

## Christmas Season Schedule 2017

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confession Times)

Saturdays: 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon; twenty minutes before all weekday Masses or by appointment

### Mass Schedule

#### Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 ..... 5:00 p.m.....*(in Vietnamese)*  
7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 24 ..... 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.

#### Christmas

Sunday, December 24 ..... Christmas Eve..... 5:00 p.m.....Living Scripture  
7:00 p.m.  
Monday, December 25 ..... Christmas Day ..... 12:00 a.m.....midnight  
9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.....*(in Vietnamese)*

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 ..... 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 31 ..... 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
3:00 p.m.....*(in Vietnamese)*

#### Feast of Mary, Mother of God: New Year's Day

Sunday, December 31 ..... 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, January 1, 2018..... 9:00 a.m.  
11:00 a.m.  
3:00 p.m.....*(in Vietnamese)*

Feast of the Epiphany.....Regular weekend Mass times

**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: 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.



*Our Lady of Lourdes Church*  
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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 17 to 23, 2017**

Monday..... 8:30 a.m. ....Ettore Volpini – Frank & Charmaine Volpini & Family  
Tuesday ..... 7:00 p.m. ....Deceased of Rola & Ryndak Families – Dorothy Rola  
Wednesday ..... 8:30 a.m. ....Richard & Maria de'Rozario – Nevelle & Naomi de'Rozario  
Thursday ..... 7:00 p.m. ....Michael Murray – Murray Family  
Friday ..... 8:30 a.m. ....Roland Austrup – Margaret Austrup  
Saturday..... 7:00 p.m. ....Rill Ross – Pauline Ross  
David Eckert – Mitzie Eckert & Family

**Offertory collection for Sunday, December 10, 2017: \$11,184.10**

[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.

**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.

**PARKING:** You are reminded of the parking lot at the corner of Roslin and Alexandra which can be used by parishioners attending weekend liturgies. Parking is never permitted in the driveway beside the rectory! This must be kept open at all times as a fire route. Thank you for your understanding.

**Holiday Office Hours**

Christmas Day.....Closed  
Tuesday, December 26 & Wednesday, December 27 .....Closed  
Thursday, December 28 & Friday, December 29.....Regular office hours  
New Year’s Day.....Closed  
Tuesday, January 2.....Closed  
Wednesday, January 3.....Regular office hours



Dear friends,

We settle in for another Christmas season. Christmas is always a blessing, a time for giving thanks – especially for the Father’s gift to us: Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us – even though many struggle at this time of year.

A good friend, a brother Priest, and a member of the Religious community to which I belong, *Father Chris Rushton*, is being cared for at Emmanuel Hospice in Hamilton, one of the many Good Shepherd ministries. It means, simply, that he is in the process of dying. (I am glad that “The Good Shepherd” is caring for him!)

Father Chris is a remarkable person. He accepts the inevitable with great faith and serenity, and he expresses profound gratitude for every act of kindness he receives – a visit, a gift, a service, a chat, and he is *always* looking for ways to “give back”. He is an inspiration to those who experience both his joy and the enthusiasm he brings to each day.

His is the example that might guide us: gratitude for each day – the fundamental gift – the gift of life. Aware of such a great blessing, we find ways to “give back” – precisely by the decisions we make each day to respond generously to those whose needs may be greater than our own.

A word of affirmation is an easy way to do that. It does not cost two cents – but for the recipient it can be solid gold, a life-saver: “*Someone thinks I am worth it!*” A word of affirmation can be the boost needed for the day – or for a lifetime.

This Christmas affirm someone – anyone – a child, a sibling, a friend, a neighbour! Watch how it affects them. You have done something that will have a ripple effect touching many! It is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

Merry Christmas! May your faith be deepened during this Christmas season!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*+Douglas Crosby, OMI*

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** would like to thank the students, parents and staff of Our Lady of Lourdes School for the generous donations from their Angel Tree project. This year, hundreds of hats, mittens, gloves and socks were collected. These items are being distributed through our weekly hamper program and our monthly outreach project. The people we serve really appreciate these warming items. Thank-you for your generosity in helping us serve those in need.

**VOCATION SEEDS:** There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 x2246 or vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

