

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.

SEMINAR OF HOPE – HOW TO PRAY FOR YOUR SONS, DAUGHTERS & LOVED ONES:

As parents do you suffer because of the spiritual condition of your children? Have your loved ones stopped practicing the faith? Do they no longer believe in God? Then this free live seminar by Vernon Robertson, as seen on EWTN, is for you. Friday, January 20, 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, January 21, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Anthony Daniel Church, 29 Midland Dr., Kitchener. Bring a bag lunch for Saturday. Freewill offering will be taken. For more information or to register contact Pat or Rita at paddy@golden.net or 519-748-5548. View promo video at www.seminarofhope.org.

JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, when Priscilla Solomon, an Ojibway of the Anishinabek Nation and a Sister of St. Joseph, will reflect on the TRC (Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada) calls to transformation and reconciliation. Drawing on years of work in the Faith and Justice Office of her congregation, especially its recent focus on indigenous rights, healing, and reconciliation between indigenous peoples and settler peoples, Sister Solomon will consider what is required for us to create a new reality of integration in our country. Vanstone Lecture Theatre, Academic Centre (SJ2 1004), St. Jerome's University. 7:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.) Free of charge, free parking, wheelchair accessible, refreshments served.

EUTHANASIA & ASSISTED DYING – DR. MOIRA MCQUEEN PRESENTATION: Dr. Moira McQueen of the Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute will offer a presentation and Q&A on the need for conscience rights protection for physicians, healthcare workers and Catholic institutions in light of the legalization of assisted dying and euthanasia. Join us at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday, January 29 at 12 Noon (following the 11:00 a.m. Mass) for this presentation in McNally Hall. A light lunch will be provided.

THE LIGHT OF FAITH

The first reading today is charged with the glory of the Lord. Everyone who can come to the holy city does come – whole caravans of people of all ages on foot and on dromedaries and camels.

This description of an irresistible light-filled city prepares us for the story of the magi. They are guided by their own lights – their study of astronomy and astrology – and by the light of a peculiar star. Their study tells them that an unusual event in the heavens is a sign of an extraordinary birth on earth. They mean to find out about this, and they set out with gifts worthy of a king. They are welcomed into an insignificant house in Bethlehem, offer gifts befitting king, and receive the gift of faith.

Paul reinforces the great gift of faith available to the Gentiles, whom the magi represent. What they have seen has changed them, just as it changed Paul and all who heeded his proclamation. Like the magi and like Paul, we are invited to receive this life that is filled with the light of faith. Copyright J.S.Paluck Co.



Our Lady of Lourdes Church
 173 Lourdes Street
 Waterloo, Ontario N2L 1N5
 519-886-0342 519-886-0349 (fax)
 lourdeswaterloo@rogers.com
 www.ourladyoflourdeswaterloo.com

- 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 8 to 14, 2017

- Monday..... 8:30 a.m.In Thanksgiving – Nevelle & Naomi de’Rozario
- Tuesday **Luther Village**..... 10:00 a.m.Marcel & Pauline Crépeau – Paul Dion & Michele Daviau
 7:00 p.m.George & Mary Stec – George & Margaret Stec
- Wednesday 8:30 a.m.Souls in Purgatory – Clara Hodgett
- Thursday 7:00 p.m.Special intention of Jim Evans – Carmel Evans Martin
 & family
- Friday 8:30 a.m.Olga Knight – Marie Tancredi
- Saturday..... 7:00 p.m.Jeannette Achi; Colm Corrigan

Offertory collection for Sunday, January 1, 2017: \$4,299.00

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



PLEASE SAVE YOUR MILK BAGS!

The families of Our Lady of Lourdes School request the assistance of the parish to participate in Project Milk Bag. For the next 2 months, we ask for you to help in the collection of the colourful outer milk bags. They should be clean and flattened. They can be dropped off in the vestibule of the church in the box provided. The bags will be cut into strips, tied together, and then woven into mats for less fortunate

individuals all over the world. It takes 400 milk bags to make an adult-sized mat. Not only is this a fantastic recycling initiative (the “lowly” milk bag takes 15 years to breakdown in landfill sites), but the bags become a useful resource when repurposed for people in need. These durable mats are utilized as a simple bed that is appreciated as alternative to sitting or sleeping on hard and often damp ground.

The plastic is a deterrent for insects and spiders and the mats can be repeatedly washed, even in a river, and hung to dry for many years. Later this winter, the parents and students will have an opportunity to lend a hand to assemble the mats. In this manner we can celebrate how blessed we are, in a safe country, in health and happiness, and keep in our minds and hearts those who have so little.



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.

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

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.

COFFEE WEEKEND – JANUARY 14/15



The 65th Anniversary Steering Committee invites you to the first coffee weekend of 2017. This will be an excellent opportunity to enjoy some refreshments while meeting the parishioners you see in the pews each week. We hope to see you there!



Christmas 2016

Reflections at Christmas remind us that blessings are given both to those who give and those who receive. May each of us continue to be grateful and open to the many graces brought into our parish and our lives during this past holy season through what we have given and what we have received. With sincere and prayerful thanks to . . .

Liturgical Ministers: ministers of the Word; extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist; altar servers; ushers; the music ministry including those who sang in the Christmas Eve family choirs;

Liturgical Decorating Crew: the official “Tree-of-Life Workers” and the family that donated the tree; the work crew who helped prepare the church inside and out; those who will take the Christmas decorations down (January 8); the people involved in preparing the beautiful nativity scene; those who handcrafted the angels and crosses;

Christmas “Living Scripture” (5:00 p.m.): the children who participated in the Christmas dramatization, our parish youth catechist and the volunteers who assisted; those who worked behind the scenes both before and after the pageant;

Outreach: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul and all who supported their work through donations, (the 2 toonies and a loonie collection - \$6,843); the Waterloo Knights of Columbus who provided toys for children in need; the support (\$14,327) for the Notre Dame Children Outreach in Kenya through “The Bowing Angel”; the bakers who provided the delicious cookies for our shut-ins and individuals at nearby assisted-living residence, those who prepared the tins for delivery, and the ambassadors of good will who delivered the cookies; those who delivered white poinsettias to the bereaved;

Additional Contributions: those who donated floral tributes in memory of loved ones; the parish staff; the custodians; the parishioners for your many gestures of kindness including all those special treats brought for the parish and its staff.

Regular Ongoing Parish Financial Support: all who sustain the parish and its ministries through regular donations, bequests, and special collections.

I am very grateful to all of you, the people of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Your spirit of faith, your sharing of “time, treasure and talent”, your goodwill, and the joy that your presence brought to our Christmas liturgies, made Christmas at Lourdes very special indeed. May the blessings of all gifts, both given and received, affirm the deep faith and goodness of our parish community as it reflects Christ's shared presence in our midst and in our world.

Peace and blessings,

Fr. Ted

