

MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 23-29)

Tues	5:00 pm	Children's Choir
	7:30 pm	Folk Choir
	12:00 am	Midnight Mass Sunday Chior
Wed	10:00 am	Christmas Day Mass
Thurs		Mass cancelled
Fri		Mass Cancelled
Sat	9:00 am	Ron Semenuk Maria Boruzs Irene Hasilo
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sun	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (December 28/29)**Saturday (5 pm)**

Commentator: Moma Fardella
 1st, 2nd Lector: Veronica Holly, Linda Bertling
 Gift Bearers: Rosemary & Siobhan Couture
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Rosemary Couture, Valerie Claessens, Mary Vanhooren, Yvonne DeBrabander
 Greeter: Linda Bertling
 Rosary: Andre DeDecker

Sunday (9 am)

Commentator: Mike Bossy
 1st, 2nd Lector: Janine Vink, Steve Norman
 Gift Bearers: Elaine & Doug Hill
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: John Oliveira, Eric VanMoerkerke, Wim Vink, Judy Schonberger
 Greeter: Michael Jaffray & Family
 Rosary: Irene Gubesch

Sunday (11 am)

Commentator: Teena Mendonca
 1st, 2nd Lector: Kathy Holly, Ed Roczen
 Gift Bearers: Cory & Stephanie Hopper & Family
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Pat D'Hulster, Nora Marie Bruder, Norman Roczen, Helen Borbely
 Greeter: Linda DeSutter
 Rosary: Lorraine Gilbert

MASS TIMES & MASS INTENTIONS (Dec 30-Jan 5)

Tues	5:00 pm	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Wed	10:00 am	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Thurs		Mass cancelled
Fri	10:00 am	Jose Borges Deceased Members of Helen Peacock Family Henry & Agnes Vandergriendt George & Juliana Sawadski Ken Sawadski Herman Caers
Sat	9:00 am	Dave Mulholland Deceased members of the Peacock Family Stella Loncke
	5:00 pm	Parishioners of St. Mary's
Sun	9 & 11 am	Parishioners of St. Mary's

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE (Dec 30 -Jan5)**Saturday (5 pm)**

Commentator: Carla Matos
 1st, 2nd Lector: Ed DeDecker, Moma Fardella
 Gift Bearers: Dave & Ellen Devlin
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Phil Harrison, Dave Bertling, Elizabeth VanHooren, Dave Devlin
 Greeter: Veronica Holly

Sunday (9 am)

Commentator: Mae Feeney
 1st, 2nd Lector: Stephanie Hill, Anne Stancek
 Gift Bearers: Mark & Tina Hopper & Family
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Carol VanMoerkerke, Rob Schonberger, Robert Verhoeve, Sandra Laking
 Greeter: Barbara Libon

Sunday (11 am)

Commentator: Heather Pelland
 1st, 2nd Lector: Allen Scovil, Janet Guralski
 Gift Bearers: Jayne Family
 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Norma Roczen, Darren Jayne, Dave Martin, Jessica Martin
 Greeter: Jack Parker



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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH DECEMBER 22 & 29, 2019

*It was a night like NO other night. The sheep started to get restless. There was a special feeling in the air.
 Then all of a sudden the sky light up and an angel said "Do not be afraid." And you know, I wasn't.
 Come now to Bethlehem and see the most amazing and beautiful sight that my eyes ever beheld.*

Perhaps this was written by a shepherd on Christmas Eve long, long ago just outside of Bethlehem. Perhaps this was written by a Pastoral Minister in a small country parish preparing for Families of Parishes and saying so long to a Pastor heading off on a sabbatical journey in the midst of very busy Christmas and New Year Masses. It really doesn't matter does it? We can all find ourselves in the little narrative, can't we?

As most know, Fr. John Pirt will be heading off on his six month sabbatical beginning January 2nd. We will miss him dearly and wish him an exciting time of study and travel! We will welcome Fr. Tom Donohue as our parish administrator and priest until Fr. John returns in July. Please keep both priests in your prayers! Our Moments of Encounter Retreat with our family of parishes (Sacred Heart in Langton and St. Michael's in Walsh) this January is an opportunity for us to gather, pray and see how Jesus is shaping our lives. It is easy to get caught up in looking ahead instead of staying in the present moment, isn't it?

However, the small child in Bethlehem, the unknown man of Nazareth, the rejected preacher, the naked man of the cross asks for my full attention today and tomorrow and the next day after that. Over the next few weeks the Church asks us to be present, truly present, to the Nativity of our Lord, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, especially Mary, our Blessed Mother and Mother of God. So how do we do that?

I think the answer is in the little narrative above - "Do not be afraid." Over and over in sacred scripture we hear these words. Mary and Joseph heard these words, the shepherds heard these words and if we truly are present to the most amazing and beautiful sight of Christ coming to us as a wee babe in a manger, we can hear these words. We can look ahead, we can plan and plot a course to avoid any pitfalls and mistakes, and to be fearful of what is yet to come but it has been my experience to simply be present to Christ's love, to be Christ's loving presence for others and to trust in His love. My dear friends, come now to Bethlehem and see the most amazing and beautiful sight that your eyes and heart will ever behold and stay awhile, with wonder and awe.
On behalf of our Pastoral Team – Fr. John, Deacon Andre, Deacon Jack, Deacon Brian and myself – and our St. Mary's staff – Teena, Melissa, Pierre and Courtney – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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 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 Administrator
 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: 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

MEN OF FAITH CONFERENCE

Featuring ELVIS GRBAC - NFL Superbowl Champion Quarterback

Courage and Fortitude

When: January 18, 2020

\$35 ONLINE PRICE (\$25/STUDENT) - \$50 AT THE DOOR

Where: St. Michael's Parish London, Ontario

REGISTER ONLINE AT famfi.ca

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

SUNDAY MISSALS

The Sunday Missals may now be purchased 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.



GROWING IN THE SPIRIT OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Growing in the Spirit of Our Catholic Faith will take a break for Christmas & New Year's and resume Thursday January 9th at 7:45 pm in the FLPC room#5. Our topic will be "Introduction to the Sacraments and Baptism." Everyone is welcome to attend!

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Congratulations to our Grade 2 students who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation! We now turn our attention to preparing for 1st Holy Communions! You can see there beautiful photos at the back of the Church on the banner - please continue to pray for the children and their families!

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Our next meeting for the Confirmation preparation is Saturday January 4th from 10 am - noon and Wednesday January 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm. We have 44 young people preparing to celebrate Confirmation! You can see there beautiful photos at the back of the Church on the banner - please continue to pray for the young people, their families and sponsors!

HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

Our monthly High School Nights are the second Sunday of the month from 7-9 pm and our next night is Sunday January 12, 2020. 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!

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.

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 jkansink@gmail.com or call at 519-550-0304.

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – DEC 14/15, 2019

Regular Envelope	\$5,154.80
Christmas	\$ 140.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 160.00
Building Fund	\$ 132.00
Loose	\$ 244.40
Total	\$5,831.20

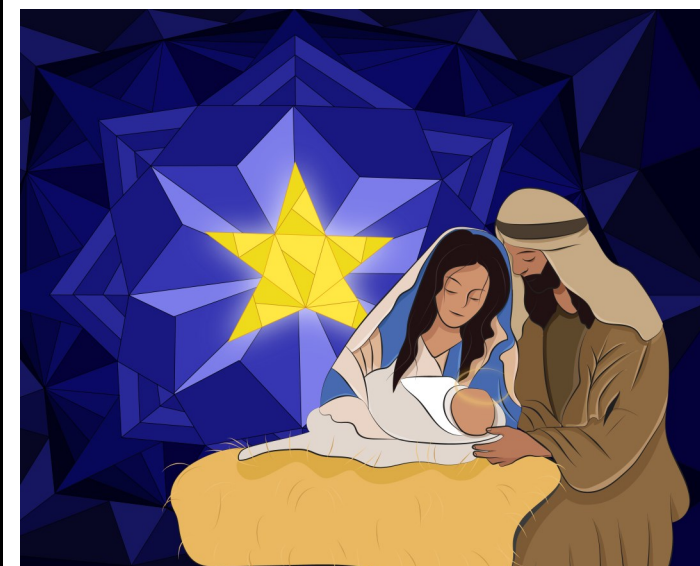
Thanks!

MOMENTS OF ENCOUNTER RETREAT

The intention of Moments of Encounter is to renew, encourage and accompany the people of God as they go forth to transform the world for the sake of the Gospel. The Moment of Encounter Retreat is an opportunity for us to gather, to pray, to consider how our faith in Jesus is giving shape to our lives. We will spend time listening to the Lord in the Scriptures, deepening our awareness of our Baptism, examining some of the realities and challenges of living out our faith and considering how and where we may be being called to share our faith. We would like you join a group from our parish to learn more about Bishop Fabbro's mission for our Diocese and we are hosting a retreat experience for individuals from our parish, in partnership with our soon to be Family of Parishes (St. Michael, Walsh and Sacred Heart, Langton) to think about and pray about how our faith is shaping our interactions. The retreat will be held Saturday, January 18th, 2020 in our Parish Hall. We will begin with Mass 9 am followed by the Moments of Encounter Retreat (with lunch at 12 noon) and ending at 1:30 pm. Please register with the Parish Office in Tillsonburg (519-842-3224) no later than January 11th.

2020 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES BOXED SETS

The 2020 boxed sets of Offertory Envelopes are available for pickup in the Annex of the Church.



WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 23-29)

Mon	8:00 pm	AA
Tues		Office closed
Wed		Office closed
Thurs		Office closed
Fri		Office closed
Sat	8:00 am	Confessions
	9:30 am	Confessions
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School

WEEK AT A GLANCE (Dec 30-Jan 5)

Mon	8:00 pm	AA
Tues		Office closed
Wed		Office closed
Thurs		Office closed
Fri	9:30 am	Divine Mercy Chaplet
	10:30 am	Adoration
	11:15 am	Benediction
Sat	8:00 am	Confessions
	9:30 am	Confessions
	10:00 am	Confirmation Prep
Sun	9:00 am	Sunday School

*Knights of Columbus can collection
SSVP collection and food bank*

ST. MARY'S CWL MEMBERSHIP

Just a gentle reminder that membership fees are now due, and have remained at \$25.00 per year. If you no longer have the envelope for 2020 membership (or do not receive Offertory envelopes), please use any envelope that is clearly marked for CWL Membership. Payments can be made by cheque (to St. Mary's CWL), or by cash. If you are uncertain if you have paid or not, feel free to contact me directly. Please ensure that your name, address, phone number and e-mail (if you have one) are clearly marked on the envelope, or in a note inside so that I can properly assign your payment.



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 pm - Children's Choir with Caroling at 4:30 pm

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 and choose a later Mass if possible so we can safely seat everyone.

7:30 pm - Folk Choir with Caroling at 7:00 pm

Midnight Mass (with incense) - Sunday Choir with Caroling at 11:30 pm

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Did you know the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is one of two Holy Days of Obligation for Catholics in Canada. An amazing way to start 2020 off with your parish family!

Dec 31 - 5:00 pm

Jan 01 - 10:00 am

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The Parish Office will be closed from Tuesday December 24th, 2019 to Thursday January 2, 2020. The office will re-open on Friday January 3rd, 2020 at 9 am with regular business hours.



PRAY PLEASE FOR:

Steve Drotos, Barry Govia, Jack Downes
Totally love him, who gave himself totally for your love.
- St. Clare of Assisi