students and will include games, faith formation, prayer and of course food! Why come? Be a part of a community of your peers who share values and views that will help you navigate the prevalent culture that is at school and in the media. We will be hosting High School Nights at the Parish Centre in Room 9. Please share this with all the high school aged youth in your life and we hope to see you this Sunday!

RIGHT TO LIFE

Campaign Life Coalition Christmas Cakes are available now. Regular (600 grams) - \$20.00 or Deluxe (1 kg) - \$27.00. To place an order phone Bonnie De Decker at 519-913-3533. Canada's Life and Family Newspaper, The Interim has been held up by mail so the November and the December issues are available at the back of the Church.

THE LEGACY OF ST. PATRICK - PILGRIMAGE TO IRELAND

As you enjoy a 10 day tour to the Emerald Isle, you will experience the history, culture and faith of Ireland that came through the missionary efforts of St. Patrick in the 5th century. This pilgrimage includes visits to many historical churches as well as a visit to Knock, where in 1879, Mary appeared to 15 townspeople. In addition to your Irish Guide, as part of this pilgrimage, Fr. David Johnston and Fr. John Pirt will be offering daily Mass. Cost is \$2639 per person (Based on twin) - airfare extra. For further information, contact Cheryl Johnston, 855 St. Clair St., Chatham, ON N7L 0E9 Phone: 519-354-6040 or 1 877 735 5633 ext 6225 Email: cjohnston@selloffvacations.com

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE- MAY 5-14, 2019

Join us on a pilgrimage to Fatima, Spain & Lourdes with 206 Tours and Fr. Tom Ferrera! Anyone interested in this great opportunity can visit and register online at <http://pilgrimages.com/frferrera/>. For more information please call Carol Van Moerkerke at 519-877-2355 or Karin Lansink at 519-550-0304.

ST. MARY'S LIBRARY TABLE

The St. Mary's parish library table normally located at the back of the church will not be available until the New Year. If you have books to return, please drop them off at the church office.

AN EVENING WITH DR. EDWARD SRI

All are welcome to join Visitation Parish in Comber for an evening with Dr. Edward Sri on Friday January 18th at 7 pm. Many may be familiar with Dr. Sri from his videos on Symbolon and other offerings from Augustine Institute. Tickets are \$10 and available at dol.ca/dred-sri.

DAILY MISSALS

The Daily Missals are to be used in the church only (not taken home). If you would like to purchase a subscription, please contact the office (519) 842-3224.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOX SETS ARE READY FOR PICK UP

The offertory envelope box sets are available in the FLPC Rm # 5 for pick up before and after all masses on the weekend. Please contact Teena Mendonca (519-842-3224 Ext. 24) if you need assistance or have any questions.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

There are special envelopes at all entrances for donations for Christmas flowers in memory of your loved ones. Their names will be in the Christmas bulletin. Thank you for your donations

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The parish office will be closed from Monday December 24, 2018 to Tuesday January 1, 2019. The office will re-open on Wednesday January 2, 2019.

Bishop Fabbro's Christmas Greetings

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Advent, I offer you my warmest greetings in the Lord. In this busy season, we take time to mark the beginning of a new liturgical year and prepare spiritually for Christmas. The light shining from our Advent candles reminds us that God's Son was made flesh in order to bring light into a world darkened by sin. We recall our own baptismal mission to spread his light and illuminate every corner of the world. In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

My hope for you at Christmas is that you will have the opportunity to spend time with your family and friends, as well as with your parish community, to pray, reflect and celebrate together.

When we take a moment to reflect on the families and parishes of our diocese this past year, we thank God for the many blessings we have received. One particular focus has been on our common mission as intentional disciples of Jesus. Earlier this year, I instituted a commission that will serve the parishes, pastoral teams and parishioners who, together, make up the Diocese of London. We are calling the commission "Equipping the Saints for Ministry: The Diocesan Commission for the Families of Parishes."

At the beginning of the year, two pioneer Families of Parishes were activated: the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes and the Catholic Family of Parishes in Norfolk. They have made a number of changes from which all of us will benefit, as we seek to take up our Gospel mission with new energy and enthusiasm. I thank them for their hard work. In the new year, I plan to announce the next Families that will be activated.

Over the summer, the Church was rocked by the Pennsylvania Grand Jury Report and the news of terrible scandals of clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by bishops. Our diocese too has been hit hard by these scandals. As your bishop, I have pledged to do all that I can to create a safe environment for our children. Recently, we strengthened the policy which governs how our diocesan personnel and volunteers are to be safely recruited, screened, trained and monitored. This fall, all of our priests, deacons and lay ministers participated in a training workshop on "Called, Gifted & Sent", the comprehensive manual which explains our policy.

In September, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops adopted an updated and expanded national guideline for the protection of minors in Canada. This important document is called "Protecting Minors from Sexual Abuse: A Call to the Catholic Faithful in Canada for Healing, Reconciliation, and Transformation." My fellow Bishops asked me to write the Forward for this document. It is available publicly on our diocesan website at www.dol.ca/news/protecting-minors. In October, the Diocese transferred 18 acres of land to King's University College, at the intersection of Huron and Waterloo Streets, in North London, as well as 15 acres to St. Peter's Seminary, including the seminary building. This transfer of lands will enable us to renew the vision of my predecessors, especially Bishop Michael Fallon, who aimed to create a hub of Catholic learning and formation in Southwestern Ontario. Details of the land sale appear on page three of our diocesan newspaper, Missio (Winter 2018 edition).

This year, we said farewell to several priests who ministered in our diocese, including Fr. Richard Dales, Fr. John J. Devine, Fr. Ron Trojcek, Fr. Lawrence J. Mousseau, Rev. Canon Peter Sanczenko and Fr. Albert Williams. We mourned the passing of a significant number of Religious Sisters who served faithfully in many different apostolates. Please keep them and all of the departed in your prayers.

Advent is a time of hope, a time of prayer and of longing and expectation for Christ's coming in glory at the end of time. I invite you to celebrate his birth by joining us in our parishes. On Christmas Day, there will be many people who do not normally attend our weekend Masses. Let us welcome them warmly. Do not be afraid to let Christ's light shine brightly through your acts of kindness and hospitality.

May you have a blessed Christmas, filled with peace and love!

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

