

WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 16 -22)

Mon	7:00 pm	OCDS Carmelites
	8:00 pm	AA
Tues	1:30 pm	Celebrate the Word (Christmas Potluck)
Wed	9:30 am	Rosary
	10:30 am	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotions
	5:00 pm	Friendship Dinner
	7:00 pm	CWL Christmas Party
Thurs	11:30 am	Jolly Makers - Bingo & Cards
	7:45 pm	RCIA & Growing in the Spirit
Fri	9:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	10:30 am	Adoration
	11:15 am	Benediction
Sat	8:00 am	Confessions
	9:30 am	First Reconciliations
	9:30 am	Christmas Hamper Distribution
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School

Altar Server (December 17 & 19) Addison Jayne

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 7/8, 2019

Regular Envelope	\$	6,479.00
Youth Ministry	\$	500.00
Christmas Flowers	\$	513.35
Building Fund	\$	2,505.00
Loose	\$	346.90
Total	\$	10,364.25

Thanks!

PRAY PLEASE FOR:

Stella Loncke, Maurice Deketelaere

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us. (Isaiah 35.4)



MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 16-22)

Mon	3:30pm	Harvest Retirement
Tues	7:00 pm	Agnes & Henry Vandergriendt Irene Hasilo Lorette Pooley & Dan Sawadski
Wed	10:00 am	Rica Hilhorst Deceased members of Peacock Family Betty DePaepe
Thurs	3:30 pm	Woodingford Lodge
	7:00 pm	Manuel Oliveira Alfons & Nancy D'Hondt Janet Cole Darl Rau
Fri	10:00 am	Deceased Member of VanDenHeede Family Evanoff - DeBoey Family John Schonberger
Sat	9:00 am	Cecil Mounce The Bota Family Joe Zahora
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sun	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's



WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (December 21/22)

Saturday (5 pm)

Commentator: Ed DeDecker
1st, 2nd Lector: Jerry Claessens, Linda Bertling
Gift Bearer: Merna Vermeeren
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Kathy Myny, Jeannette Keba, Heather Campbell, Doug Shwaluk
Greeter: John & Adele Armstrong

Sunday (9 am)

Commentator: Anne Stancek
1st, 2nd Lector: Brian O'Rourke, Michael Jaffary
Gift Bearers: Rose Henry
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Kate Norman, Sarah Leonard, Mariola Pleli, Barb Compeau
Greeter: Elaine & Doug Hill

Sunday (11 am)

Commentator: Kathy Holly
1st, 2nd Lector: Audrey Jayne, Rachel Parker
Gift Bearers: Larry Duyck
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Jennyl Hamilton, Alex Hanley, Karen Gracie, Ted Novakowski
Greeter: Joyce Cole



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear Parishioners:

It has been my prayer, during this Advent season, that each of you would find opportunities to reflect on your own faith and relationship with Jesus and his Church. Whatever it is that our hearts and souls desire, whether we realize it or not, our ultimate desire is Jesus himself, for this reason, we are filled with joy and consolation at Christmas to know that all that we hoped for has been fulfilled in the person of the Christ Child.

Several years ago I saw a Christmas card with this message: "This Christmas, I wish you Jesus." On the inside it read: "Isn't nice to have everything!"

In the midst of all life's challenges, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of his Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: "Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth!" We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this blessed time of hope and grace.

Merry Christmas
Fr. John



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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 Administrator
Melissa Sioen, Secretary

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



Scan to donate
with Credit Card

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: 8:00 am -8:45 am & 9:30 am - 10:00 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

SUNDAY MISSALS

The Living With Christ Sunday Missal for 2019 – 2020 has arrived! The price is \$5.00 each. They will be available at the back of the Church before and after all Masses. You may also purchase your copy at the Parish Office during Office Hours.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Sunday school program happens during the 9 am Mass Sunday mornings. 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.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Our Grade 2 students are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Saturdays of Advent following the 9:00 am daily mass. To accommodate the first communicants, Fr. John will hear confessions for regular parishioners before the morning Mass at 9 am from 8 am until 8:45 am during the Saturdays of the Advent season.

GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Growing in the Spirit of Our Catholic Faith will continue this Thursday December 19th at 7:45 pm in the FLPC room#5. Our topic will be "Mary & the Saints: Our Spiritual Mother & the Communion of Saints." Everyone is welcome to attend!

FAMILY FAITH FORMATION

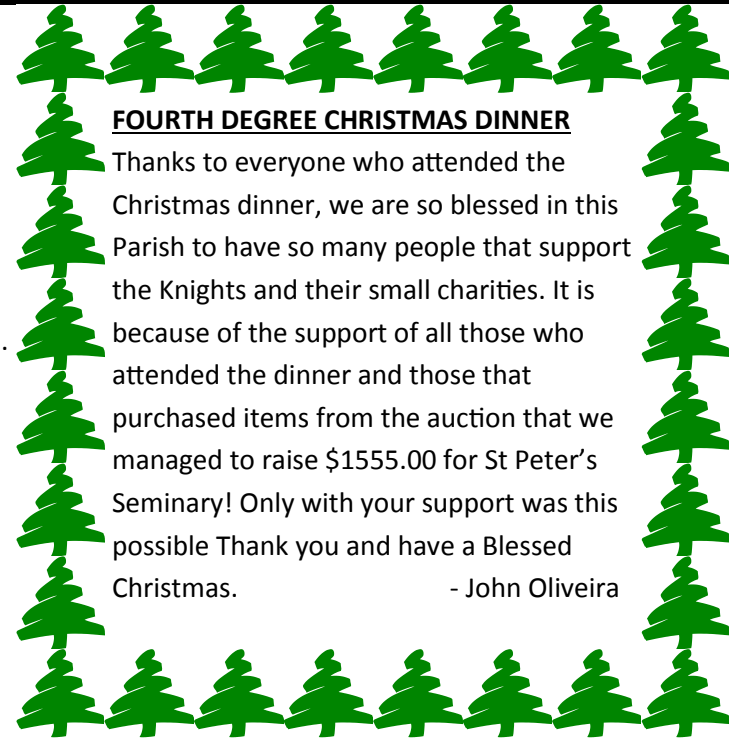
Are you interested in developing your families' faith and in connecting with other families who share a common purpose? The next Family Catechism program is **Sunday, January 12th at 2:55 pm** in the Parish Centre, and is open for registration online. Families with children and youth of all ages are welcome to attend. Please visit www.famfi.ca or contact Karin Lansink at ijklansink@gmail.com or call at 519-550-0304.



We welcome into our faith community through the waters of baptism: **Kinley Kyla Marie Baatje, Dorian Fredrick Smoke, Landon Michael Vandepoele.** May they and their families always be guided by the Lord.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHIONERS -

Please lock your vehicle at all times, as we have had some break -ins occur during mass due to vehicles being left unlocked.



FOURTH DEGREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Thanks to everyone who attended the Christmas dinner, we are so blessed in this Parish to have so many people that support the Knights and their small charities. It is because of the support of all those who attended the dinner and those that purchased items from the auction that we managed to raise \$1555.00 for St Peter's Seminary! Only with your support was this possible Thank you and have a Blessed Christmas. - John Oliveira

RETRouvaille

Retrouvaille ("retro-vi" with a long i) has helped tens of thousands of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels of distress including disillusionment and deep misery. The program is designed to provide the tools to help get marriages back on track. The next Retrouvaille weekend is being planned for **January 17 through 19, 2020**. The weekend retreat will be held at the Michaelite House in Melrose, Ontario (just North of London) To register, please visit www.helpourmarriage.com or call Greg and Anita Turner at 519-243-0687. In Windsor/Essex, the next weekend will be Windsor/Essex Retrouvaille will be the weekend of Feb. 14 – 16, 2020, at Holy Family Retreat House. To register for the Windsor-area weekend, please call 1-800-705-6356 or email at 1015@retrouvaille.org Retrouvaille is a non-profit organization and the presenting teams are made up of people who have gone through the program themselves and overcome significant obstacles in their own marriages. Everyone involved in organizing and presenting the program are unpaid volunteers.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - WE ALL WIN! WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER- CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jim Tomlin
Michael Perovich
Dennis Whiteside
Linda Nevins
Marilynn Advent



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm - Children's Choir
7:30 pm - Folk Choir
Midnight Mass - Sunday Choir
(Incense only at the Midnight Mass)

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Dec 31 - 5:00 pm

Jan 1 - 10:00 am

We are blessed to be one of the few Parishes in our diocese who are still able to celebrate the Birth of Jesus with a Midnight mass. We encourage you to consider joining us for this beautiful Christmas mass with ample seating and parking. Just a reminder that the 5 pm Mass is HEAVILY attended by families with very young children. There will be no extra seating in the basement. We encourage you to avoid the 5 pm Mass if possible so we can safely seat everyone.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MONTHLY REPORT –NOVEMBER 2019

As we embrace the season of Advent, we reflect on the wonder of the Word made Flesh, on God's great generosity which is moved to embrace our poverty. "No one can celebrate a genuine Christmas without being truly poor. The self-sufficient, the proud, those who, because they have everything, look down on others, those who have no need even of God – for them there will be no Christmas. Only the poor, the hungry, those who need someone to come on their behalf, will have that someone. That someone is God, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Without poverty of spirit, there can be no abundance of God." (St. Oscar Romero, homily on Christmas Eve, 1978.) Christ comes to us not because we are strong, but because we are weak. Jesus seeks Communion in us, not because we are worthy, but because we are broken. The members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul serve those who are vulnerable because we all are. The more we give, the more we learn that we are united in need. During November, through our SSVp emergency phone line, we assisted fifteen single adults and fourteen families with food; one single adult and two families with rent; one family with Union Gas; and two families with car fuel. At our Friendship Dinner, on November 6, we served 82 guests; on November 13, 87 guests; on November 20, 85 guests; and on November 27, 86 guests. On behalf of the Society, I extend our gratitude for your continued support, along with Christmas wishes of joy and love to all the parishioners of St. Mary's. Through the mystery of the Word Incarnate, we learn to share ourselves, to share our Christness, and to rejoice in God's abundance.
Anne Stancek



CHRISTMAS HAMPER HELP

Thank you for the volunteers that have signed up for preparing hampers at the Father Langan Centre and for sending them out to those that receive them. Many hands make light work. We could still use more drivers and more driver helpers on December 21st from 11:30 am (for lunch in the church hall) until about 2:30 pm, when all should be finished.

For more information or to volunteer please call Deacon Andre De Decker at 519-913-3533 or Norbert Vanhooren at 519-409-2095.



ST MARY'S GIVING TREE

This is the last weekend to bring your gifts for the giving tree. The Giving Tree is a wonderful way to help provide for those in our community seeking assistance with food and gifts for their family this Christmas. You can place your gift at our Giving Tree located at the back of the Church by the large crucifix before all the Masses this weekend. Our gifts are for children up to 17 years in age. The gifts may be toys, clothing, books, toiletries, etc. Please NO war toys or used items. Please do not wrap the gifts. Gift Certificates (food or non food) are great ideas! If you would like to donate a monetary amount in lieu of a gift, put your name and address on an envelope. The cheque can be made payable to either St. Mary's Church or Tillsonburg Knights of Columbus. A tax receipt will be issued. For more information please contact Deacon Andre or Norbert VanHooren.



2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOXED SETS

The 2020 boxed sets of Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup in the Father Langan Parish Centre in room 5 before and after all weekend Masses.