

Dates	Time	Mass Intentions and Celebrations	Prayer Calendar
Monday, March 16 2 Kings 5.1-15 Luke 4.24-30	7:30 am	† Maria & Manuel DeMedeiros	Rev. Ken Miskiewicz
Tuesday, March 17 Daniel 3.25, 34-43 Matthew 18.21-35 St. Patrick, (OM)	7:30 am	to be announced	Rev. Terence Sehl
Wednesday, March 18 Deuteronomy 4.1, 5-9 Matthew 5.17-19 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, (OM)	7:30 am 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	to be announced Sacrament of Reconciliation † Souls in Purgatory † Msgr. Roger Formosi † Msgr. Harvey Roach † Fr. Patrick Bodendistel † Fr. Gerald Waren	Franciscan Fathers
Thursday, March 19 2 Samuel 7.4-5, 12-14, 16 Romans 4.13, 16-18, 22 Luke 2.41-51 Feast of St. Joseph, (S)	7:30 am 11:00 am	† Maria & Elena Basani Mass at New Village Retirement Home - † Rosa Ruggiero	Rev. Jason Kuntz
Friday, March 20 Hosea 14.1-9 Mark 12.28-34	7:30 am 8-9 am 4:30-6:30pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	† Enzo Canton Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, (Benediction at 9 am) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, (Benediction at 6:20 pm) Evening Mass - † Donato Tartaglia Stations of the Cross - led by the Divine Mercy Group	Rev. Edward Mahony
Saturday, March 21 Hosea 5.15-6.6 Luke 18.9-14	8:30 am 4-5 pm 5:30 pm	† Giuseppe & Antonia Franz Sacrament of Reconciliation † Stefano Fortunato † Ermina Mauro † Antonio Antonucci † Fabio & Donna Pettorossi † Pavel Kulak † Mario Agresta † Linda, Francesco & Roberto D'Agostino † Patrick Randles † Santina Cefaloni † Giuseppe DeSimone † Salvatrice Salemi † Ferdinando Troiani † Fiore & Peppina Vescio & Family † Michele & Assunta Bianco & Family † Domenico Polidori † Salvatore Cusimano † Maria Salvatrice Chiarelli Cino † Joseph Fuca † Eve Kovacs Sp. Int. for Salvina Castiglione	Rev. Jonas Ahousansou
Sunday, March 22 1 Samuel 16.1, 6-7, 10-13 Ephesians 5.8-14 John 9.1-41	9:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	† Biagio DiGiovanni † Salvatore Ali Missa Pro Populo	

"WE NEED TO FIND GOD, AND GOD CANNOT BE FOUND IN NOISE AND RESTLESSNESS. THE MORE WE RECEIVE IN SILENT PRAYER, THE MORE WE CAN GIVE IN OUR ACTIVE LIFE."
ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give



Stations of the Cross

Praying the Way of the Cross as a devotion began in Jerusalem, with Christian pilgrims tracing the spots linked with the Passion and Death of Jesus. When travel to the Holy Land became difficult, churches began including fourteen stations on their walls where the faithful could make the "stations of the cross" spiritually. The devotion is intended to help us, Christ's followers, to join our own sufferings to His. **Join us every Friday evening at 7pm** during Lent for Stations of the Cross, which will take place immediately following the evening Mass.

SSVP Soup Fest

Our Society of St. Vincent de Paul is please to announce our Soup Fest to be held on **Sunday March 22** from 11:30 to 2:00 in the parish centre. Sample the soups, vote and purchase your favourite soup for **\$5.00** per bowl! Take out available. *"Thank you for helping us serve in hope."*



CWL Spring Luncheon

CWL ladies. Join us for our **71st Anniversary CWL Spring Luncheon** to be held at Liuna Gardens on **Sunday, April 26, at 1 pm**. Tickets may be purchased from Josie Merolli (905-643-2970), Mickie Puglia (905-662-5304) or the Parish Office. Price is **\$35**. Plan on attending and invite a friend!

Lighthouse CD of the Month
How to Love Yourself

The words that we speak to ourselves shape our self-perception; how we see ourselves, and how we act. Despite being told perhaps more than any other generation to love and believe in themselves, this generation struggles more than any other with anxiety, self-loathing, and low self-esteem. In this talk, speaker and author Chris Stefanick tackles the lies which hold us captive to these struggles, and boldly shares the Good News of Jesus Christ—that Love Himself has come to redeem us, and destined us for eternal glory. **This CD is available in the Lighthouse Media kiosk in the church Narthex.**



Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass

You are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass, **Sunday, June 14**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring 1 guest for assistance). Call the parish office to register or go to hamiltondiocese.com.

Youth-Led Stations of the Cross

Each year on one of the Friday evenings of Lent, youth from the parish lead our parishioners in the Stations of the Cross. The Youth Stations is presented in the form of a tableau, with actors playing the roles of Jesus, Mary, the disciples, soldiers, and others that Jesus encountered along his journey to Calvary. Readers also have an important role and lead reflections on Jesus' experiences and how they relate to our own lives as we move from Station to Station. **Students in Gr. 6 - 12** are invited to sign up. Presentation: **Friday, April 10 (Good Friday)** at 7pm. There will be 3 rehearsals in preparation. (Sign-up forms are now in the letter trays in the narthex and on the youth ministry page of the parish website.)



Share Lent 2020

The Mura: beset by buffaloes, plagued by potash

For several years now, the Mura people of Brazil's Amazonas state have sought to assert their claim to their ancestral lands. To their frustration however, it has been much easier for cattle herders and a potash mine to occupy and control those lands than it has been for them to have their rights respected. *"On behalf of the Mura in my region, I want to thank Canadians. We are very happy to have your support. It helps us in our struggle to have our rights and our land respected."* — Jeremias Oliveira, representative of the Mura community, Brazil. Watch the Mura's testimony at devp.org/campaign/mura.



Camp Marydale Job Opportunity

Camp Marydale is looking for enthusiastic, high energy students to serve as group counsellors, lifeguards and one-to-one counsellors at its summer day camp. To be eligible, you must currently be in Grade 10, or older. If interested, visit cyo.on.ca/campmarydale & complete the application under our employment section. For further information or assistance, contact Stephanie at 905-528-0011 ext. 2229.

Fostering & Adoption Opportunities

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton
Learn more about Fostering & Adoption by registering to attend a Fostering & Adoption Online Information Session (Webinar), **Thursday, March 26th, 6:30pm-8pm**. Contact the Foster & Adoption Recruitment Coordinator, Niamh O'Flaherty at 905 525-2273 or niamh.oflaherty@hamiltonccas.on.ca. The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton is committed to inclusion and equity, and welcome fostering applications from ALL families who want to provide a safe and happy home to a child in care. See hamiltonccas.on.ca



As we continue the season of Lent and journey towards Holy Week, we will hear and see many references to Good Friday and the story of Jesus' Passion. Would you like the opportunity to go deeper into this pivotal event in salvation history? You're warmly invited to **"No Greater Love"**, a 5-part video series written and presented by best-selling author Edward Sri. Filmed in the Holy Land, this series guides the way through the last hours of Christ's life and reveals his amazing love for us. Under the direction of Deacon John and Fr. Mariusz, our parish is offering **this study for the remaining 3 Sundays in March from 10am to 10:50am in the Chapel Hall. The next video is entitled: "The Death of the Messiah."**

You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the Garden of Gethsemane to the Mount of Calvary. Every step of the way, biblical experts reveal how Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. With these insights, Catholics can come to a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love - drawing closer to Jesus than they ever have before.

Questions of the Week

Theme: Jesus is the Living Water. **Question for Children:** How do you experience Jesus helping and loving you? **Question for Youth:** Jesus revealed himself to an outcast of society. How can you be "living water" to the outcasts of your school? Society? The world? **Question for Adults:** When you are tempted to try to satisfy your "thirst for meaning" through some other means, what keeps you coming back to the living water of intimacy with Christ? Through what means do you experience Christ's power in your life: Sacraments? Scripture? Prayer? Others?



NURTURE LIFE, OPPOSE DEATH ON DEMAND

Contact Your Member of Parliament Today!

The federal government has tabled legislation to expand what they refer to as medical assistance in dying but is more accurately called euthanasia/assisted suicide. More than 13,000 Canadians have been euthanized since 2016. New legislation would make assisted death available to those without life-threatening illnesses including those with disabilities and those no longer capable of making decisions for themselves. Some Canadians may even be euthanized on the same day they make the request. Visit www.helptheliving.ca to send a letter (prepared for you) to your Member of Parliament expressing deep concern. The process takes less than 5 minutes. We continue to pray and advocate for the vulnerable among us.



The Transforming Power of Confession

Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Study Dates:**

- 1. March 17:** Where are You? **2. March 24:** An Encounter with Mercy **3. March 31:** Embraced in Mercy **4. April 7:** Biblical Foundations **5. April 14:** Answering Common Questions About Confession
- When:** Tuesdays at 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Where: Chapel Hall. Cost of Workbook: \$15.00 (tax incl.) Contact: Parish Office or call Vera at: 905-561-9099 or email her: vfedorik@skylinc.net

Upcoming Events

Please call the parish office to find out which meetings and events will take place this week and which ones are rescheduled due to the COVID-19 virus. Please read the letter from our Bishop regarding his new directives in response to the outbreak, found on the last page of this online bulletin.

Thank you to all who support our Parish with their offerings!

Solemnity of St. Joseph



March 19 the Church celebrates the solemnity of Saint Joseph, the husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the guardian of the Christ-child and the patron of the universal Church.

Pope Leo XIII's 1889 encyclical "**Quamquam Pluries**," that can be read online on the Vatican website, treated

the faithful to offer a prayer to St. Joseph. It can also be prayed throughout the year. *"To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holy, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen."*

"Spiritual Communion"

As the coronavirus spreads so has public anxiety about how people should live in to order to halt its progress, to avoid contraction or recover from illness.

Pressure is building upon the bishops to offer guidance on how Masses might be celebrated safely. Perhaps for the first time many Catholics are hearing about "**spiritual communion**," as it is recommended as a measure to control the contagion. Spiritual communion was defined by St Thomas Aquinas as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him".

In the present context it may mean for some not receiving the Blessed Sacrament physically. The following prayer might be useful in making a spiritual communion:

"My Jesus, I believe that thou art present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love thee above all things, and I desire to receive thee in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive thee sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace thee as if thou wert already there, and unite myself wholly to thee. Never permit me to be separated from thee. Amen."

Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick

"O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us: He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin."

- Pope Francis, March 2020



A big thank you

to those parishioners who either picked up their tax receipts or asked to have them emailed. You saved the Parish a considerable amount of time and resources. We did still have to mail out almost 500 tax receipts and hope to get this number down next year by having more email requests. If you wish to have the 2020 tax receipts emailed to you next January, please email this request to us at: saintfx@cogeco.net With appreciation from the Parish Office Staff.

Easter Flowers

While we realize that this is a trying and uncertain time for the world as we cope with the coronavirus, we are continuing to press on in faith with our preparations for the celebration



of Easter. We all enjoy the beauty of the flowers in our church, how the sanctuary (the main part of the church) looks decorated. Easter Sunday is not that far away, so we have begun the planning of the flowers for our wonderful Easter Season! During this holy time of Lent consider helping to decorate our church by making donations to make the Holy Space look as beautiful and bright as it has in past years! If you wish to contribute, kindly place your donation into a separate envelope during Lent (till Wednesday of the Holy Week, April 8) and write "donation for Easter Flowers" on the outside. For donations made in memory of a loved one, whom you would like to remember on Easter Sunday : please write "donation for Easter flowers in memory of" and your loved one's name on a piece of paper in your envelope, as well as the Easter Sunday Mass time you plan to attend. Their name will be placed in the Easter bulletin, and the Mass you indicate will be offered for the repose of their soul.



Thank you for your Feedback!

We would like to thank those parishioners who voted on the proposed projects for our One Heart One Soul campaign.

We received 350 surveys where you ranked the projects in order of importance to you and gave us a few new ideas for consideration.

Our prioritized list is as follows:

- Replace all leaking flat roofs
- Renovate narthex entrance
- Restoration of the St. Joseph & St. Mary chapels,
(also known as the candle rooms)
- Part-time Pastoral Assistant
- Electronic Sign

There were a number of parishioners who expressed interest in joining the One Heart One Soul campaign team. We will be reaching out to you in the coming days to discuss the campaign in more detail. If you are interested in becoming a member of the team and have not yet informed us, please contact Father Mariusz at the parish office.



RCIA News

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a gradual process that takes place within the community of the faithful. It is suited to a spiritual journey of adults who wish to receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation. This year we have seven catechumens who wish to become Catholic at the Easter Vigil. They have been preparing along with the help of their sponsors and team members since October 2019. In their first step, they reached the point of initial conversion in wishing to become Christian. Having progressed in faith and nearly completed the catechumenate, in their second step they accepted a more intense preparation for the Sacraments. On March 1, the first Sunday of Lent, four of our Catechumens who are not yet baptized gathered at the Cathedral Basilica to celebrate the Rite of Election with our Most Reverend Bishop Douglas Crosby. Along with their sponsors and team members they were declared "The Elect" by the Bishop.

Our four Elect are:

Steven Campbell with his sponsor Isabella Spadafora
Audrey Doxtdator with her sponsor Linda Mariglia
Madison Nikolic with her sponsor Sharon Aldigheri
Nathaniel Nikolic with his sponsor David Aldigheri

Our three other catechumens are already baptized and seek to be welcomed towards full Communion with the Roman Catholic Church. They are:

Moses Adesomoju with his sponsor Ken Mariglia
Rosie Spadafora with her sponsor Francesco Clarizio
Dana Van DerMarel with her sponsor Marianne Grguric
Please pray for our Elect and Catechumens as they continue in their journey towards full Communion with the Church at Eastertime.



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Dear Parishioners,

March 13, 2020

As the situation regarding the COVID 19 coronavirus outbreak is changing rapidly, I wish to advise you of the following measures to be taken in the Diocese of Hamilton effective today out of an abundance of caution and concern:

Attendance at Mass

Those who are ill or who experience health concerns including compromised immune systems, flu symptoms or colds, are asked to refrain from attending Mass. There is no obligation to attend Mass when you are unwell.

Holy Water Fonts and Stoops

The Holy Water Fonts and Stoops at the doors of our churches will be emptied until further notice.

Handwashing

Ministers of Holy Communion – Priests, Deacons and Extraordinary Ministers – must **wash your hands thoroughly** with soap and hot water before and after Mass. Provisions for this will be made in the church sacristy. Paper rather than cloth towels should be provided beside the sink.

Holy Communion at Mass

Until further notice Holy Communion is to be distributed **only in the hand**. Those who prefer Communion on the tongue must understand that this practice puts the person who ministers Communion, the recipient, and the person behind them in the Communion line, and so ultimately the whole community, at risk.

Parishes are to refrain from offering Holy Communion from the Chalice. Only Priests and Deacons may receive from the Chalice.

Holy Communion to Care Facilities

Those who visit or bring Holy Communion to senior care homes and health care facilities are to follow the directives of the facility.

Government Advisories

Please heed advisories from Government officials. These may affect parish life and liturgical events even further.

Prayer of Pope Francis

Pope Francis has composed a prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick. We are a people called to prayer. It is available on the Diocesan website. Please pray it often.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.,
Bishop of Hamilton

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