

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION AT OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Throughout the year

Saturdays: 11:00 a.m.-12 noon
Wednesdays: 7:45-8:15 a.m.
or by appointment

Additional pre-Christmas times

Tuesday, December 20
& Thursday, December 22
at 6:15 p.m.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS – THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday, December 24.... Christmas Eve.....	5:00 p.m. (Living Scripture) 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. (in Vietnamese) 12:00 midnight
Sunday, December 25 Christmas Day	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. (in Vietnamese)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY

Saturday, December 31, 2016	4:00 p.m.
Sunday, January 1, 2017	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. (in Vietnamese)

RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS OF CREATION



Close to five million litres of water are taken from Wellington County daily for a water bottling plant. This extraction of large amounts of water adversely affects the ecological balance of nature over a large area while depriving those who rely on wells of their right to water. Close to seventy-five percent of plastic bottles end up in land fill sites, thus contributing to contamination of the soil for thousands of years.

Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, urges all parishes in the Diocese of Hamilton to refrain from using bottled water in church facilities. As stewards of Creation may we be leaders in the responsible use of our sacred mandate.

PARISH SECRETARY OPENING: If you love the Lord and working with people apply to St. Anne's Parish, Kitchener. Primary roles include parish correspondence (phone/email), Mass cards, bulletin, St Vincent de Paul. Bookkeeping would be an asset. Please contact Father Ray Peter for more information at frayinstannes@gmail.com or 519-745-5302.



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

PASTOR:	Rev. Edward (Ted) Hughes
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 Wednesday, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m.
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 18 to 14, 2016

Monday.....	8:30 a.m.....	David Eckert – Mitzie Eckert & Family
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.....	Edgar & Lorna Corke – Agnes Corke
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.....	Michael Murray – Rosemarie Murray & Family
Thursday	7:00 p.m.....	Roland Austrup – Margaret Austrup
Friday	8:30 a.m.....	Special intention of Romie & Mary Voisin – Don & Veronica Voisin
Christmas Eve.....	5:00 p.m. (Living Scripture) & 7:00 p.m. 12:00 midnight	
Christmas Day	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.	

Offertory collection for Sunday, December 11, 2016: \$15,820.00

[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 2016 offerings.



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 are working 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.

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 *61 angels* each inscribed with the name of a child baptized in the parish since last Christmas, and *25 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.



FIRST AIDERS: A defibrillator will be installed in the lobby of the church in January. Have you had a first aid course or CPR training and would you be interested in coming to an orientation session for the new defibrillator? We're looking for a group of parishioners who have had first aid training and would be interested in learning how to use the defibrillator. In the event of an emergency having several parishioners who have been oriented to the machine could save a life. The orientation session will occur in January (in the evening). If interested, please contact Bette at the parish office.

EMMANUEL

To name someone or something means that we have a relationship with that entity. Family names identify us with our heritage; nicknames denote familiarity or a special bond. In the Old Testament, the meaning of a name ran deep. It identified one's mission, even one's very being. The amazing name "Emmanuel" was first uttered by Isaiah as he described to the frightened King Ahaz the promised one who would come to redeem the people. Emmanuel is not a frightening philosophical name, such as Omnipotent, Omniscient, Almighty. It does not connote distance and transcendence. It does not generate reverential fear. The name Emmanuel implies closeness and intimacy and compassion. Emmanuel is the name given to the one who is coming. It means "God is with us." God is entrusted to the care of a virgin, who will bear this child. Only God would be so compassionate to draw so near, to be so available and vulnerable. Only God could love this well. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

ATTENTION USHERS (MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY): Those who have volunteered to assist at the 5:00 p.m. Mass on Christmas Eve are requested to be at the church by 3:45 p.m. Ushers for all of the other Masses are asked to be at the church twenty minutes before the liturgy.

CHRISTMAS GIFT BEARERS: Volunteers are needed to serve as gift bearers at the 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, midnight Mass and the 11:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas Day. You are also welcome to volunteer as gift bearers for the New Year's Eve/Day weekend.

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.

PHOTO DIRECTORY UPDATE: Work on our parish anniversary photo directory is continuing. There is still much to do to make this book memorable. Watch for further updates in the new year.

LONGEST NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE: If Christmas is a sad time for you because of the loss of a loved one, please consider attending this ecumenical service. Wednesday December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener. This will be an evening of prayerful reflection in solidarity with all who have gone home to Jesus and those who grieve their loss. A reception will follow. If you have any questions, please call 519-745-7301.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH: At Christmas it is easy for children to get so wrapped up in what they want that they forget the reason for the season: the birth of Christ. Jesus came to offer a great sacrifice – his life so our sins could be forgiven. He taught us to look toward others; to feed the hungry, care of the sick and so much more. The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to look outward towards what others need, as opposed to looking inward to what "I" want. When we teach our children what Christmas really represents and why we celebrate, it helps them know God loves them and to spread his love to others. (Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

VOCATION SEEDS: "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife . . . When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton, at 905-528-7988 or mking@hamiltondiocese.com, or visit www.hamiltonvocations.com.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH: Pope Francis, in *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), challenges married couples to understand that their love is a call to sacrificial love. He invites each spouse to see their married love as love that must be first and foremost self-giving. When a person in relationship understands this, it helps them to reach beyond themselves and indeed grow. When we take the time to discern our vision of married life and then reach into ourselves to make it happen, both spouses benefit. The Pope is reminding us that love may not be perfect, but it is love and when we nurture it from within, we strengthen and build a deep bond between us. (Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

Holiday Office Hours

The parish office will be closed Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27 and Wednesday, December 28 as well as Monday, January 2.