

MARCH BREAK HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE: Join us for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, from March 11-20, 2016. Co-ordinated by Kitty McGilly and with spiritual leader Fr. Joseph de Viveiros, CR, we will visit Nazareth, Galilee, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Cost is approximately \$3,350 which includes airfare, accommodations, daily breakfast and dinner, and full biblical, sacramental and music program. Although this pilgrimage is somewhat geared towards Catholic educators, all are welcome. Deposit is required. For more information please contact Kitty at Connaissance Travel: kmcgilly@rogers.com.

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, for the next St. Jerome's University 150th Anniversary Lecture, "Conflicted? The World of War." Dr. Samantha Nutt, a medical doctor and found of War Child Canada, will take a compelling look at the impact of war — the truth, the lies, and the reality on the ground, based on her fifteen years of experience at the frontline of many major crises, from Iraq to Afghanistan, Somalia to the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Sierra Leone to Darfur, Sudan. C. L. Siegfried Hall, St. Jerome's University at 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:45p.m.). Free of charge, wheelchair accessible, refreshments, no registration required.

KW RIGHT TO LIFE CANDLE-LIGHT PRAYER VIGIL: January 28 at 6:00 p.m. in front of Kitchener City Hall (skating rink). Walk a short distance to St. Mary's Our Lady of Sorrows Church (Duke St.) at 7:00 p.m. for refreshments in the Lower Hall. Speaker Tim Runstedler, KW Right to Life board member, will speak about euthanasia and the new proposed law for Canada and its implications. All are welcome.

28 YEARS WITHOUT A LAW - On January 28, 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down all legal abortion restrictions leaving more victims than just the unborn. Perpetual adoration for 24 hours January 28 at St. Teresa Parish Chapel, 44 Leonard St., Kitchener, beginning Thursday, January 28 at 9:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Friday, January 29.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trek conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John's Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life-giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since "today there is a blessing on the water." At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



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 January 10 to 16, 2016

Monday	8:30 a.m.	Ante Granic Peter & Angela Granic
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	George & Mary Stec – George & Margaret Stec
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Nela Dollard – Joan & Jack Cassidy
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	John Mahn – Cathie & Doug Streeter
Friday	8:30 a.m.	Toddy Theresa Meyer – Marg & Mike Girodat
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Alex Rodrigues; Agnes & Sydney Horton

Offertory collection for Sunday, January 3, 2016: \$8,193.00

Christmas collection: \$37,925.25

UPDATE ON PAYMENTS FOR PIPE ORGAN

This Christmas provided an opportunity to use our pipe organ to reflect the joys of the season. Here is an update of the status of our loan from the diocese. Any donations received through the blue Pipe Organ Fund envelopes or other donations designated as being for the pipe organ go directly toward the loan from the diocese. This past year we also received a bequest which also went toward our loan repayment. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to this fund.

Loan as of January 1, 2015:	\$329,703
Less:	
Contributions through the Pipe Organ Fund envelopes:	\$23,837
Contributions from original pledges:	5,550
Bequests, special & memorial donations, regular offerings:.....	<u>150,316</u>
Total payments towards loan in 2015.....	<u>-179,703</u>
Loan as of December 31, 2015:	\$150,000



SOME YEAR END HOUSEKEEPING. . .

- **ENVELOPE #400:** The person who used envelope #400 during 2015 is asked to please contact the parish office to confirm contact information.
- **A PYX** is a small, round, metal receptacle used to carry the Eucharist. These are often given to family members to take Communion to their loved ones who are unable to come to church. If you have one at home that you are no longer using, please drop it by the parish office.

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 2015 may pick up their angel or cross after any weekend Mass beginning January 16/17 in the work sacristy behind Our Lady of Lourdes' altar

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY would like to thanks the teachers, parents and students of Our Lady of Lourdes School for their collection and donation of hats, mitts, gloves and socks. These items are being distributed to the less fortunate in our area who are in need of these essentials over the winter.

VOCATION SEEDS: As John the Baptist introduced the people of his time to Jesus a voice from heaven said, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." If you feel God's call to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit www.HamiltonVocations.com.

Living Stewardship Now

"Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given."

*Saint Francis of Assisi (1181-1226)
Religious founder, mystic*

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

Bob FritzJanuary 3, 2016

ENGAGED COUPLE BLESSING: On Sunday, February 7 at the 11:00 a.m. Mass we will be offering a blessing to all couples who are engaged to be married in our parish or elsewhere. Please join us. The celebration of your engagement is a wonderful opportunity to seek the support and prayers of the community of faith and to be a public sign of your commitment to one another. If you are planning a wedding within the next two years, it is not too early to start preparing. We offer personalized preparation featuring "couple to couple" sessions facilitated by Fr. Ted and married couples from our own parish. This is available to all couples even if you haven't decided where your wedding will take place. The focus is on marriage and the relationship rather than on wedding planning. As the saying goes: "A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime". Please contact us if you would like more information.



YOUTH GROUP: Happy New Year! Thank you to all who came out for our Christmas celebration and nighttime Christmas carol walk. Our next youth meeting for youth in grades 5-8 will be on Friday, January 22 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the church hall. We will be deciding on a youth group name and mission statement, and sharing ideas for future meetings. RSVP to tscott1201@rogers.com if you plan to attend. Thanks!

GET MOVING! The link between physical activity and better health – physical, mental and spiritual – is scientifically proven. Understanding the connection can help you get moving and keep moving. The new Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines explain the amount and types of physical activity needed to experience significant, positive changes to our health. To access these guidelines go to <http://www.participaction.com/get-started/physical-activity-guidelines/>.

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Fittingly, this *Jubilee Year of Mercy* is also the Lectionary's Year of Luke, for Luke's Gospel highlights God's mercy in finding the lost, healing the sick, restoring the broken, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving the sinner through Jesus' ministry. But before *doing*, Luke's Jesus is always *praying*. As practical moderns programmed to measure worth by productivity, we instinctively appreciate the Jubilee's call to embrace the practical challenges of our baptism. But today Luke focuses not on Jesus being baptized, but on Jesus praying after baptism. So must we pray to become the disciples we are called to be, that the Spirit empower us to do what disciples are called to do. Imitating Jesus' openness to the Spirit will enable us to cooperate with the grace that transforms us into "beloved sons [and daughters] . . . in whom the Father is well pleased," living out, in this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, the extraordinary potential of our baptism.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.