

NEW TO WATERLOO! KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO THURSDAY NIGHTS: Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Bingo starts at 7:00 p.m. 145 Dearborn Pl., Waterloo, Cash prizes, food and fun. AND K of C Fish Fry, Friday Nights at Columbus Conference Centre, 145 Dearborn Pl., Waterloo. For reservations call 519-884-2060.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH: Observing Lent as a couple is an excellent way to deepen both your spiritual and marital bond. Talk about each of your Lenten resolutions and then assist each other to achieve them. Challenge each other to keep to your resolve, pray for each other on your 40 day journey, and take up activities as a couple that will deepen your faith. Take the three Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving into your relationship and journey the path together. Consider 40 acts of kindness toward each other for the 40 days of Lent. When you focus on achieving goals together, it strengthens your relationship bond as a couple and with God – a win-win Lenten season. (Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

SEEING THROUGH

Today's readings invite us to look more deeply, to catch a glimpse of Divine Reality hidden within the “stuff” of life. God challenged the elderly Abram and his wife to leave home for a land that God would show them. Their eyes would see the land, but only God could “show” it as a divine gift. Paul reminded Timothy that God’s grace had always been available, but in Jesus Christ was made “manifest.”

Jesus called Peter, James, and John up the mountain and was “transfigured” for a moment, the radiance of God shining through. Then, just as abruptly, the three looked up . . . and saw only Jesus.

During Lent we’re invited to “see through” to God’s presence in the stuff of life: prowling the supermarket, waiting in traffic, arguing with the kids, cleaning the bathtub. We wouldn’t really have to “do” anything, if we could only glimpse divine love supporting us, holding us together. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GOD’S WORD TODAY

It’s never too late. Notice Abram’s age in today’s first reading. He was seventy-five years old when the Lord told him to leave all the comforts of home and homeland and travel to an unknown land. Abram and Sarai’s positive response to the Lord’s request is astounding to us today. After all, isn’t retirement the time when we finally become settled in surroundings that allow us to enjoy life comfortably? With God, everything we come to expect as “usual” and “normal” is simply turned upside down. It’s never too late to become a victim of one of God’s great surprises, surprises that have the potential to change life very drastically. The second reading and Gospel cue us to the kinds of changes we can expect when we follow Christ. The final sentence of the second reading brings it all together: Christ Jesus destroyed death and brought life and immortality through the Gospel. This is sometimes difficult to grasp, especially for those who experience the life-robbing power of the death of a loved one. Yet it is in the promise of transfiguration and resurrection that we face the deaths of those we love. It is never too late to pray that God will instill in us deeper faith so that we might more fully grasp the promise of eternal life.

From *Saint Margaret Sunday Missal*, copyright © J. S. Paluch Company



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 March 12 to 18, 2017	
Monday.....	8:30 a.m.Susan Boulay & Pauline Boulay – Edward & Evelyn Prostebby
Tuesday Luther Village	10:00 a.m.Marcel & Pauline Crépeau – Paul Dion & Michele Daviau
	7:00 p.m.Anthony Franzone – Laurine LaPierre
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.Doris Groce – Groce Family
Thursday	7:00 p.m.Special intention of Harriet Reitzel – Burns Family
Friday	8:30 a.m.Brian Bleskie – Frances & Ed Bleskie
	7:00 p.m.Stations of the Cross
Saturday.....	7:00 p.m.Agnes Hindicki; Pauline Barber

Offertory collection for Sunday, March 5, 2017: \$4,972.00

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



PLANNING FOR HOLY WEEK: On Good Friday at 11:00 a.m. we will have a liturgy that is geared more towards families with children. In this spirit, we are looking for families to participate in the liturgy: carrying the large cross into the church, reading the voices of the passion

with Deacon Phong, and reading the petitions. If your family would like to participate, please contact the office (519-886-0342) or Paula at lourdscatechist@rogers.com.

COME AND SEE RETREAT: Men interested in the vocation to the priesthood are invited to the Come and See retreat at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto on the weekend of March 17-19. This is a unique opportunity to spend time with those studying for the priesthood, hear their stories, and pray for your vocation. A second Come and See Retreat will be held at St. Peter's Seminary in London on the weekend of March 24-27. More details at www.HamiltonVocations.com.

THE DIOCESAN CHOIR IS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS: The ability to read music and previous choral experience is an asset. The choir rehearses weekly on Monday evenings in Hamilton in preparation for major liturgies at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King. If you are interested in singing in this choir, contact Sharon Fazari at sfazari@hamiltondiocese.com.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: On Sunday, June 25, Bishop Douglas Crosby will celebrate the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 p.m. The Mass is for couples married 25, 40, 50, 60 or 60 plus years in the year 2017. (Space allows room for anniversary couples only – those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest if assistance is required). To register for the celebration, please refer to the poster at the side entrance of the church, or go to www.hamiltondiocese.com.

STRESS IN YOUR MARRIAGE? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on March 24, please call 905-664-5212, email hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca, or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

TWILIGHT RETREAT: St. Teresa, Kitchener (44 Leonard St.) Catholic Women's League Annual Twilight Retreat will be held on Tuesday, March 28. Our speaker will be Father Brian Quigley MCCJ at 5:15 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. (ticket is required for dinner). Memorial Mass for CWL members and families starting at 8:00 p.m. Cost will be \$15.00 per person. Tickets can be purchased by calling Mary Helen at 519-570-4375.

VOCATION SEEDS: Peter, James and John had a mountaintop experience with Jesus by witnessing his transfiguration. We too can have a mountaintop experience when we open our minds and hearts to following God's will for our life. If God is calling you to serve him as a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Michael King, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, mking@hamiltondiocese.com or visit www.hamiltonvocations.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY MASS – CANADIAN CATHOLIC ORGANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE: This year Development and Peace celebrates 50 years of working to overcome the root causes of poverty and injustice. In 1968 we supported projects in 32 countries. Today, thanks to your generous donations, we support 173 partners and 194 projects in 46 countries around the world. To help us celebrate our 50th anniversary, we invite you to attend our anniversary Mass on March 25 at 5:00 p.m. celebrated by Bishop Miehm at St. Joseph's Parish in Hamilton (260 Herkimer St. at Locke St.). Join us after Mass for refreshments. On display is our Solidarity Quilt made up of squares that reflect each Diocese in Canada. Come and see these beautiful quilt blocks as we join the Diocese of Hamilton's block to the rest! More information is available on the anniversary from the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace at our website: devp.org.

ARE YOU SEPARATED OR DIVORCED? LET US HELP! LEVEL 1 (Learning to Cope), LEVEL 2 (Accepting the Situation) and LEVEL 3 (Enhancing Self Esteem) are self-help programs intended to help separated and divorced persons move forward from their divorce healthier and stronger. Topics are meant to offer hope and personal growth and include the process of divorce, self-image, stress, anger, guilt, loneliness, forgiveness, trust, singleness and children. Course fee: \$35 (Level 1), \$45 (Level 2) and \$40 (Level 3). Level 1 & 2 & 3 will be held Tuesday evenings for 11 weeks, starting March 28, from 7-9 p.m. Level 1 & 2 will be held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener). Level 3 will be held at St. Mark's Parish (55 Driftwood Dr., Kitchener). Contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249 or online at <http://hamiltondiocese.com/offices/family-ministry/divorce-separation.php>.



LENTILS FOR LENT! This year we will be collecting lentils and other dried beans (not canned) for Canadian Food for Children throughout the season of Lent. These are staple foods in many countries and are very nutritious. Please bring your items to the church in a reusable cloth bag. Your donations can be placed by the baptismal font up to and including Palm Sunday (April 9). **LET'S FILL THE TRUCK!**

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH: Lent is the perfect time to focus on our faith journey. Help your children look beyond giving something up, to the deeper meaning of Lent. Remind them that Lent is about looking forward to Christ's Resurrection, which opens us to the joy of eternity. During Lent help your children reflect on what Christ's coming meant for us – he taught us how to live good and holy lives; he showed us what it means to be faithful to a promise; he gave us the gift of salvation and the hope of eternity; he reminded us that God has a plan for each of us. Pray together, attend the Stations of the Cross; read the bible, commit to fasting as a family (perhaps from arguing with siblings, or speaking back to parents), give alms as a family unit. When you take your task of helping your children understand Lent and its purpose to heart, everyone benefits! (Diocesan Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)

THE CARMEL OF ST. JOSEPH GUILD invites everyone to attend the Mini-Retreat & Grocery Shower (no meat) to be held Saturday, March 25, from 10.30 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. at the monastery in St. Agatha. Mass will be celebrated, preceded by the Rosary. The retreat master will be Fr. Ron Voisin.

