

PICK-UP REMINDERS: Cookie containers from the “Cookies for Shutins” project are available in the parish hall. Offering envelopes for 2017 are located in the back pew of the church. Please pick these up at your earliest convenience. Thank you.

ORNAMENTS FROM THE TREE OF LIFE: Those who had a child baptized or a loved one called to Eternal Life (and buried from Lourdes) in 2016 may pick up their angel or cross after any weekend Mass beginning January 14/15 in the work sacristy behind Our Lady of Lourdes’ altar



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.

LAUDATO SI IS A CALL TO CONVERSION: Come and spend an evening exploring Pope Francis’ encyclical on the Environment and Human Ecology with Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB, CEO of Salt and Light Television. “Past popes have written on the importance of protecting the environment, but [Laudato Si] is a major piece of work, and an ardent call from one of our world’s major leaders for us to work together to address this existential problem. ... To use religious language, what the Pope is calling for is conversion.” (Fr. Tom Rosica, CSB) Join us Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener. Sponsored by the Catholic Women’s League.

KW RIGHT TO LIFE SPONSORS THE STOP CENSORSHIP TOUR on Saturday January 14. “Why Abortion Statistics Matter” featuring Mike Schouten from WeNeedaLaw.ca, and John Sikkema, lawyer at ARPA Canada. Knights of Columbus Centre, 145 Dearborn Pl., Waterloo. Social at 4:30 p.m.; fish and chip dinner at 5:00 p.m. (\$10); speakers at 6:00 p.m. with silent auction. All proceeds go the STOP CENSORSHIP initiative. Call 519-746-5433 or email jane@kwrtl.ca to reserve your place.

COME JOIN US TO FIND THE “KEYS TO LOVING RELATIONSHIPS”: “Keys” is a 9-week video-based program meant for anyone (married or single) who is looking for a more meaningful relationship with a spouse, family member or friend. Learn how to become a better “me” in all your relationships! The program runs Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. starting January 24 at St. Mark’s Parish, 55 Driftwood Ave., Kitchener. The cost is \$45.00. For more information, please call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

VOCATION SEEDS: Mary treasured all that God had done for her, and pondered these things in her heart. Do you treasure God and ponder what he wants from you? You may have a vocation to a life in the Church serving Christ. 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.



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| 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 January 1 to 7, 2017

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| Monday..... | 8:30 a.m..... | Mother Angelica – John Chapeskie |
| Tuesday Beechwood Manor | 10:00 a.m..... | Special intention |
| | 7:00 p.m..... | Bob Fritz – Doretta Fritz |
| Wednesday | 8:30 a.m..... | John Richard de’Rozario – Nevelle & Naomi de’Rozario |
| Thursday | 7:00 p.m..... | Doug Totske – Vivian Rickert |
| Friday | 8:30 a.m..... | John Arnold – Sue & Brian Shibley & Family |
| Saturday..... | 7:00 p.m..... | Frank Chlebak; Thomas Hughes |

The parish office will be closed Monday, January 2.

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Offertory collection for Sunday, December 25, 2016: \$3,584.00

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

Monthly Budget Review as of December 31, 2016

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| Cumulative financial objective – 52 Weeks @ \$7,500 | | \$390,000.00 |
| Weekly contributions (year to date)..... | \$301,833.05 | |
| Pre-authorized giving (year to date)..... | <u>125,815.88</u> | <u>427,648.93</u> |
| Over (under) objective | | \$37,648.93 |

Prayer for the New Year

Generous God,
as we look back on this past year
we remember the people, the places, and the events
that were a part of our lives.
and we thank you for all the blessings we have received.
We recall that there were difficult times and good times,
but we know that through all the days,
even when we did not realize it,
you were with us.
God of all hopefulness, as we begin this new year
we ask for the presence of your Holy Spirit to guide and protect us.
We pray for good health in our family and peace in our world.
May we always be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves.
Amen.

BAPTISM: During the month of December, the following children became members of God’s family in the sacrament of baptism: Olivia Ann Berg and Katherine Lauren Nosal.

SENIORS’ SOCIAL GROUP

OUR SENIORS’ SOCIAL GROUP will resume Tuesday, January 3, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., in the parish hall. All are welcome!

WORK CREW: Volunteers are required on Sunday, January 8, immediately after the 11 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.



**We mourn those who have gone before us in death
and continue with us in the Communion of Saints.**

William Carey December 22, 2016

Calm

“Let it be done unto me according to your will,” Mary said.

A real Archangel appeared, handing out shocking news of the Annunciation. What a jolt this must have been for someone so unassuming, so self-effacing as Mary.

Did she flinch? No, she reacted with calm. Simply put, “I accept. Tell me how this wonderful birth will happen.” (Lk 1:38)

But the series of events that followed do not at all seem worthy of her calm. Mary was a betrothed woman who had been found pregnant! Her husband-to-be had been about to divorce her! Until an angel explained things in a dream.

And walking was the mode of transportation in those days, sometimes for astonishing distances, so the census call did not make her promise easy. She was the in the last part of her pregnancy—the most difficult time of all to travel from Nazareth in the far north of Israel down to Bethlehem, which is south of Jerusalem. Not an impossible distance, but in the last month of pregnancy, a tremendous challenge. Joseph in his kindness got a donkey for Mary to ride.

When they finally got to Bethlehem, a very small village, there was no room for them in the inn. And since the infant was “lying in a manger” and there is not a word in scripture about a cave, the most likely birth place would have been in some kind of barn or stable for domestic animals. This birth was not bathed in satin finery, not luxurious. Jesus was born into poverty and discomfort.

This Sunday we see Mary just days after the grueling journey and the amazing birth ([Gospel](#)). She is carrying out the promise she had made to Gabriel. All is well. The child is healthy and cuddly, and the angels, unable to contain their joy, have once more danced hugely into Mary’s life. Even the animals understand.

Breathtaking

It would seem that Mary’s calm could now seek some quiet and rest after all that had happened. But no. Unkempt shepherds, straight from the fields, “went in haste” to the shelter, announcing in their craggy voices that they had been told who this baby was. The angels had trumpeted it to them! Wise men, or as we say now, kings, found the holy shelter and barged right in, bearing royal gifts.

Does this all impinge on Mary’s peace? It seems not. She is good to her word. The Gospel says that she quietly “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.”

Part of it was her personality, of course, but even more, it was the presence of God deep within her, so deep that she let her life unite with his. This produced a son. Existence on this earth is never free from hazards and setbacks and stunning difficulties, but as Mary watched each movement of the newborn baby, she breathed in a holiness, a depth of holiness that even she had not known before.

Her calm took place within a crowded, difficult, cramped stable, one we can only imagine within our own hearts.

“Let it be done unto me according to your will.” Let each of us try to be able to echo her words, at least for a few moments. Try it now . . .

“Let it be done unto me according to your will.”

John Foley, SJ
Saint Louis University