

# St. Joseph's Parish

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**PASTOR:** Fr. Robert Héту, P.P.

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Lori Cipparrone

**CUSTODIAN:**

**SACRISTANS:** Brigitte Quinke & Catherine Cyr.



# ADVENT

## From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Robert Héту



On this Sunday of **love** and as we begin our immediate preparations for Christmas, the anniversary of the birth of Jesus and the gift of the incarnation, let us reflect on our call to **love**. It was Mary's 'loving yes' to God through the Angel Gabriel that set everything in motion. Mary does not require confirmation, but responds in faith with **loving** trust.

Robert V. Taylor reminds us that: "[On] judgement day, the only question asked of us will be, 'Did you **love** with abandonment?' Rules and commandments offer structure and form to our spiritual quest, but the practice of **love** defines the vitality, fullness and happiness of the spiritual life." It is a combination of our initial commitments to God coupled with frequent ongoing contact with God that helps us know how to **love**, how to live and how to behave in the challenging situations of life. Let our guiding principle always be **love**.

As we attempt to come closer to our God, may we humbly respond as Mary did, "*Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.*" May our prayer this fourth week of Advent be, "Lord, fill us with **love**." Let the great **Adventure** continue.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** "Love the people who treat you rightly; pray with **love** for the ones who do not." ~ Fr. Robert Héту

**LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: Q.** Did you hear about the dyslexic devil worshippers? **A.** They sold their souls to Santa. (Sadly, it is more common than we think. How many people have sold their souls to Santa/consumerism? The commentary is no joke!)



Welcome To

**St. Joseph's Parish**

We extend a warm welcome to all. We pray that you feel at home. Please introduce yourself and consider becoming a member of our faith family.

### Tuesday, December 24, 2024

5:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

7:30pm Christmas Carols

8:00pm Christmas Eve Mass

11:30pm Christmas Carols

12:00 Midnight Mass

### Wednesday, December 25, 2024

10:00am Christmas Day

### Thursday, December 26, 2024

No Mass

### Friday, December 27, 2024

No Mass

### Saturday, December 28, 2024

5:00pm Antonio Teixeira – Maria Nunes

Dominic & Walter Tersigni – The Tersigni Family

James & Elizabeth Cullen – Harry & Bernadette Cullen

Intentions of Cam Schumacher – Mac & Gail Brown

### Sunday, December 29, 2024

9:00am Benito Vittorio Soligo

11:00am Intentions of the Parish

### Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2024

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest, deacon or religious to carry the Good News of God's great Love? Contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

Email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

### Parish Offerings for December 15, 2024

Regular Collection	\$1,937.55
Christmas Floral Tributes	\$ 685.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 305.00





### What is Christmas Without Carols?

Our Choir invites you to join them on Christmas Eve at 7:30pm just before the 8:00pm Mass, or at 11:30pm just prior to Midnight Mass for some Christmas Carolling. A wonderful way to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Everyone is welcome.

### Tree of Hope Success!

We are pleased to announce that all tags from the Tree of Hope were taken and all requests for help were fulfilled. Our thanks to all parishioners who helped local families in need enjoy a Merry Christmas.

### Confirmation News

Confirmation Candidates and their Parents are asked to attend a meeting in the Church at 7:00pm on January 16. At that time you will be given important information such as dates of Confirmation, deadlines to register, etc. Please mark this important date on your new 2025 calendar as it is very important to attend.

### Come Retreat With Loyola House!

Are you looking to break away and spend some time in silence? Interested in learning something new? See our website at [loyolahouse.com](http://loyolahouse.com) (under "Events") for more information on these upcoming retreats:

- Finding Oneself through the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory - January 13
- Online Spiritual Exercises in Daily Life - beginning January 16
- The Enneagram & Your Transformation: A Weekend Retreat - January 17-19
- Praying with Hope Weekend Retreat - January 31-February 2
- Contemplative Activism Retreat - January 31-February 2
- Directed Prayer Weekend - February 7-9
- Finding Your Way: Weekend of Discernment - February 7-9

Register online at [loyolahouse.com](http://loyolahouse.com) or contact [registration@ignatiusguelph.ca](mailto:registration@ignatiusguelph.ca) or by calling 519 824 1250 ext 266.

### 2024 Donations

Please note that any donations to the Parish to be included in your 2024 receipts need to be received by the Church no later than December 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

### Kindergarten Registration at Wellington Catholic DSB

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 6, 2025!

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 1 Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2025, to attend Year 2 Kindergarten

To register we ask that you visit

[https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/registration/kindergarten\\_registration](https://www.wellingtoncdsb.ca/registration/kindergarten_registration) and complete the online student pre-

registration form. Once you have completed this form you will receive a follow-up email to complete the registration process. We ask that you have the following documents available;

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Parent Or Child's Baptismal Certificate
- Proof of Tax Support for Families New to the System (i.e., Most Recent Tax Bill)
- Proof of Address (Government Document, Mortgage or Rental Agreement, Hydro Bill, Credit Card Statement)
- Immigration Documentation (If Applicable)
- Custody Documents (If Applicable)

During the registration process, school administration are available to assist you with any questions you may have. Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Year 1 Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Year 2 Kindergarten.
- Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please contact your local Catholic school.

### Upcoming Parish Events

January 5	Knights of Columbus Breakfast – After 9 and 11am Masses
January 8	Caressant Care Mass 10:30am
January 14	Knights of Columbus Exec. Meeting
January 16	Confirmation Candidate and Parent Meeting – Confirmation 7pm
January 17	St. Joseph School Mass 9:15am
January 28	Knights of Columbus General Meeting
January 29	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 4pm





## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

### Christmas 2024

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

We have begun the Advent Season, a time of active and spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas. The four weeks of Advent pass quickly and, almost before we know it, Christmas is upon us: the birth of Jesus Christ in a manger in Bethlehem.

During Advent, we meet, in Sacred Scripture, figures who help us understand the importance of the Christmas event and point out the way for us to prepare well. The Angel Gabriel assures us that “with God all things are possible”! The Virgin Mary sets the high standard of openness and obedience to God’s will in our lives. St. Joseph acts on revelations in his dreams. John the Baptist calls us to prepare spiritually and practically for the coming of Christ into our lives. The shepherds listen to the revelation of angels and hurry to meet the Lord. The Magi follow a star to find Him. For each, the experience is different. For all, it leads to an important encounter with Jesus.

For the past number of years, the *Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops* has prepared an on-line series called *Journey Through Advent*. The weekly reflections in English and French open our hearts and minds. This year, Cardinal Francis Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, is the presenter in English. His profound spiritual reflections are gifts to us, available on the CCCB website. They nourish our faith and help us prepare well.

In our Diocese, Parish Priests, Lay Pastoral Ministers, choirs and musicians, sacristans and decorators and cleaners – a bevy of gifted and generous people – help assure that all is ready for the Christmas celebrations. We are blessed that dedicated Priests, Deacons and lay-faithful care enough to do the necessary work of planning and preparing so that we might *Come Home for Christmas* and celebrate well. I am grateful to all who serve and I pray that, as our cloistered Carmelite Nuns so often say, “*God reward you*”!

Advent is a good time to celebrate the *Sacrament of Reconciliation*. We get ready “outwardly”. It is wise to prepare ourselves “interiorly” as well. A good Confession does wonders for the soul and for our hearts. It frees us and lifts us up. Pastors make time to welcome you and are happy to celebrate this liberating Sacrament.

I like to send and receive Christmas cards at Christmas. The Canada Post strike has precluded that pleasure this year. It means prayers for my family and friends must be evermore intentional. As I pray for them, I pray also for you, brothers and sisters, co-workers in the vineyard of the Lord, and parishioners throughout this vast Diocese. As we open the *Jubilee Year of Hope* on December 29, and live the experience of being *Pilgrims of Hope*, let us give thanks for the gift of faith that provides meaning and purpose to our lives – and hope for a future in union with the One Who Comes!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

*+Douglas Crosby*, OMI

(Most Reverend) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton

/cd



## **Jesus Is The Reason**

On that most holy first Christmas day  
In a shabby wooden stable full of hay  
Even though the place was forlorn  
A very, very special Child was born

Angels came to sing His praises  
They sang the greatest song of the ages  
'Glory to God, glory to God in the highest'  
And to nearby shepherds they witnessed

In awe and fear they left their sheep  
Despite the late hour and fighting sleep  
They reached the stable—home of livestock  
To witness the biggest miracle of the epoch

In the manger was the Baby the Angels sang about  
Next to Mary His Mother and Joseph so devout  
God out of deep love and mercy became one of us  
Jesus, God's Son the most blessed gift at Christmas

May we always cherish Jesus in our heart  
Let us pray together and do our part  
To spread the news that Jesus is the reason  
For this most blessed and holy Christmas season

*Fr. Robert*

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