

CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS CHRISTMAS PARTY!!! After the amazing success of last year, Catholic Young Adults groups across the Diocese of Hamilton (& beyond!) are coming together for one big, thrilling Christmas Party! We want to invite all young adults near and far to come out! If you are Catholic, between the ages of 19-39, this will be the place to BE to meet other young adult Catholics. An awesome pre-Christmas social, dinner, live entertainment, door prizes and a DJ and dance floor. Consider yourself INVITED! Saturday December 16. Mass at 5:00 p.m.; cocktail social at 6:00 p.m.; catered dinner with wine at 6:45 p.m. Live entertainment, music, photo booth, door prizes, cash bar, and so much more. \$20 donation (\$45 value) at the door. St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 715 Centre Rd., Waterdown. RSVP before December 14 (we need to get numbers for food). Contact: Justin Peter at jpeter@hamiltondiocese.com or call 905 689 4857 ext. 8. Search "The Biggest Catholic Young Adults Christmas Party Ever 2!" on Facebook.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE: If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas season approaches, please consider attending this ecumenical service. Thursday, December 21, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener. This will be an evening of scripture, reflective music and prayer. A time of fellowship will follow.

COPING WITH THE HOLIDAYS...WHEN YOU HAVE LOST A LOVED ONE. Join us for an evening of reflection and strategies for coping at Christmas, facilitated by Dr. Wendy Hofman. St. Mary of the Visitation Parish, 16 Cooper St., Cambridge, on Monday, December 11 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The event is free of charge. Please call to reserve a seat: 519-658-4443. (If you haven't registered you are still free to attend.)

ANNUAL CARMELITE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR at the Carmel of St. Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Rd, St. Agatha, daily until December 17, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Homemade jams, jellies, their own honey and home-baked loaves.



Catholic Women's League Membership Form

(For women of the parish ages 16+)



It's time to JOIN the Catholic Women's League (CWL) or to RENEW your membership.

Catholic women today possess immense potential to serve church, community and the world. The unique strength of Catholic women is the faith that binds us together. We pray for each other, care for the less fortunate, and support our parish and community. Our monthly events are informative, prayerful and fun-loving. Please PRINT the information required below, and along with the membership fee of \$25.00, place it in an envelope marked "CWL" and place it in the collection basket by November 30.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

(if you wish to receive notifications of upcoming events)

Payment (please check one): cash _____ cheque _____ (payable to the Our Lady of Lourdes CWL)



Our Lady of Lourdes Church
 173 Lourdes Street
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1N5
 519-886-0342 519-886-0349 (fax)
lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com
www.ourladyoflourdeswaterloo.com

ADMINISTRATOR:

Rev. Rafal Tomon

DEACON:

Rev. Mr. Phong Hoang

PARISH YOUTH CATECHIST:

Paula Rush

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

Bette Honsinger

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

SUNDAY MASSES:

Saturday 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday 3:00 p.m. Vietnamese Martyrs Community

Rev. Hanh Van Tran, O.M.I.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

By appointment – please phone the parish office

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to noon

Twenty minutes before weekday Masses

or by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

By appointment – please phone the parish office

BLESSING OF EXPECTANT PARENTS:

Last Sunday of each month after all Masses

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL:

Church door collections – last Sunday of each month

Announced Mass intentions for the week of December 10 to 16, 2017

Monday..... 8:30 a.m.Thanga & Hans – Bennett Biber

Tuesday **Luther Village**.....10:00 a.m. Adrien Rousseau – Family

7:00 p.m.Maria Warslen – Vivian Rickert

Wednesday 8:30 a.m.Jabulani Wilfred Mngadi – Jane & Thandi Kumalo

Thursday 7:00 p.m. Tony Palach – Agnes Corke

Friday 8:30 a.m.Sylvie St-Hilaire – Adèle Verreault

Saturday..... 7:00 p.m.John & Anna Miller – Frank & Wendy Miller & Family

Jim Diesbourg – McKay Family

Offertory collection for Sunday, December 3, 2017: \$5,490.00

[Note: This amount does not include donations received through pre-authorized giving.]

DIOCESAN BOOKKEEPING POLICY: As we approach year end, parishioners frequently wish to make contributions to the church that will be credited to their tax receipt for the current year. Diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31. Contributions made in January cannot be applied to 2017 offerings.

OFFERING ENVELOPES: For 2018, everyone who uses envelopes has been assigned a new number. And there are smaller boxes of envelopes for those enrolled in our pre-authorized giving program. *At the end of December, it is essential that you discard all your previous envelopes so that donations can be properly recorded.*



HELPING CHILDREN THROUGH OUR BOWING ANGEL: A long-standing tradition at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is the presence of the bowing angel by the manger scene, who graciously bows her head after an offering is made. Again this year, all donations received from the bowing angel will be sent to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Children's Project in Kenya who work with children whose parents have died of HIV-AIDS. Since the bowing angel cannot digest paper, a plate will be by the angel to accept paper offerings. (Cheques should be made payable to "Our Lady of Lourdes Church".)

TREE OF LIFE: It is a tradition here at Our Lady of Lourdes to call the large tree in the sanctuary the "Tree of Life" for the decorations on it reflect two of the great Christian mysteries: *birth and death*. On the tree, there will be **50 angels** each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and **24 crosses** in memory of those born to eternal life. When the Christmas season is over, these personalized ornaments will be available as mementos to family members. Parents with children baptized this year are encouraged to have a photo taken with the child by the tree and to keep this with the ornament.



ATTENTION FANTASTIC FAITH FINDERS! Please come and join us for a Christmas celebration on Friday December 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the church hall. We will have some Christmas fun, sing Christmas carols, and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Hope to see you there.

IT'S COOKIE TIME! A Christmas Remembrance for Our Parish Shut-ins

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



This year we have 74 tins of cookies to fill plus (hopefully) 30 containers for the men who live at Underhill Residence on Erb St. We will need lots of cookies to successfully carry out this annual parish Christmas project.

Please bring your cookies to the parish office on Tuesday, December 12 between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Labelled containers will be returned to you. When you drop off your cookies, be sure to pick up a Christmas ornament, a small token of appreciation for your kindness.



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY CHOIRS: Would you like to be in a special one-time choir for our Christmas Eve Masses? The choir for the 5 p.m. Mass will rehearse once on Saturday, December 16 from 1:00-2:00 p.m. The choir for the 7 p.m. Mass will rehearse from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 20. All rehearsals will be in the choir loft. If you are interested, please contact Bette at lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com or 519-886-0342. Come enjoy this wonderful Christmas experience. Comfortable seats-with-a-view in the choir loft – guaranteed!

MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY (USHERS): Men and women of the parish are invited to serve as ministers of hospitality (ushers) on Christmas Eve (5:00 and 7:00 p.m.) and at midnight Mass as we welcome one and all to our parish for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BEARERS: Volunteers are needed to serve as gift bearers at our Christmas Masses: 5:00 p.m. (Living Scripture) and 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and the midnight Mass on Christmas Day. You are also welcome to volunteer as gift bearers for New Year's Eve/Day.

TRANSPORTATION TEAM: The Tree of Life "Tree Cutters" need some volunteers to help lift the tree onto the truck at 96 Shadeland Cres., Kitchener, on Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m. Come experience this parish tradition! *The more volunteers we have, the easier it is to handle this task, so if you can spare an hour, please contact Bette at 519-886-0342 or lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com.*



CHURCH SETUP: On Sunday, December 17, at 1:00 p.m. volunteers will be required to help with church preparations, including erecting the above-mentioned tree and the manger scene. Christmas cheer to follow in the parish hall.



CHRISTMAS FLORAL TRIBUTE: During the Holy Season of Christmas, it is a fitting gesture to dedicate floral tributes to be placed in the church in memory of deceased relatives and friends. These tributes are a sign of remembrance and an expression of faith in Christ's promise of eternal life. Forms are available at the church entrances if you wish to make such a tribute. The floral tribute sheets will be placed in the sanctuary in a gift-wrapped box. Those loved ones named will be remembered at all the Masses during the Christmas season.

God's Word Today

Advent is such a wonderful liturgical season. We are treated to a feast of scripture readings that can serve to inspire us as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. In today's first reading, Isaiah announces that God's glory will be revealed and that we are to have no fear as we anticipate the tremendous burst of glory that the Lord's coming will ignite. Saint Peter, in today's second reading, reminds us to conduct ourselves in holiness and devotion as we ready ourselves to welcome the Lord at the end of time. The central figure of this second Advent Sunday is John the Baptist, who points not to himself but to the one who is to come, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Let us ready ourselves to receive the Lord in each and every moment of our lives. Let us learn to expect miracles among God's holy people.

*Saint Margaret Sunday Missal
J.S. Paluch Company*