

ST. AGATHA CWL ST. PATRICK'S DAY CARD PARTY: Door prizes, draws and a delicious beef stew luncheon. Admission \$10/person includes stew, beverage and dessert. St. Agatha RC Church Hall on Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m. Quilt draw and raffle draws during luncheon at 4:30 p.m.

COME JOIN US TO FIND THE "KEYS TO LOVING RELATIONSHIPS": "Keys" is a ten-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 7:00-9:30 p.m. starting March 22 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.



DO YOU HAVE ANY EYEGLASSES that you are no longer using? The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is collecting used glasses. These will be refurbished by Newfoundland Provincial Corrections and taken to Haiti for distribution by a Canadian Medical Team. Glasses can be placed in the SSVF box in the church vestibule.

ARE YOU SEPARATED OR DIVORCED? LET US HELP . . . Level 1 (Learning to Cope) and Level 2 (Accepting the Situation) are self-help programs intended to help separated and divorced persons gain a perspective on their divorce. 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) and \$45 (Level 2). Both Level 1 & 2 will be held Tuesday evenings for 11 weeks starting March 22 from 7-9 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Parish (49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener). Contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, or St. Francis Parish at 519-745-7301 to register.



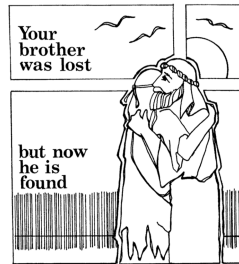
PAPER BIN: You may have noticed that the yellow and green paper recycling bin is no longer available for parishioner use. It was a school board decision to remove the bin from the school-owned parking lot.

A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING

Today's Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. We can identify with all the major figures and their crisscross of emotions. The father's initial grief over his young son's avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son's grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father.

We understand the eldest son's bewilderment over his father's generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father, however, is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found.

This is a Sunday for rejoicing. It's time to pause, consider, and encourage one another. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father, who scans the horizon. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation. In this we rejoice. 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 March 6 to 12, 2016

Monday.....	8:30 a.m.....	Bob Fritz – Frieda Cole
Tuesday	Luther Village	10:00 a.m..... Josef Wallitschek – Rosemarie Craven
	7:00 p.m.	Mary Clifford – Don & Pat Oberholzer
Wednesday	8:30 a.m.....	Albin Perko – Olga Perko
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	James Bryan Melanson – Madeline Caesar
Friday	8:30 a.m.....	Fernando D'Amico & George Mateyk – Mike & Maria Mateyk
	7:00 p.m.	Stations of the Cross
Saturday.....	7:00 p.m.	Bernard Pothier; Jerry Kurtz

Offertory collection for Sunday, February 28, 2016: \$5,246.20

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

Monthly Budget Review as of February 29, 2016

Cumulative financial objective – 9 Weeks @ \$7,500		\$67,500.00
Weekly contributions (year to date).....	54,621.25	
Pre-authorized giving (year to date).....	<u>18,990.98</u>	<u>73,612.23</u>
Over (under) objective		6,112.23

Living Stewardship Now

If you know someone who is elderly, frail, and isolated, find ways to be a presence and support. Drop a greeting card in the mail. Make a "How are you?" phone call. Go by with some homemade goodies. Offer to run errands, or drive to doctor visits or church. Take the family over and do yard work or other chores.

BAPTISM: During the month of February, the following children became members of God's family in the sacrament of baptism:

Mason Stanley MacDonald Mason Douglas McKelvey Ethan James Turcotte

WATERLOO DEANERY LENTEN SERIES: Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Kitchener, are offering a Lenten series. *Come and be drawn deeper into the abundance of God's mercy!* Each talk at St. Francis Parish begins with Mass at 1:00 p.m. and concludes at 3:30 p.m. The talk is repeated the same day here at Lourdes beginning with Mass at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 9:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Thursday, March 10 "Mercy in Theology" Speaker: Rev. Gordon Rixon, SJ
Regis College Faculty

LENTEN PENITENTIAL CELEBRATIONS – CITY OF WATERLOO

- Monday, March 7, 7:30 p.m. St. Louis Church
- Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. St. Michael Church
- Wednesday, March 9, 7:00 p.m. Our Lady of Lourdes Church
- Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m. St. Agnes Church

During this Year of Mercy you are encouraged to participate in one of the above penitential celebrations. There will be a number of priests available each evening for Confession. Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to Easter helps us to fully appreciate and experience the wondrous depth of the mystery we celebrate during Holy Week.



REMINDER: This year we are collecting SUGAR and RICE for Canadian Food for Children throughout the season of Lent. 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 (March 20).



Attention Students in Grades 1-3!

You are warmly invited to four Tuesday evenings to consider the events surrounding the death and Resurrection of Jesus, our Good Shepherd. We will listen to scripture, reflect and pray. This Paschal Mystery retreat will take place in the parish office from 6:30-8 p.m. on March 8 and 22 (Lent), March 29 and April 5 (Easter). The retreat will use the method of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, an approach to faith formation begun in Rome more than 60 years ago, that seeks to answer the child's silent request: "Help me come closer to God by myself." To inquire further or to register for the 4 evenings, please contact Paula (lourdescatechist@rogers.com).



VOCATION SEEDS: Like the forgiving father of Luke's Gospel, God welcomes us home in spite of our sinfulness, and calls us to a life of holiness. If you feel God's call to the priesthood or consecrated life, visit www.HamiltonVocations.com.

DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: On Sunday, May 29, 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 2016. (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 on the bulletin board of the church, or go to www.hamiltondiocese.com.

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH: The best way to assist your children to thrive is to give them a good sense of security and self-worth. These feelings are best accomplished when parents understand their role as leaders of their families: they set the rules, make sure the rules are followed and discipline when necessary. In order to assure good balance in their family role as leaders, parents need to spend quality time with their children, which helps their children know they are loved, valued and important. Parents need to be an authoritative figure in their children's lives, which means they can't always be the fun friend, but they can love their children enough to help them become healthy and well-functioning adults! (Diocesan Family Ministry Office)



SHARE LENT PILGRIMAGE: Now our pilgrimage takes us to the Holy Land. Development and Peace is supporting Salesian nuns in the Cremisan Valley in Bethlehem in their struggle to remain close to their people. Their ability to provide schooling to over 450 children has been threatened by the construction of a separation wall which will cut them off from the people they serve. Your support helps to provide them with crucial legal support to fight the construction in the courts. Next Sunday is Solidarity Sunday and the Share Lent collection. Please be generous.



Don't be late for church next Sunday!! Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 13. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring next Saturday night.