

ADORATION FOR LIFE: A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world to God, the Creator and lover of life (St. John Paul II) Come, let us adore Jesus in the Eucharist – console his heart wounded by abortion and sins against the sanctity of life. Two locations: Friday, January 5, 8:45-10:00 a.m. at St. Boniface Church, 1355 Maryhill Rd. Maryhill, and Saturday, January 6, 11 a.m.-12 noon at St. Mary Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Church, 56 Duke St. W., Kitchener. Call KW Right to Life for more information at 519-746-5433.

PRAYER VIGIL – Thursday, January 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in front of Freeport Hospital, 3570 King St. E., Kitchener, for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice but our own! Parking across the road at Schneider Park. For more information, please contact Cathy at kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH: Rita McNeil’s Christmas song titled *With My Family* has the following line: “All I want under my tree is peace and love and harmony.” It is what we all want in our relationships, but it is important to ask ourselves what we are willing to do to get it. Will we take a peaceful approach to conflict, will we love the good pieces and the struggling pieces of our spouses and will we act in ways that bring us together in our decisions. The line ends with, “Wrap it with a ribbon please, I’ll share it with my family.” What a great Christmas gift to your spouse – a promise to work on peace and love and harmony! (Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

VOCATION SEEDS: From the angel Gabriel, Mary heard God’s plan for her life and she said “Yes!”...and so the Saviour came into the world. Pray to know God’s will for your life, so as to help bring Jesus to our world. If you think God is calling you to do this as a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 x2246 or vocations@hamiltondiocese.com.

God’s Word Today

Today’s readings ask us to make a home for God within our hearts. Listen carefully to the gospel. Initially, Mary’s reaction to Gabriel’s astounding revelation is one of fear – “She was greatly troubled at what was said.” As believers, we are called to the same kind of faith exhibited by Mary and, like her, our initial response might be one of fear. A central reason that Mary is held in such high esteem in our tradition is her response to Gabriel’s message – “May it be done to me according to your word.” She is the model for all believers. She made a home within her heart for the Son of God. We are asked to do the same. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, may we allow God’s word to open our hearts, making a receptive home there for Christ the Lord. From *Saint Margaret Sunday Missal*, copyright J.S. Paluch Company.



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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 December 24, 2017 to January 1, 2018

Christmas Eve	5:00 p.m.....	Living & deceased members of the parish
	7:00 p.m.....	Fr. Ted Hughes
Midnight Mass	12:00 a.m.	
Christmas Day	9:00 a.m.	
Tuesday.....	7:00 p.m.....	Carmen Leon Ponciano – Walter & Ligia Ponciano
Wednesday.....	8:30 a.m.....	Robert Denommé – Peter & Gisèle Denommé
Thursday.....	7:00 p.m.....	In thanksgiving – Suja & Earnest Biber
Friday.....	8:30 a.m.....	Doris Groce – Groce Family
Saturday Holy Family	7:00 p.m.....	Paul Meyer – Valerie Meyer
Sunday Holy Family	9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	– Living & deceased members of the parish
Sunday Mary, Mother of God	5:00 p.m.	
Monday Mary, Mother of God	9:00 & 11:00 a.m.	– Living & deceased members of the parish

Offertory collection for Sunday, December 17, 2017: \$4,872.00

[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.*



WORK CREW: Volunteers are required on Sunday, January 7 immediately after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. to take down the Christmas decorations. As we will be carrying the parts of the manger scene to the basement storage area, the assistance of some younger volunteers would be very helpful. Refreshments will be served following the project.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER: *The Elderly* – That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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

*May the Prince of Peace and his Holy Mother
keep you in their care
this Christmas and throughout the new year.
Wishing you a Blessed Christmas and New Year.
Fr. Rafal Tomon, Administrator*

Grace Before Christmas Dinner

Loving God,
on this Christmas Day we give thanks
that Jesus, your Son, has come into our world
bringing us gifts of peace and joy.
Bless us as we sit down together at this table
for our Christmas meal.
Bless the food we share
and help us to remember those who are hungry.
Be with our neighbours and our friends,
and those who are lonely, sick or away from home.
We pray that our departed loved ones
may now sit at your table in heaven.
May the joy of this feast give us strength and light
now and in the days ahead.
We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

