

**PORNOGRAPHY ADDICTION AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS...IT'S TIME TO TALK:**

Pornography is impacting children and teens at rates never before seen. By the age of 18, 90% of young people have viewed pornography on the internet, far too many are watching these violent and degrading images regularly; many are becoming addicted. Come and learn more about the issue, its impact on our children and how you can protect your children, grandchildren, students and all children. "Over 18" is a documentary that looks factually at the issue. To find parishes and dates where you can see this informative piece, go to [www.hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/pornography-help](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/pornography-help). For more information contact Teresa Hartnett (Director of Family Ministry) at 905-528-7988 ext. 2250.

**KW RIGHT TO LIFE:** January 28, 1988 was the year Canada's abortion law was struck down, leaving no protection for the preborn child up until delivery. There will be a candlelight prayer vigil in front of Kitchener City Hall (skating rink) from 6-7 p.m. on Sunday, January 28. Call KW Right to Life 519.746.5433 for more information.

**JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 7:30 P.M.** for the next Lecture in Catholic Experience hosted by St. Jerome's University, entitled "Communicating the Church in the Age of Francis." Austen Ivereigh, writer, journalist, and commentator on Catholic and political affairs, will talk about how Pope Francis' radical recontextualization of the Catholic message has left journalists and commentators grappling with vast new challenges. Vanstone Lecture Hall, Academic Centre, St. Jerome's University. Doors open at 6:45p.m. This lecture is available on a complimentary basis. Please register at [www.sju.ca/lce](http://www.sju.ca/lce).

**STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE?** Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness. Others experience conflict in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille can help. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend March 16, 2018, please call 905-664-5212, email: [hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca), or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

**HEALING AFTER ABORTION... IT IS POSSIBLE!** Caring hearts are available to help you deal with the difficult feelings that often come after an abortion. Project Rachel offers a confidential service allowing people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850 and let us help you through the healing process.

**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..." (Saint 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: Tuesday, January 30, 7-8:15 p.m. at St. Teresa Church, 44 Leonard St. Kitchener, and Saturday, February 3, 11 a.m.-12 noon at St. Mary Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, 56 Duke St. W., Kitchener. Call KW Right to Life at 519-746-5433 for more information.

**DINNER DANCE & GAMES PARTY:** Saturday, February 3 at St. Louis gym and large hall (53 Allen St. E., Waterloo – enter from Willow St. parking lot). Potluck dinner at 6 p.m. (bring your plates and cutlery). Live music for Ceili dancing from 7-10 p.m. by Relative Harmony with guest fiddler, Shane Cook, Canadian & US National Fiddle Champion. Admission: Free will donation. Games in the large hall, door prizes and more. Ceili (say "Kaylee") dancing is for all ages. The "caller" teaches the simple dance steps just before each dance. Great fun for everyone!



*Our Lady of Lourdes Church*  
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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 January 15 to 21, 2018**

- Monday..... 8:30 a.m.....Bob Jadeski – Grant & Janet Ertel
- Tuesday ..... 7:00 p.m.....Fred Masters Sr. – Wadel Family
- Wednesday ..... 8:30 a.m.....Georgina Verbeem – Jean, John, Becky, Michael & Heather Jarvis
- Thursday ..... 7:00 p.m.....Living & deceased members of Virag Family – Rosemary Virag
- Friday ..... 8:30 a.m.....Margaret Rose Walsh – Kathleen & William Henderson
- Saturday..... 7:00 p.m.....Bill Ross – Pauline Ross
- Sunday ..... 9:00 a.m.....Living & deceased members of our parish  
11:00 a.m.....Special intention

**Offertory collection for Sunday, January 7, 2018: \$4,103.00**

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

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY:** Evangelization – religious minorities in Asia. That Christians, and other religious minorities in Asian countries, may be able to practise their faith in full freedom.

**COME JOIN US TO FIND THE “KEYS TO LOVING RELATIONSHIPS”:** “Keys” is a nine-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 23, 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.

**REEL JUSTICE – A JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL:** The Church teaches that social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church’s mission. There are so many issues of injustice all over our world, it is hard to know where to begin. Start by joining us for a movie and discussion evening at a parish near you! January screening: *Romero* at St. Michael Parish, 240 Hemlock St., Waterloo on January 26, 7:00- 9:00 p.m.

**MEDICALLY ASSISTED SUICIDE AND EUTHANASIA IN CANADA:** Where are we now? Where are we going? February 11, 2-4 p.m. at St. Michael Church 240 Hemlock St., Waterloo. Ever wonder what is happening in Canada with respect to medical assistance in dying (MAID) and euthanasia in Canada from a faith-based Christian perspective? And what does the medical community have to say about this newly adopted practice? How are we to respond and talk about medically assisted suicide and euthanasia since it has become legal in Canada just over a year ago? Find out the facts. This interactive workshop (lots of time for your questions and comments) will present the current laws and medical practices, as well as future proposed developments, so that we are able to understand better the issues at stake from a Christian faith-based perspective. Presenters: Father David B. Perrin, Ph.D. a Professor at St. Jerome’s University, Waterloo, who teaches courses in Christian ethics and spirituality, and Dr. Donna Ward, M.D., a physician with an expertise in palliative care and end-of-life medical issues.

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**IF YOU ARE NOT CURRENTLY USING OFFERTORY ENVELOPES** but would like to begin, or would like information about the **PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING** program, then please complete the following form and place it in the collection basket next weekend.

**I would like offering envelopes:**  **I would like information on pre-authorized giving:**

	_____		_____	
	First Name		Surname	
Address	_____		_____	
	Apt. No	No. & Street	Postal Code	
Phone No.	_____		_____	
	Email			

*Thank you to cook/housekeeper Ada Harris who has resigned her position here at Lourdes. I am very appreciative of her hard work and dedication, especially during Fr. Ted’s illness, and I sincerely wish her all the best in the future.*

*Fr. Rafal*

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH:** Love flourishes when we understand the three critical components of every relationship: firm commitment, excellent communication skills and disciplined conflict resolution styles. Love demands that we model these three skills for our spouse and includes a healthy dose of forgiveness when either one of us doesn’t manage a situation quite right. When we work on building these skills together, our love can’t help to grow strong.

**Who's Calling**

In the First Reading this weekend (1 Samuel 3.3b-10, 19), Samuel, who was still young, was awakened by hearing his name called in the night. He thought that the person calling him was Eli, the old priest whom Samuel served. But Samuel was wrong in thinking this. It was the Lord calling. It took three times of God calling before the experienced old priest Eli tumbled to the fact that it was God who was calling Samuel. It took four times of God calling before Samuel finally answered by saying, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

Who would believe this story? Wouldn’t you suppose that if God called you, you would know something very special had happened? Who would believe that God could call you and you wouldn’t recognize that you were having a wild, spooky, religious experience? Who would believe that you could get the voice of God confused with the voice of the old guy in the neighboring room?

The answer is ‘Eli.’ That is, in the story, it is the wise old priest who believes these things. It is Eli who understands that you can be in direct contact with God and still not know that it is God who is talking to you.

But if God’s voice can be confused with some ordinary voice, how does Eli know, how does Samuel know, how does anyone know that it is God calling?

The answer is that you can’t know until you are willing to listen. God doesn’t force monologues on the unwilling. He invites to conversation. When Samuel is ready to tell God that he is willing to listen, then the real connection between God and Samuel begins.

The connection that starts with that willingness of Samuel grows into a friendship that is rightly described this way: the Lord was with Samuel. At that point, no one at all could miss the fact that it was God who had called Samuel.

And so here is one moral of the story. The voice of God can be anywhere, in any guise. It isn’t thunder and lightning or extraordinary psychic happenings that connect a person to God. Rather, it is the willingness to listen, to trust and obey, that makes the Lord known.

Eleonore Stump  
The Sunday Website, Saint Louis University