



THIS YEAR FOR SHARE LENT, Development and Peace invites you to join a Climate of Change pilgrimage. This week finds us in Indonesia. The word *kampung* has come to mean “slum” in the local language, but its original definition is “community.” Your support for Share Lent means that Try Mopurto, who lives in a *kampung*, has been able to renovate his home for his family, despite suffering from mental illness. The community is coming together to support him and his family. “My home is my heaven,” he says, “because here we feel the meaning of brotherhood in the social life of the *kampung*.” Share Lent Sunday is March 13!

“WHAT IS FREEDOM?” The world tells us that freedom is the ability to do what you want, whenever you want, with whomever you want. But has this led to strong relationships, strong families, or strong communities? Recognizing the world’s confusion, Saint John Paul II proclaimed the Theology of the Body. He turned the notion of freedom on its head, declaring it to be selfless rather than selfish. He says “freedom exists for the sake of love,” meaning that “freedom is the means and love is the end.” Therefore, authentic freedom always asks “What is the good of the other person?” not “What’s in it for me?” Join St. Mark’s Youth Catholic Adults (ages 19-35) for a retreat structured around a study series by internationally acclaimed author and speaker, Christopher West on Friday, March 4 (6:30-9:15 p.m.) and continuing on Saturday, March 5 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) at St. Mark’s Parish, 55 Driftwood Dr., Kitchener. Cost is \$40 which includes workbook, snacks and lunch on Saturday. For more information or to register, email stmarksyouthcatholicadults@gmail.com.

DO YOU FEEL ALONE? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? This program has helped 10’s of 1000’s of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on March 11, please call 905-664-5212, or email hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

CLIMATE CHANGE – WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY AS CATHOLICS? The St. Michael’s Social Justice Committee invites you to attend an evening of education on climate change on Monday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. the church hall. Caterina Lindman will give a presentation about Pope Francis’s teaching on climate change and actions that we can take at both a personal and political level. Caterina is the leader of the St. Jerome’s Social Justice Committee and the Waterloo Region Citizens’ Climate Lobby. She is a frequent contributor to the Waterloo Region Record on the subject of climate change.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH: No marriage or relationship remains stagnant – life changes and experiences that occur on a day to day basis mold and shape us and therefore our relationships. Now and then it is good to stop and check the new you and see how you have changed: how have these changes impacted your relationship with those you love, especially your spouse. Are you communicating well with your spouse, continuing to be open and honest about your needs and wants and to finding out what theirs might be? Marriage is a work in progress which thrives when we remember to do a checkup now and then! (Diocesan Family Ministry Office)



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 28 to March 6, 2016

- Monday..... 8:30 a.m.....Bob Fritz – Frieda Cole
- Tuesday 7:00 p.m.George Sehl – Meechan Family
- Wednesday 8:30 a.m.....John Griffin – Jean & John Jarvis
- Thursday..... 7:00 p.m.Florence Perrotta – Carlo & Marg Perrotta
- Friday 8:30 a.m.....Marionne van de Vrande – Mike Bayer
 7:00 p.m.Stations of the Cross
- Saturday..... 7:00 p.m.Adrian & Charmian Ler; Sadie Leeming

Offertory collection for Sunday, February 21, 2016: \$5,487.20

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

Living Stewardship Now

If you speak a second language, share your time with new immigrants, teaching them English or helping them to adjust to life in this country.

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, March 3 "Mercy in the Scriptures" Speaker: Andrew Di Giovani
St. Peter's Seminary Faculty
- Thursday, March 10 "Mercy in Theology" Speaker: Rev. Gordon Rixon, SJ
Regis College Faculty



DO YOU HAVE ANY EYEGASSES 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.

PROMOTE WALKING IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD: The City of Waterloo has a bylaw requiring homeowners to shovel the sidewalk in front of their home within 24 hours. Keeping sidewalks clear makes it easier for you and your neighbours to walk. If you are not able to shovel your own sidewalk reach out to others - perhaps a family member, neighbour or friend. You can also receive help from Community Support Connections: <http://communitysupportconnections.org/services/home-maintenance/>



REMINDER: This year we are collecting SUGAR and RICE for Canadian Food for Children throughout the season of Lent. Please bring your items to the church in a reusable cloth bag. Your donations can be placed by the baptismal font up to and including Palm Sunday (March 20).



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 (lourdscatechist@rogers.com).



VOCATION SEEDS: The Lord is kind and merciful and calls us to proclaim His Name. If you feel God's call to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit www.HamiltonVocations.com.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: On Saturday, February 20, 34 children received the sacrament of First Reconciliation. May the Lord bless these children and their families as they continue the process of Christian initiation, and may they always remember that God is love and forgiveness.



A BIG THANK YOU to those who braved the weather to attend an enlightening and enjoyable evening at the Catholic Women's League February event. Pat gave us the history and work done by the "Days for Girls" organization. We did some prep work for the reusable hygiene kits that will be completed and sent to the girls in developing nations. The second topic was also an eye-opener. Kathy from the YWCA spoke about the projects and services made available to the homeless in our community, especially women and children. We learned there is enough room to shelter them all. It was heartening to know there are people out there reaching out to the less fortunate. God bless them!

Walking in the Footsteps of the Merciful Jesus

**Parish Mission
March 6-9**

Beginning the weekend of March 5/6, Bishop Gary Gordon of the Diocese of Victoria will direct 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 offer talks on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. We will conclude on Wednesday evening with Communal Reconciliation with a number of priests from our neighbouring parishes. More information to follow.