DECEMBER 18/19, 2021

WELCOME to all who have come to worship and pray with us this weekend. We are glad you are here!

PASTORAL STAFF

Fr. Ross Campbell, Pastor
Fr. Peter Robinson, Associate
Deacon Brian Prieur
Deacon Gian Girolami
Deacon Carmelo Campanella
Ms. Wes Moga, Youth Minister
Mrs. Leorita Staresina, Secretary
Mrs. Marian Fontana, Secretary
Mrs. Jean Goobie, Bookkeeper
Mr. Marc Carmel, Caretaker
Mr. Luis Inacio, Seminarian

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am

CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM

Offered at 9:00am & 11:00am Masses (Sept - June) – cancelled for now

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday - Friday: 8:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:30pm – 5:00pm
**Or by appointment*

ADORATION (1HOUR)

Friday: 8:30am-9:30am

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday-Friday 9:00am – 4:00pm

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Roman Catholic Church

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www.saintfxstoneycreek.com

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Our Lady of Peace …….. (905) 523-2330

PARISH SECONDARY SCHOOL

St. John Henry Newman …...…….. (905) 523-2314

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST **8:00AM**
+Guerino & Iolanda Bosica
+Maria, Emilio & Antonio Placidi

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND **8:00AM**
+Anna Gustin
+David & Sophie Colterman
+Frank & Eleanor Kunkel
+William Colterman
+James William King
+Nicola Baccala
+Tony Wiegerinck

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD **8:00AM**
+All Souls in Purgatory

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH **8:00AM**
-Intentions of Parish Staff

CHRISTMAS MASSES
Missa Pro Populo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH **9:00AM**
Missa Pro Populo

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26TH **11:00AM**
+Cecylia Kulak

DIOCESAN SPEAKER SERIES
YEAR OF AMORIS LAETITIA FAMILY

All are invited to this special three-part presentation by Bishop Lobsinger, with input from the Pastoral Offices staff. The evening sessions will be held on Zoom from 7-8:30 p.m. on Jan. 12th, 19th and 26th, and will unpack the great wisdom in Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation "Amoris Laetitia: The Joy of Love in Families and Church". They are meant to engage all members of the Diocese in looking at both the challenges and blessings of families in the world today. For more information about both the year and the Diocesan Speaker Series, please visit https://amorislaetitia.hamiltondiocese.com/. Online registration will be necessary to receive the link. For more information contact Teresa Hartnett at thartnett@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2250

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Roman Catholic Church
Welcomes YOU!

Whether you are new to our parish, or have been with us for many years, your presence leaves a unique mark on the life of our church. As your Pastor, I am excited you are with us today to build an even stronger parish community now and into the future.

Fr. Ross Campbell

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Rev. Pawel Stankiewicz
Tuesday	Rev. Ronald Voisin
Wednesday	Voluntas Dei Institute
Thursday	Rev. Meskel Abib Aibu
Friday	Rev. Miro Grubisic
Saturday	Christmas Day (Nativity of the Lord)

OFFERTORY

Envelope Contributions	$7070.00
Loose Collection	$89.45
Online Donations	$1,878.59
TOTAL COLLECTION	**$9038.04**

THANK-YOU!

TO DONATE, scan here with your phone.

HOW TO USE QR CODES

A QR code is a scannable image that smartphones can recognize and give you a shortcut to easily access online links. We now have two in our weekly bulletin - one to the main page of the parish website and the other to the online donation page. **Open the camera app or the QR app on your phone and hold your phone over the code. A link should pop up – just tap on it!**

DECEMBER 11TH AND 12TH, 2021

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20TH
Isaiah 7.10-14; Psalm 24.1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6;
Luke 1.26-38

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
Zephaniah 3.14-18a; Psalm 33.2-3, 11-12, 20-21;
Luke 1.39-45

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22ND
1 Samuel 1.24-28; 1 Samuel 2.1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd;
Luke 1.46-56

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23RD
Malachi 3.1-4, 4.5-6; Psalm 25.4bc-5ab, 8-9, 10+14;
Luke 1.57-66

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH
Genesis 49.2, 8-10; Psalm 72.1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 17;
Matthew 1.1-17

CHRISTMAS VIGIL (FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH)
CHRISTMAS DAY (SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH)
Isaiah 9.2-4, 6-7; Psalm 96.1-2, 3-4, 11-12, 13;
Titus 2.11-14; Luke 2.1-16++

Whoever surrenders unconditionally to the Lord will be chosen by him as an instrument for building his kingdom. ~ *St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross*

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

The fourth candle of the Advent wreath, also known as the Angel Candle, represents love.

Love plays a vital role in the Christmas story. Because of Joseph's love for Mary, he didn't stone her when he found out she was pregnant with what he thought was a child out of wedlock with another man. Mary has a natural motherly love for Jesus, and ultimately, we see God's love for everyone by sending his son for us.

Jesus focused on preaching love throughout his ministry. Two of his greatest commands involve love: Love God, love your neighbour.

Love is the greatest of all the virtues on the Advent wreath and encompasses Jesus' entire purpose for being on earth.

We cannot be Christians without Christ and without love. Otherwise, our works and our purpose on earth are for nothing. We need Christ and Christ's love to share the Good News of salvation throughout the earth.

Adapted from www.christianity.com

EXTENDED ADVENT CONFESSION TIME:

Saturday, December 18th: 4:00 – 5:00pm

PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST

Development and Peace's annual People and Planet First campaign is inspired by the words of Pope Francis, who says that "a true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor" (Laudato Si', 49). These cries are too often silenced by powerful companies that plunder resources in countries of the Global South, without regard for people's fundamental human and environmental rights. Many such companies are Canadian. Act to end their impunity now! You can sign a petition asking the federal government to enact laws that will compel Canadian companies to conduct due diligence across their overseas operations and that will give the victims of their abuses access to justice in Canadian courts. The petition can be found at https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/people-planet-first/take-action/. Together, let's act for the planet and its defenders!

YEAR-END DONATIONS

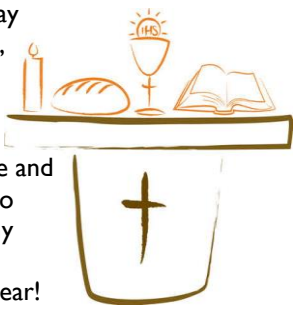
CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2021 donations in 2022. If you would like to make a "year-end donation", please do so before or by December 31st, 2021. Donations received after December 31st, 2021 must be credited for 2022. Your co-operation and understanding are appreciated. Thank you greatly for your continued support!

HEAR A CALL TO A VOCATION TO SERVE THE CHURCH?

Contact Bishop Lobsinger at: gem@hamiltondiocese.com

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION!

In Canada, EVERY Sunday, Christmas Day Day, and January 1st (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) are days of obligation where Catholics fulfill their baptismal promise to live in the truths of the faith by attending Mass, the most sacred place and time at that moment in our life! Come to Mass and allow God to fill you with many blessings and graces this Advent and Christmas season, and throughout the year!



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS – 12:00 MIDNIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 25th

9:00 am & 11:00 am

*** There will be no 5:30 pm Mass on December 25th, Christmas Day

THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (SUNDAY OBLIGATION)

Sunday, December 26th

9:00 am & 11:00 am

WEEKDAY MASSES

January 4th – 8:00 am
January 5th – 8:00 am
January 6th – 8:00 am
January 7th – 8:00 am
(*No adoration after Mass on January 7th*)

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD (HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION)

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

5:30 pm

New Year's Day

Saturday, January 1st

10:00 am

*** There will be no 5:30 pm Mass on January 1st, New Year's Day

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY (SUNDAY OBLIGATION)

Sunday, January 2nd

9:00 am & 11:00 am

You can only register for *CHRISTMAS MASSES.*

Please register by calling the parish office only. The number is 905-662-8593.

Please **DO NOT** leave a message or email the parish.

To reserve a spot at one of our Masses you ***must*** speak to the secretary.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATION 2021

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone Number: _____
Amount: $_____

In loving memory of: _____
OR
In honour of: _____

*** The names of those whom your donation is being made in memory or in honour of will appear in the Christmas Bulletin.

Please place this form and your cash donation in a sealed envelope, and either put the envelope into the collection basket at Mass OR stop by the office to hand it to the secretary.

BISHOP CROSBY'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR 2021

My dear friends,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone!"
Is. 9.2

The fact that we are now dealing with the Omicron variant of the pernicious COVID-19 virus is discouraging indeed. We have worked so hard to do what we can to "manage" the pandemic protocols, but the daily bad news of increased infections, after we thought we were getting ahead of things, makes it difficult to remain positive.

The scripture passages given to us by the Church in the daily readings during the Christmas season remind us over and over again that we are a people of HOPE – darkness does not overwhelm us. The powerful recounting of the Christmas story lifts us up out of darkness, sadness, and sorrow, and reminds us that God has given us a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. This announcement gladdens us and reassures us that the Lord is with us – especially in the darkest of nights. It is the blessing of Christmas!

May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night, drive far from you the darkness of death
and illumine your hearts with the light of life!
(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas! Enjoy the season.
Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,
+Douglas Crosby, OMI (Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton.

FOR THE WEEK OF CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S

December 21st:	9 am – 4 pm
December 22nd:	9 am – 4 pm
December 23rd:	9 am – 4 pm
December 24th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 25th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 26th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 27th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 28th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 29th:	OFFICE CLOSED
December 30th:	9 am – 4 pm
December 31st:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 1st:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 2nd:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 3rd:	OFFICE CLOSED
January 4th:	9 am – 4 pm

Regular Office Hours Onward

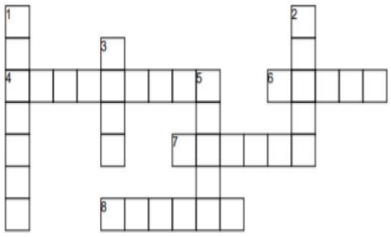
YOUTH MINISTRY

GOSPEL ACTIVITY

Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town 40 where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-40 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 1:39-45 (NLT)



HORIZONTAL

4. The wife of Zechariah.
6. To go see someone or something.
7. To leap; to move suddenly
8. Elizabeth was _____ with the Holy Spirit.

VERTICAL

1. Highly favored; fortunate
2. A young person; a boy or a girl
3. The mother of Jesus.
5. A dwelling where people live

BLESSED	ELIZABETH	JUMPED	HOUSE
MARY	VISIT	CHILD	FILLED

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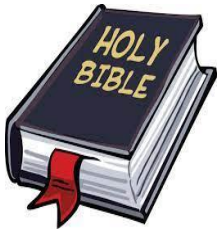


BIBLE TRIVIA

What animal helped Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem?

Last week's answer:
Elizabeth & Zechariah

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT VIDEO

This year our annual Christmas pageant will take the form of a video that will premiere on the parish YouTube Channel at 12:00pm on Christmas Eve! You're invited to tune in and experience the story of Jesus' birth through photos, videos, and music contributed by youth and families from our parish! The video will remain on the channel for parishioners to view at their convenience.

JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

St. Francis Xavier Parish - Youth Ministry

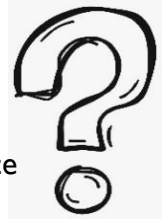
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Stoney Creek

sfxyouthmin

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Advent Gathering 4 – Dec 19
Rosary – Dec 20
Pageant Premiere – Dec 24
Game Night – Jan 8
Lectio Divina– Jan 10

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK



♥ How does the Blessed Virgin Mary help you to follow Jesus?
♥ When have you experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit?

SAINTLY SUPERHEROES

St. Marguerite d'Youville (1701-1771)
Feast Day: December 24
Patron Saint of: widows, difficult marriages, death of young children

"All the wealth in the world cannot be compared with the happiness of living together happily united."

THE ROSARY ON ZOOM!

Our youth ministry community is meeting on Monday, December 20 at 7:00pm on Zoom for our monthly Rosary! All are welcome to participate. Grab your Rosary and join in as we pray and reflect on the Joyful Mysteries! Contact Wes at wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com for the Zoom invite!

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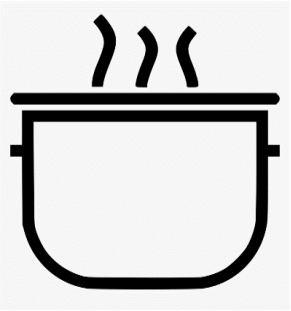
WEEKLY RECIPE!

Enjoy Massima's Cranberry White Chocolate Shortbread Cookies!!



INGREDIENTS

Butter, room temperature (1¼ cups)
Dried cranberries (¾ cup)
Flour (2¼ cups)
Icing sugar (1 cup)
White chocolate chips (½ cup)
Sugar (¼ cup)

DIRECTIONS

Cream butter and icing sugar. Mix in flour. Stir in cranberries and white chocolate chips. Roll dough into balls. Using the bottom of a small glass, dip glass in sugar and then flatten cookie balls. Bake at 325 F for 10 to 12 minutes. Once cooled, dust with icing sugar. ENJOY!!

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