

From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Robert Héту



Today's feast commemorates how Jesus, as a baby, was presented to God in the Temple in Jerusalem. The *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord* is a combined feast, commemorating the Jewish practice of the purification of the mother after childbirth and the presentation of the child to God in the Temple. It is also known as the *Feast of the Purification of Mary*, and the *Feast of Candlemas*. It is also called the *Feast of Encounter* because the New Testament represented by the Baby Jesus, encountered the Old Testament, represented by Simeon and Anna. Joseph offered two pigeons in the Temple as sacrifice for the purification of Mary after her childbirth and for the presentation and redemption ceremonies performed for Baby Jesus.

Just as the Spirit rested on Jesus at his baptism, so the Spirit rested on Simeon. In our missal today, Bernadette Gasslein reminds us that: "Simeon's witness is also a warning: this mission has a steep price tag. It demands nothing short of complete self-surrender to the Spirit who empowers us to recognize and embrace [Jesus] in our enemies and in those excluded by the Church or society."

Let us remember that every Mass in which we participate is our presentation. Although we were officially presented to God on the day of our Baptism, we present ourselves and our dear ones on the altar before God our Father through our Saviour Jesus Christ at every Mass. Hence, we need to live our daily lives with the awareness both that we are dedicated people, consecrated to God, and that we are called to lead holy lives. On this *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*, let us purify and present ourselves anew to be of service to the Lord.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: "War does not determine who is right, it determines who is left." ~ Author Unknown

LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL: There will be a meeting of the Church Board immediately after the service," announced the pastor. After the close of the service, the Church Board gathered at the back of the sanctuary for the announced meeting. Surprisingly, there was a stranger in their midst — a visitor who had never attended their church before. "My friend," said the pastor, "Didn't you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?" "Yes," said the visitor, "and after today's sermon, I suppose I'm just about as bored as anyone else who came to this meeting."



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, February 4, 2025

7:00pm **Intentions of Paul & Emily Jordan** – Aedan Reidy

Rose Sabourin – The Héту Family

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

8:30am **All Boyd** – The Family

Thursday, February 6, 2025

8:30am **Intentions of Margaret Lingard** – Dolores Schmidt

Friday, February 7, 2025

8:30am **Mark Kenny** – The Reidy Family

Special Intentions

Saturday, February 8, 2025

5:00pm **Vince Merry** – Yvonne & Leighton Spradbrow

Peter Vandervoort – Pam & Gord

Intentions of Laura Fischer – Don & Barbara Cassidy

Sunday, February 9, 2025

9:00am **Intentions of the McKinnon Family**

11:00am **Intentions of the Parish**

Parish Offerings for January 26, 2025

Regular Collection	\$ 1,743.20
Initial Offerings	\$ 120.00
Solemnity of Mary/New Year's Day	\$ 20.00
Building Fund	\$ 985.00

Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2025

No prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. Do not be discouraged by jeers when considering priesthood, diaconate, or religious life. If God is calling you contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

Email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com



A candle at the Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary will burn for the month of February for the Intentions of Laura

Anointing of the Sick Mass

In honour of World Day of the Sick, an Anointing of the Sick Mass will be held here on February 11th at 11am. Following Mass, we will gather for lunch. Registration forms will be available in the Narthex and are required to attend. We would encourage anyone who has been diagnosed with a serious illness or injury to attend (you do not need to be in imminent danger of death).

Next CWL General Meeting

Please join fellow ladies of the parish on Sunday, February 9th after the 11am Mass for the next CWL General Meeting. We are hoping to get your input as we do some forward planning for 2025. We will also update you on our current membership and any other important visit. Hope to see you there!

16th Annual Dynamic Women of Faith Conference

This conference will bring together Catholic women to share in hearing informative presentations, enjoy delicious food and fellowship with all those present. The event will be held on Saturday March 22, 2025 from 9:00am-4pm at the Old Mill (includes light lunch) in Toronto. For more information see [Recharge Your Spirit at the Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025](#); to register go to [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025](#); to register go to [Dynamic Women of Faith Conference 2025 Tickets, Sat. 22 Mar 2025 at 9:00 AM | Eventbrite](#).

Be Sober

Have you chosen sobriety or are you struggling with addiction? Or are you a family member of someone who does? The Sisters Poor of Jesus Christ offer an ongoing 12-step program to support you. The **Be Sober** meetings are held every Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the basement of St. Ann Catholic Church, 120 Sherman Avenue N. Hamilton. The evening is organized into three key components: prayer, training on the 12 steps and spirituality, and group sharing. For further information, please contact: (905) 512-8493 or e-mail: besober.skateri@ocaminho.org. **All are welcome!**

Next Men's Cor Meeting

Please join us Saturday February 8th for our next men's Cor gathering. Fr Robert Hetu will give a presentation on John the Baptist. This will include prayer, discussion and a coffee social. All men are welcome. Location: St Joseph's parish hall at 10:00am

***Sex is Too Important to God
.....to leave to Culture and Schools***

Who is the most effective agent of influence over a child's sexual decisions?

Research proves that the most effective agents of influence over the child's sexual decisions are parents and church leaders who are equipped and communicating with youth on this important life issue. Unfortunately, parents and the church feel ill-equipped. As a result, the school and culture (including pornography) become the default instructor.

"Alliance for Life Ontario wants to equip parents to empower youth.

To better prepare Christian parents, and church leaders, the AFLO Board is partnering with P.E.A.C.E. Education Services to host a weekend training conference:

Equipping Parents to Guide Youth Through the Hypersexualized Culture

Location: Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, 28 Norfolk St., Guelph, Ontario

When: Fri. April 4th, 7:15 – 9:30pm & Sat. April 5th, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Target Audience: Parenting adults (parents, grandparent, etc.), youth leaders

Cost: In Person - Free / Online - \$20 (a free-will offering will be taken)

Saturday Lunch: Included **Child Care Available:** Must Pre-register

To Register & For More Info

<https://allianceforlifeontario.ca/parent-conference/>

Upcoming Parish Events

February 1	Baptismal Prep. Class 9-11am
February 2	Knights of Columbus Breakfast
February 8	Men's Cor Meeting 10am – 12pm
February 9	CWL General Meeting - Noon
February 11	Anointing of the Sick Mass and Luncheon, 11am
February 25	Knights of Columbus General Meeting, 7:30pm