

GOSPEL OF LUKE STUDY SERIES – a 7-part workshop series for young adults and adults. The first session on “The Presence of Joy in the Gospel of Luke” will be facilitated by Dr. Josephine Lombardi and will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish, Brantford. To register for these sessions or for more information, contact Monica Verin at mverin@hamiltondiocese.com or 905-528-7988, ext. 2238.

DO YOU ENJOY MUSIC? DO YOU WANT TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN NEED? Come to an afternoon of music, a benefit concert for Syrian refugee support. Bruce Skelton on violin, Ben Bolt-Martin on cello and Joanne Bender on piano. Sunday January 31, 3:00 p.m., Erb Street Mennonite Church (131 Erb St. W., Waterloo). All are welcome. Donations at the door. For more information, office@erbstchurch.ca or 519-886-3570.

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM: KW Couples for Christ invite everyone, married or single, to come to our Christian Life Program on Thursdays from 7 to 9:30 p.m. starting on February 4 at St. Anne’s Church (268 East Ave., Kitchener). This 8-week program will help you grow in your relationship with our Lord. Come live a fuller life in the Holy Spirit through inspiring talks, discussion, fellowship and song. A separate children’s program is offered at the same time. There is no cost, and refreshments will be provided. Please contact Scott Piggott/Rita Rudolph at 519 581 1389 with any questions.

ST. TERESA ANNUAL TWILIGHT RETREAT: Tuesday, January 26. Retreat Master will be Father Toby Collins, Vocation Director for the Congregation of the Resurrection. Cost of the tickets is \$15 for the meal. If you would like to purchase tickets, please contact Jane at 519-744-8330.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Although our tradition carries a long memory of marriage as a sacrament, it may surprise you to learn that for nearly eleven centuries, there was no single wedding ceremony approved for use in the Church. While we have evidence of priests blessing marriages as early as the second century, in the early period church leaders relied on civil authorities to manage marriage for everyone in society. In most cases, society yielded its authority to sanction marriage to the male heads of households.

From ancient times, marriage had been a family affair, managed by the father of the family, who acted as priest and guardian of family tradition. Each head wanted to keep the family gods alive, and so he would arrange for brides for his sons, paying a “bride price” as compensation for the loss of a skilled household worker. As creepy as that sounds, it was a step up from the kidnapping practice of earlier years. Even after the kidnapping raids stopped, the customs remained. Every wedding contained the ritualized kidnapping of the bride, the husband abducting his bride from the festivities, carrying her over the threshold to prevent her father’s gods from following her into her new religion. There, he fed her a piece of “sacred cake,” initiating her into a new way of life. It’s fascinating to see how customs endure, long after we have completely rejected the values and attitudes they originally expressed!

—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 17 to 23, 2016

Monday	8:30 a.m.	Mary Clifford – Bob & Mary McCargar
Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Greg McNally – Bob & Louise Ervin
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.	Fr. Bob Liddy CR – Jean & John Jarvis & Family
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Doris Groce – Sheldon Groce
Friday	8:30 a.m.	Frank Ciccarelli – Frank & Charmaine Volpini & Family
Saturday	7:00 p.m.	Dolores Doherty; Jerry Kurtz

Offertory collection for Sunday, January 10, 2016: \$6,663.00

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

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.

THE SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY would like to thank 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.

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!

Jubilee Year of Mercy

Mary, whom Catholic tradition names “Mother of Mercy,” at Cana intercedes with her Son to show mercy toward the bridal couple: “Son, they have no wine.” But he does more! Jesus’ transformation of water into wine is a “sign” (John’s term for “miracle”) that God’s marriage with the whole human race has begun in Jesus’ person and ministry, a marriage that will be consummated on the cross: “It is finished”—we are saved! But before Jesus acts, Mary instructs the servers to *prepare the way* for Jesus’ miracle of mercy: “Do whatever he tells you.” During this *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Mother Church, like Mother Mary, instructs us to share the Spirit’s manifold gifts—some of which Paul lists in today’s second reading—in generous service to the human family. Thus we *prepare the way* for Jesus’ new miracles of mercy, transforming life’s sometimes stagnant water into the refreshing wine of God’s mercy.

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

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

Flavio DaSilva.....January 9, 2016

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL IS HOLDING KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION on Monday, February 8 during the hours of 9:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:30-6:45 p.m. The following are required for registration: child’s Roman Catholic baptismal certificate or one parent’s RC baptismal certificate; proof of home address (utility bill, property tax assessment, tenant lease, etc.); child’s health immunization record; child’s proof of age and legal name (please provide one of the following documents: birth certificate, certified birth registration, adoption papers, certificate of Indian status, or passport). If you require additional information, please call the school at 519-886-4810.

VOCATION SEEDS: Pray to know how God wants to use your talents and abilities. Could it be he is calling you to consider priesthood or religious life? If you feel God’s call to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit www.HamiltonVocations.com.

BREAK-A-HIP DAYS: When winter weather conditions are bad, you should consider not coming out to daily Mass. Fewer cars on the roads will help increase the safety of all. It is sometimes hard to keep up with the falling snow to ensure that sidewalks are clear. **Note: When school buses are cancelled, weekday Mass will also be cancelled.**

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: Our local Share Lent workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00 p.m. at St. John’s Church Hall, 85 Strange St., Kitchener. All people interested in the work of Development and Peace are encouraged to attend.



CLOSING OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE AND OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

What better way to close the Year of Consecrated Life than with a video presentation by our very own Carmelite Sisters as to “why they dedicated their lives to Christ”. Come and hear their stories.

To better understand “The Mercy of God” we will have a short movie on Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska (approximately 35 minutes). It is the story of Saint Faustina, a young nun whose compassion and dedication sparked a great movement – Divine Mercy – that touched all generations. The film reflects an act of faith in God’s mercy for humanity. This will be followed by recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Beautiful pamphlets and prayer cards will be shared with each person in attendance.

We hope you will save the date and join us in hearing the stories of these dedicated women.