

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish

16 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario N3C 2N2
Tel: 519-658-4443 Email: stmarycambridge@hamiltondiocese.com
www.stmaryhespeler.ca

Rev. Robert Love, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Michael Foulger, Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca, Administrative Assistant

*"We are connected to our past, committed to our future and compassionately focussed on being
a Family of Faith with something for everyone"*

ADVENT



prepare the way...



**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM
FR. LOVE**

This Christmas of 2020 will not be celebrated the way we did in past years. Past Christmases have always been a time to gather with family and friends, sharing our time with them. This Christmas may be quieter and simpler this year, with fewer family members, due to the

pandemic. Yet the Christmas message is unchanged as we celebrate the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Luke writes, "[Mary], she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." The enduring message of Christmas is God gave us His only Son, and brought Him into this world for our salvation. It is the timely **message of Hope** that this world needs.

I want to thank *all* of our volunteers, including our Musicians, Ushers, Lectors, Ministers of Communion, and our parishioners who have been cleaning the church after every Mass. I am also grateful to all of the parishioners that have continued to support the parish financially throughout this pandemic.

Saint John Paul II said, "*Christmas is not a day or a season, rather it's a way of life.*" As we come into this special season of Christmas, I wish God's Blessings for you during this Christmas season and for the coming year.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Robert Love



Mass Intentions

Tuesday, December 22 at 7 p.m.
+ Armandino Santos

Wednesday, December 23 at 8 a.m.
Intentions of Aurora Lucrezia

Thursday, December 24
5:00 p.m. ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ 10:00p.m
Intentions of our Parishioners

Friday, December 25
9:00 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m.
Intentions of our Parishioners

Saturday, December 26 at 5 p.m.
Deceased Members of the Wagner Family

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Have you ever considered giving the gift of prayer to someone this Christmas? What a lovely gift it is to offer a Holy Hour for a friend or a loved one in need! Come visit Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament, and prepare your heart for Christmas. Adoration takes place in the church **every Tuesday from 9:00 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. (not on Tuesday, December 29th)** For more information call: Sheila Mauser at 519 658 9414.

"This is the wonderful truth, my dear friends: the Word, which became flesh two thousand years ago, is present today in the Eucharist" -Pope John Paul II

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve – December 24th

ALL MASSES ARE FULL

5:00 p.m. ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ 10:00p.m.

Christmas Day – December 25th

9:00 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m.

Registration for all Christmas Masses is required. Please register online or call the parish office at 519-658-4443 during office hours only.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God – December 31st

5:00 p.m.

Mary, the Holy Mother of God –January 1, 2021

10:00 a.m.

SEATING AT CHRISTMAS MASSES: Please only attend the Mass time in which you are registered. Groups of 1, 2 or 3 are asked to use the smaller side pews and groups of 4 or 5 can use the middle pews. The middle pews can also seat 2 single parties, one on each end of the pew. In the case you are asked to relocate, in order to better seat everyone, the pew will be cleaned at that time. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as the Ushers assist in seating you and your families.



CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTES: Thank you for your dedications of flowers for the Christmas season. Christmas flowers for the church will be placed in memory of your loved ones and their names will be kept near the altar and remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

ADDITIONAL CONFESSION TIMES: Fr. Love will be available for confession **following the evening Mass** on Tuesday, December 22nd and **following the morning Mass** on Wednesday, December 23rd



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR THOSE ATTENDING MASS:

Face masks are mandatory inside the church. We ask that

you arrive at church with your own face mask.

- Parishioners are reminded that singing during Mass is not currently permitted.
- Following the dismissal, parishioners are to leave the church, row by row, following the directions of the ushers.
- Please maintain physical distancing and refrain from socializing in the church.
- Please make use of the hand sanitizers provided at the entrance.
- Washrooms should only be used for emergency purposes.

Thank you for your continued cooperation!



JOURNEY THROUGH 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. Visit the parish website to view these videos:

<https://www.stmaryhespeler.ca/advent2020>

PARISH OFFICE HOURS & YEAR-END GIVING

The Parish Office will be closed from Fri., December 25th – Wed., December 30th. The office will open for regular hours on Thursday, December 31st. It will be closed again on Friday, January 1st and will re-open on Monday, January 4th at 8:30 a.m.

Please remember that only donations made *prior* to December 31st, 2020, can be applied for income tax credit for this year. We kindly ask that any donations to the Parish are **submitted by Wednesday, December 30th at 12 noon**. Mail slots in the office doors can be safely used when the door is locked. Thank you.



Msgr. Paul J. Meyer Council 4916 wish all St. Mary's parishioners a *Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Keep safe.*

PARISH OFFERINGS for December 13, 2020:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Offerings: | \$2,533.75 |
| Annual/One-time donations | \$5,700.00 |
| Building Fund: | \$ 380.00 |

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING for DECEMBER 2020

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Sunday Offerings: | \$ 4,621.00 |
| Building Fund: | \$ 965.00 |

Thank you for your continued support!

CHRISTMAS LITURGY FOR CHILDREN: The Office for Liturgy and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis have teamed together to produce a resource and video to help families everywhere pray and celebrate the experience of Christmas in a meaningful way this year. We pray this resource will draw families together for a time of quiet prayer, reflection and thanksgiving over the days of Christmas – especially those who may not feel comfortable attending Christmas Masses in the Parish. This resource will help guide parents to lead a simple Celebration of the Word and invites His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, into the homes of the faithful to proclaim the Christmas Day Gospel and share a reflection from the heart.

Visit <https://hamiltondiocese.com/christmas2020/>



CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Thank you for your positive response and generous pledges to date! **As of Friday, Dec. 11th, St. Mary of the Visitation Parish has received 69 gifts totaling \$117,873.**

We ask you to continue to pray for the success of the campaign, and we will be grateful for any gift you can make! For more information about the campaign, visit www.onehearttonesoul.ca

If you would like to speak to someone about the *One Heart, One Soul Campaign* please contact: Chris O'Neill @ 519-400-3657, Jim Coppen @ 519-716-5536, Kevin Sanders @ 519-658-4795 or you can call the parish office.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR

December 21 – December 26

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Monday | Rev. Janusz Roginski, S.A.C. |
| Tuesday | Rev. Robert Sims |
| Wednesday | Voluntas Dei Institute |
| Thursday | Rev. Michael Downey |
| Friday | Christmas Day (<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>) |
| Saturday | Rev. Martin Vallely |

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30 p.m. Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on Salt+Light Media and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!

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