

St. Mary of the Visitation Parish

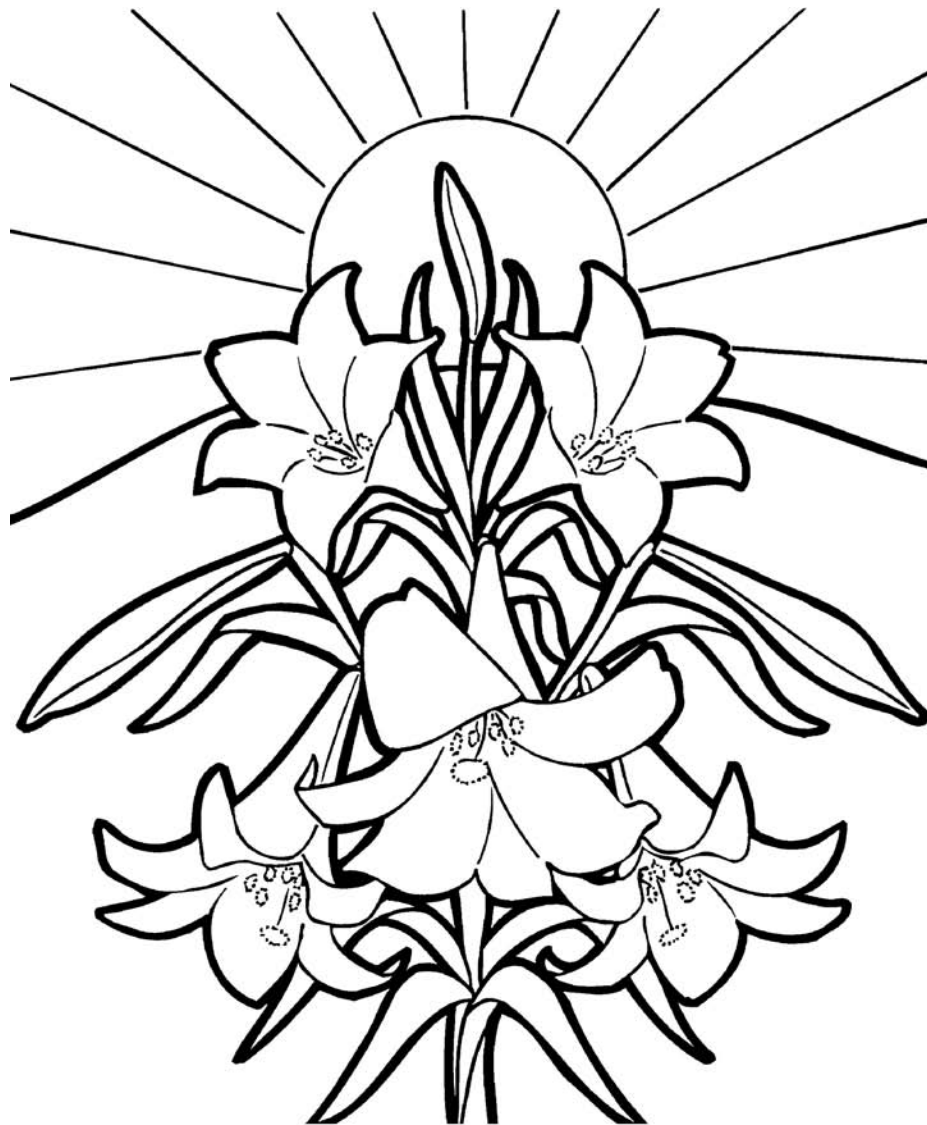
16 Cooper Street, Cambridge (Hespeler), Ontario N3C 2N2
Tel: 519-658-4443 Email: stmarycambridge@hamiltondiocese.com
www.stmaryhespeler.ca

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"*



**The Lord has Risen,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**



EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

I want to wish everyone a very special Easter Greeting. May you all have a joy-filled and blessed Easter. The resurrection of Our Lord Jesus is the foundation and cornerstone of our faith. This is the Joyful Good News expressed in

Psalm 118, "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad." The Easter faith of the church is summarized in the acclamation: Christ has Died! Christ has risen! Christ will come again! We have been going through some difficult times this last year with the Covid-19 pandemic. It has upturned and disrupted our lives in ways we could have never imagined a year ago. Many things in our lives have changed. But the one constant in our lives that never changes is The Resurrected Christ and his divine love for us. May our encounter with the risen Lord on our journey of faith in these challenging times, touch us deeply and transform us, as He did for His Disciples.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all who assisted with our celebrations this Holy Week. I want to acknowledge our Pastoral Team for their valued assistance and support; and to all those who serve in Liturgical Ministries during Holy Week, and each Sunday during the past year.

May God Bless all of You.

Fr. Robert Love



Mass Intentions

Tuesday, April 6 at 7 p.m.
+ James Haney Jr.

Wednesday, April 7 at 8 a.m.
Intentions of the Cronin Family
Intentions of Derek Doolan

Thursday, April 8 at 8 a.m.
Intentions of Chris O'Neill

Friday, April 9 at 8 a.m.
+ Fr. Jim Malone

Saturday, April 10 at 5 p.m.
+ Paul Scapinello
+Patricia Bauer

EASTER FLORAL TRIBUTES: Thank you for your contributions towards the Easter flowers. Flowers 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 Easter season.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

every Tuesday, in the church from 9 a.m. until 6:30p.m. *He is risen! Alleluia! May the resurrection of Our Saviour be a constant reminder of His love and promise of eternal life.* Please consider spending time with Him who waits for you in this Sacrament of Love. For more information please call Sheila Mauser @ 519-685-9414



EASTER PASCHAL CANDLE: The Paschal candle is a rich symbol of our faith. During the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday night the priest carries the candle in procession into the dark church. A new fire, symbolizing our eternal life in Christ, is kindled, which lights the candle.

The candle is adorned with Christian symbols; the cross to represent His redemptive sacrifice; the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet - Alpha and Omega - to signify that He is the beginning and the end; symbols of wheat and grapes, or a chalice and host, for the Eucharist - the true presence of Christ and our spiritual strength; the 12 Apostles - scribes and witnesses to the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Christ; and other symbols such as the Good Shepherd, the Lamb, the Sacred Heart, and the Risen Christ. The Paschal candle remains in the Sanctuary on its special candle stand during the full 50 days of the Easter season, and is lit for liturgical services during that time. The candle is also lit during all baptisms throughout the year, passing the light of Christ to each person baptized, starting with the Catechumens at the Easter Vigil service. The Paschal candle is also used at funeral services and placed next to the casket during a funeral Mass. At funeral services it is a reminder that the sacrament of Baptism is itself a death and resurrection in Christ, and testifies to Christian certainty in the resurrection of the dead and life with Christ in the world to come.



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.

- Please make use of the **hand sanitizers** provided at the entrance.
- Please **maintain physical distancing** and refrain from socializing in the church.
- Washrooms should only be used for emergency purposes.
- 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.

Thank you for your continued cooperation!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021:

Please continue to pray for our young students of *Our Lady of Fatima School* who will be celebrating First Holy Communion on **Saturday, April 10** at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

BISHOP CROSBY'S EASTER MESSAGE: Visit our parish website: www.stmaryhespeler.ca/news-2 or the Hamilton Diocese website for this special Easter letter from Bishop Crosby.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED: A reminder that the parish office is closed on Easter Monday, April 5th.

PARISH OFFERINGS – March 27/28

Sunday Envelopes & Loose Offerings: \$2,306.25
 Easter Offerings: \$120.00
 Share Lent: \$130.00
 Good Friday (Holy Land Collection): \$35.00

Thank you for your continued support.



CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Thank you for your generous pledges to date!

As of Friday, March 26th, St. Mary of the Visitation Parish has received 92 gifts and \$147,863! (40% of our baseline goal)

We ask you to continue to pray for the success of the campaign, and we will be grateful for any gift you can make! Please mail in your gift or make an online pledge at www.oneheartonesoul.ca/give. For more information about the campaign, visit www.oneheartonesoul.ca



THANK YOU for sharing love this Lenten season! The *Share Love, Share Lent* campaign called you to share love, and you opened your hearts. **To date, St. Mary of the Visitation Parish has raised \$1,100.00 for Development and**

Peace! This money will help sustain programs and projects that serve some of our most vulnerable sisters and brothers in the Global South! Thank you for your generosity. If you have not already done so, please consider making a donation with the envelope in your offertory box until April 11th, or online at www.devvp.org/lent

THE CATHOLIC FAITH & FAMILY BIBLE: Limited paperback copies are available in the parish office. Cost: \$20. A thoughtful gift for a family member or friend celebrating Confirmation, Marriage or a special birthday.

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON PRAYER CALENDAR

April 5 – April 10

Monday	Rev. Louis Lenssen, C.R.S.P.
Tuesday	Rev. Fernando Ferreira Pinto, C.S.Sp
Wednesday	Oblates of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.)
Thursday	Rev. Allen Varlaki
Friday	Rev. Paul Edmondstone
Saturday	Rev. Jerzy Tomon



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Octave of Easter, which this year is **April 11, 2021**. It is based on the private revelations of **St. Faustina Kowalska**,

which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy. In 2000, Pope John Paul II canonized St. Faustina and, during the ceremony, he declared: "It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called 'Divine Mercy Sunday'".

The Image: Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that "**Jesus, I trust in You**" be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish" (Diary, no. 48) and "By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls" (Diary, no. 742). For more information visit www.thedivinemercy.org.

VOCATIONS: The glorious Feast of the Resurrection of Christ proclaims, forever, that life is greater than death. Jesus commanded us to preach this good news to all peoples in all places at all times. If you feel God is calling you to minister in His Church as a priest, religious or deacon, contact the Vocations Office, Diocese of Hamilton, 905-528-7988 x 2246 or vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

COME RETREAT WITH LOYOLA HOUSE

VIRTUALLY! Are you looking to break away and spend some time in silence? Interested in learning something new? See our website at loyolahouse.com (under "Events") for more information on upcoming retreats & programs. Register online at loyolahouse.com or contact registration@ignatiusguelph.ca or by calling 519 824 1250 ext 266.

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