

## From the Pastor's Desk

Fr. Robert Hétu



The Third Sunday of Advent is **Joy** Sunday. On this **Joy** Sunday, I share with you these words from the late spiritual writer, Fr. Henri Nouwen, taken from *Living In Hope—Advent Meditations*.

Learn the discipline of being surprised not by suffering but by **joy**. As we grow old, there is suffering ahead of us, immense suffering, a suffering that will continue to tempt us to think that we have chosen the wrong road. But don't be surprised by pain. Be surprised by **joy**, be surprised by the little flower that shows its beauty in the midst of a barren desert, and be surprised by the immense healing power that keeps bursting forth like springs of fresh water from the depth of pain.

With a heart trusting that we will get what we need, and a spirit always surprised by **joy**, we will walk through this valley of darkness performing and witnessing miracles.

The common theme running through today's readings is that of **joy**, encouragement and the need for preparation required from those of us who are awaiting the rebirth of Jesus in our hearts and daily lives. A second common theme is witness. The prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary all bear **joyful** witness to what God has done and will do for his people. Filled with **joy** let us, "Rejoice in the Lord Always!" We pray, Lord, bless us with **joy**.

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT:** "One **joy** shatters a hundred griefs." ~ Chinese Proverb

**LAUGHTER GOOD FOR THE SOUL:** **Q:** Why is Christmas just like another day at the office? **A:** You end up doing all the work and the fat guy in the suit gets all the credit.



## 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 16, 2025

6:00 – 6:45pm **Confessions**

7:00pm **Intentions of Aubrey Schmidt**

**Intentions of Paolo Gianfriddo**

**Romeo & Winni Lopes – Mario & Carol Lopes**

### Wednesday, December 17, 2025

8:30am **Intentions of Bill Lysyshyn**

9:00-9:30am **Confessions**

10:30am **Highland Manor Mass**

### Thursday, December 18, 2025

8:30am **Stafford Sheehy – Jim & Peggy Sheehy**

9:00-9:30am **Confessions**

### Friday, December 19, 2025

8:30am **Intentions of Bill Lysyshyn**

9:15am **St. Joseph School Advent Liturgy**

### Saturday, December 20, 2025

3:30-4:30pm **Confessions**

5:00pm **Souls in Purgatory**

**Intentions of John and Jean Paul & Family**

### Sunday, December 21, 2025

9:00am **Intentions of the Parishioners of St. Joseph Church**

11:00am **Peter Rooyakkers – Diane Rooyakkers & Family**

### Parish Donations December 6 & 7, 2025

Regular Offerings	\$2,538.70
Christmas Floral Tribute	\$ 80.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 25.00
Jubilee Year of Hope	\$ 195.00
Building Fund	\$ 520.00

### Third Sunday of Advent – December 14, 2025

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Are you one to be sent? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton  
email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)



**Please visit the display in the Narthex -  
Olive Wood Religious Artifacts  
from the Holy Land**

Bethlehem's Christian community relies on selling handcrafted olive wood religious artifacts to visiting pilgrims, forming its primary income. Declining tourism has hit them hard in recent years, leading some Christians to leave The Holy Land, posing a threat to key sites like the Church of The Nativity.



**Oops – I left Something Out!  
Ring in Christmas With Carols & Hymns**

Join John Rooyakker and his choir on Christmas Eve at 11:30pm for carols and hymns in anticipation of Midnight Mass. Everyone is welcomed. **There will also be carolling at 7:30pm on Christmas Eve just prior to the 8:00pm Mass.** The more the merrier!

**Candidate and Parents Confirmation Meeting**

A meeting will take place in the New Year for Candidates for Confirmation and their parents on January 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Church. Please plan to attend to receive all the forms and information needed.

**Christmas Young Adults Night**

During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, January 3rd at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Road West, Hamilton.** Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/> For more information, please contact: [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

**Christian Unity Service**

You are invited to attend a multi-faith Christian unity service on January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am at St. John Anglican Church, 36 Henderson St., Elora, ON

**Parenting Tip**

Christmas is a wonderful time of year! We see family, experience the joys of gift giving and receiving and have some time as a family just to be. It is however, more than any of these things, the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of the season we can forget to focus on this moment, where a child came into the world so that each of us could experience the profound gift of Salvation. This Christmas, enjoy all the fun stuff, but remember to focus, through stories, Mass, prayer and discussions, on the joy of Christ's birth and the real reason for the season.



**Marriage Tip**

Marriage is a journey that two people undertake with a plan to navigate life together. When researchers investigate what makes the journey both long and happy, many things come into play, but a strong one is repeated by most: "I married my best friend." It is good to ask yourself then, are you being a good friend to your spouse? Do you spend time together, share parts of your day, invite them to share in an event with you, watch a movie together, or even a series that can become together time? Do you call once in awhile to say hello during the time you are not together and plan time for your spouse in your agenda – everyday? Are you patient when they make a mistake, are not perfect, or let you down? Friendships thrive and last in this kind of environment, so make friendship a foundation of your marriage.

**Upcoming Parish Events**

December 16	Confessions 6:00 – 6:45pm
December 17	Confessions 9:00-9:30 am
December 17	Highland Manor Mass 10:30am
December 17	St. Joseph School Christmas Concert – Church doors open at 12:45pm and 5:45pm
December 17	RCIA Class 7pm
December 18	Confessions 9:00 – 9:30am
December 19	St. Joseph School Advent Liturgy
December 20	Confessions 3:30-4:30pm
December 21	Confessions Noon-1:00pm