



BE INSPIRED, ENCOURAGED AND HEALED: Come celebrate the 24th annual “Lift Jesus Higher Rally” on Saturday, March 5, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. Listen to compelling speakers Ralph Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, Peter Herbeck and guest speaker Deacon Larry Oney, beautiful Christian music, inspiring personal testimonies, Divine Mercy celebration, prayer ministry for healing and empowerment. Closing Mass (with Sunday readings)

celebrated by Cardinal Thomas Collins. There will be a separate youth event (13-18 years) with great music, dynamic talks and inspirational skits. The Catholic Women’s League is organizing a bus and the purchase of tickets for this event. All parishioners are welcome! In order to make the bookings we would appreciate your quick response. Please contact Mel Raos at 519-885-0955 or raosma63@gmail.com, or Rita Coelho at 519-886-0085 or coelitas@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S' LEAGUE FEBRUARY MEETING: Inviting all ladies of the parish to bring your daughters, granddaughters, sisters, or a friend to this very informative “Days for Girls Program” (<http://www.daysforgirls.org>). Every girl and woman in the world should have access to quality sustainable health and hygiene education. We will learn about reusable hygiene kits for girls and women made around the world so they can go to school and to work. This not only empowers them but often helps their overall health and allows them to become better educated and more productive in their communities. Please bring along your sewing kits and scissors. We will also have the Director of Women’s Service from the YWCA to speak to us on the services provided to women of all ages in our community. Let’s “beat the February blues” and make it an enjoyable, productive evening on Wednesday February 24, at 7:00 pm. in the parish hall.



FISH FRY: The Knights of Columbus Council 8192 are hosting a fish fry on Friday, March 4 at St. Teresa of Avila Parish Hall, 19 Flamingo Dr., Elmira. There will be two sittings – 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Take out will be at 6:00 p.m. Cost is adults \$15.00; children (12 & under) \$8.00; and take out is \$15.00. Advanced tickets are available until March 2. Purchase your tickets from the St. Teresa of Avila Parish Office between 9:00 a.m. and 1 p.m. or call 519-669-3387. Don’t miss out on this popular annual dinner.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2016: During the first week of March, faith groups in more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to learn about, pray for, and celebrate our solidarity with the women of Cuba through World Day of Prayer. Please join us in an ecumenical-interfaith worship event on Saturday March 5 at 10:00 a.m. in Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 29 Westmount Rd. S., Waterloo. We will have a large Cuban-themed paper mural for anyone who wishes to write personal messages of peace and solidarity from themselves or their place of worship. We also hope to have all or most of the service screen-projected in large print for easy visual access to everyone. An excellent short DVD will be shown about Cuba and its re-emerging faith communities at a time when this once-isolated socialist country is becoming open again to the rest of the world. Refreshments and Cuban snacks will follow the service.



Our Lady of Lourdes Church

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PASTOR:	Rev. Edward (Ted) Hughes
DEACON:	Rev. Mr. Phong Hoang
SEMINARIAN:	Christopher Tracey
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 8:00, 9:30 & 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 PENANCE:	Wednesday, 7:45 to 8:15 a.m. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to noon
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 February 21 to 27, 2016

Monday.....	8:30 a.m.....	Eileen Oddy – Dianne & Len Flood
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Anita McInnis – Gert & Don McEachren
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.....	Adrian Ler – Elaine Ler
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Edward Francis Ryan – Lana-Lee Hardacre
Friday	8:30 a.m.....	John Lutz – Marlene Hickson
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday.....	7:00 p.m.	Patricia Neuert; Agnes & Sydney Horton

Offertory collection for Sunday, February 14, 2016: \$6,209.45

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

Living Stewardship Now

“What matters above anything else in your life? Is it a person, material things, your health and comfort, your career? Be absolutely honest! Is God at the centre, or off to one side?”

THE ECUMENICAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE AND THE REFUGEE CRISIS: Many people have been asking if our parish has considered sponsoring a family to help alleviate the current refugee crisis. We are happy to report that Our Lady of Lourdes is in dialogue with our friends at Mount Zion Lutheran Church to bring a refugee family to our immediate neighbourhood within the next few months. We are working together under our newly established group, the EWC or Ecumenical Welcoming Committee. If you would like to be part of this wonderful work of mercy (there are various volunteer opportunities) or for further information, please contact Chris Tracey at 519-886-0342 ext. 5 or ctracey@hotmail.com, or Marta Fukasawa at 519-954-0339 or mbfukasawa@gmail.com.

WATERLOO DEANERY LENTEN SERIES: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kitchener, are offering a Lenten series. *Come and be drawn deeper into the abundance of God's mercy!* Each talk at St. Francis Parish begins with Mass at 1:00 p.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. The talk is repeated the same day here at Lourdes beginning with Mass at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Thursday, February 25	“Mercy in Hymnody”	Speaker:	Christina Ronzio Hamilton Diocese Director of Liturgy
Thursday, March 3	“Mercy in the Scriptures”	Speaker:	Andrew Di Giovanni St. Peter's Seminary Faculty
Thursday, March 10	“Mercy in Theology”	Speaker:	Rev. Gordon Rixon, SJ Regis College Faculty

COME AND SEE RETREATS: Men interested in the vocation to the priesthood are invited to a Come and See Retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto on the weekend of February 26-28 or at St. Peter's Seminary in London on the weekend of March 4-6. This is a unique opportunity to spend time with those studying for the priesthood, hear their stories, and pray for your vocation. More details and online registrations at www.HamiltonVocations.com.

VOCATION SEEDS: Peter, John, and James had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing his transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's will for our lives. If you feel God's call to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit www.HamiltonVocations.com.



THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes School for their generous donation of pancake mix and syrup. These items will be distributed to those in need. Do you have any eyeglasses that you are no longer using? The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is collecting used glasses. These will be refurbished by Newfoundland Provincial Corrections and taken to Haiti for distribution by a Canadian Medical Team. Glasses can be placed in the SSVP box in the church vestibule.



Attention Students in Grades 1-3!

You are warmly invited to four Tuesday evenings to consider the events surrounding the death and Resurrection of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We will listen to scripture, reflect and pray. This Paschal Mystery retreat will take place in the parish office from 6:30-8 p.m. on March 8 and 22 (Lent), March 29 and April 5 (Easter). The retreat will use the method of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, an approach to faith formation begun in Rome more than 60 years ago, that seeks to answer the child's silent request: “Help me come closer to God by myself.” To inquire further or to register for the 4 evenings, please contact Paula (lourdescatechist@rogers.com).



YOUTH GROUP: Our Lady of Lourdes youth group has given themselves a name. The Fantastic Faith Finders will have their next meeting on Friday, February the 26 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the church hall. If you are in grade 5-8 and want to come for the first time, please contact Tiffany Scott at tscott1201@rogers.com.

Parish Annual Report – Open Meeting

This Tuesday evening (February 23rd) following the 7:00 p.m. Mass we will have an open parish meeting for a conversational presentation of the 2015 Parish Annual Report that you will have received this weekend. Members of the Parish Finance Council and the Property and Maintenance Committee will be present to offer information and to field any questions you might have. There will also be an opportunity for input on various areas of parish administration and ministry including such items as our new parish youth catechist, the development of a parish ministry of care (parish nurse), a part-time pastoral associate, a review of the weekend Mass schedule, and ideas about our upcoming dual anniversaries (parish church – 60 years; parish itself – 65 years in 2017). Come and enjoy refreshments, dialogue and friendship!

Parish Mission

Beginning the weekend of March 5/6, Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Victoria will lead us in a parish mission that will lead us in the footsteps of Jesus in this Year of Mercy. Bishop Gary will preach at all the Masses on the weekend and lead in talks on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We will conclude on Wednesday evening with Communal Reconciliation with the priests of Waterloo. More information to follow.

Lenten Speakers' Series

This Thursday evening following the 7:00 p.m. Mass we will have our second of four speakers for our Lenten Series. This week's speaker is Christina Ronzio from the Office of Liturgy of the Diocese of Hamilton. Christina will lead us in reflecting on “Mercy in the Hymnody” focusing on how God's mercy is found in our Church through hymns and other sung parts of our liturgy. Refreshments included.

