

Dates	Time	Mass Intentions and Celebrations	Prayer Calendar
<b>MONDAY, December 3</b> Isaiah 2.1-5, Matthew 8.5-11, 13 <b>St. Francis Xavier, (M)</b>	7:30 am	For all the Parishioners of our Parish	Rev. Octavio Cidadao
<b>TUESDAY, December 4</b> Isaiah 11.1-10 Luke 10.21-24 <b>St. John Damascene, (OM)</b>	7:30 am	† Felicetta Leone	Rev. Jose Moreira
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 5</b> Isaiah 25.6-10a Matthew 15.29-37	7:30 am	† Mario Gosgnach	Discalced Carmelite Sisters
	6-6:45pm 7:00 pm	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> Living & Deceased members of the CWL † Michael Vrbancic † Amy Jean Murphy Living & Deceased members of the K of C † Agnesa Caruso † Clarisse Gallant † Martin Thien Phu Nguyen † Clementina D'Andrea † Holy Souls in Purgatory † Achille Luison † Milanino & Virginia Russo † Amleto Salciccioli † Fabio Pettorossi † John, Gino & Raymond Gueli † Isolina Fidanza † Cecilia Ford † Frank Bozzo † Francesco Sepe † Romeo & Maria Di Legge † Ralph Guerino	
<b>THURSDAY, December 6</b> Isaiah 26.1-6 Matthew 7.21, 24-27 <b>St. Nicholas, (OM)</b>	7:30 am	† Pierina & Albino DeFaveri	Rev. Peter Raymond
	11:00 am	Mass at Amica Retirement Home - † Antoniette D'Imperio	
<b>FRIDAY, December 7</b> Isaiah 29.17-24 Matthew 9.27-31 <b>St. Ambrose, (Memorial)</b>	7:30 am	† Argentina Talamonte	Rev. George Nowak
	8 - 9 am 5 - 7 pm	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> , in the Church (Benediction at 9 am) <b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</b> , in the Church (Benediction at 7 pm)	
<b>SATURDAY, December 8</b> Genesis 3.9-15, 20 Ephesians 1.3-6, 11-12 Luke 1.26-38  <b>Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary, (Solemnity)</b>	8:30 am	† Aldo Coscarella	Rev. Pawel Szymano wski
	4 - 5 pm 5:30 pm	<b>Sacrament of Reconciliation</b> † Holy Souls in Purgatory † Vincenza Cesarini † Anna Di Giovanni † Enio D'Angelo † Lino & Lucia Verrelli † Robert D'Agostino † Fabio Pettorossi † Giovanni Pelizzari † Isoina Fidanza † Clementina D'Andrea † Tony DeStefano † Bill & Sophie Colterman † Gavino & Antonietta Martiniello † Achille Luison † Lucia De Masi † John, Gino & Raymond Gueli † Mary Schiavo † Frank Bozzo † Rossini & Biagetti Families † Amy Jean Murphy	
<b>SUNDAY, December 9</b> Baruch 5.1-9 Philippians 1.3-6, 8-11 Luke 3.1-6	9:00 am	† Frank LaCivita	If you are visiting our community this Sunday, St. Francis Xavier Parish welcomes you!
	11:00 am	† Ivan Blazanin	
	4:00 pm	† Mannina, Pietro & Aldo Tarsitana	

### Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The dogma of the Immaculate Conception teaches that, by a special gift of grace, the Blessed Virgin Mary was kept free from Original Sin from the very moment of her conception in the womb of her mother, Saint Anne. Fr. John Hardon, S.J., in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, notes that "Neither the Greek nor Latin Fathers explicitly taught the Immaculate Conception, but they professed it implicitly." It would take many centuries, though, for the Catholic Church to recognize the Immaculate Conception as a doctrine, and many more before Pope Pius IX, on December 8, 1854, would declare it a dogma. In the **Apostolic Constitution Ineffabilis Deus**, Pope Pius IX wrote that, "We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful." As Father Hardon writes, the Blessed Virgin's "freedom from sin was an unmerited gift of God or special grace, and an exception to the law, or privilege, which no other created person has received." **Mass on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated at 8:30am.** All are welcome to join us to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary.



### Christmas Fruit Cakes will be Back!

Knights of Columbus Council 7969, will be selling Christmas Fruit Cakes after all Sunday Masses, **December 8/9<sup>th</sup> and December 15/16<sup>th</sup> only.** Proceeds go to Campaign Life Coalition in support of Pro Life issues. To pre-order, please call **905-662-5304.** Cost will be Small (600 grs.) - \$20 Large (1 kg.) - \$27. Thank you for your support!!

### The Christmas Pageant

a beautiful telling of the story of Jesus' birth according to the Gospels, is presented by students Grades 3-7 each year at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass! Sign-up forms are in the letter trays in the Narthex. Students are invited to sign up as actors, singers, or readers. The forms include rehearsal information, and must be returned to the parish office by **Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.**



### Pierogi-Kielbasa Dinner



The Knights of Columbus Council 7969 will be hosting a Pierogi-Kielbasa Dinner on Thursday, **December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 3 - 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Dine in or Take Out. Skip the dishes and come and enjoy a delicious meal. Adults \$10 Children \$5. Adult meal includes 8 pierogis, link of kielbasa, fried onions, sauerkraut, bread and dessert. All proceeds will go to support Knights of Columbus charities.

### Pocket Change for Change

Did you know that our parish community sponsors ten needy children from the Philippines, Cameroon, Chile, Kenya, India and Haiti? CHALICE has provided us with a large donation can which is placed at the front of the church each week during mass. For the last nine years we have used the coins placed in this can to change the lives of ten children and their families. Thank you all for your generous support of this Pocket Change for Change program!

### 2019 Offering Envelopes

2019 Offering Envelopes will be available in the Chapel Hall next Sunday. If you have used envelopes this past year, there will be a box for you in 2019. **Please do not use envelopes from previous years or envelopes from other Parishes.** This will result in posting errors to your account. For parishioners who do not have envelopes and would like

to begin using them, please complete a Parish registration form and indicate at the bottom of the form that you would like to support the parish through the use of offertory envelopes. The envelopes will be available for you the following weekend. For parishioners who travel south for the winter, please call the office and we will be happy to hold on to your envelopes until you return home. **Another option for all to consider is signing up for automatic withdrawal that we advertise in the bulletin.**

### "The Word Among Us"

**The Word Among Us** is a Catholic devotional magazine based on the Daily Mass Readings. **The Word Among Us** is intended to assist people in reading, meditating on and understanding scripture and to provide sound, practical advice for Catholics on the living out of the Christian life. For anyone who would like to read and reflect on daily Scripture readings, Advent edition of **The Word Among Us** is available for you in the vestibule of our Church. **Free will offering.**



The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the **One Heart, One Soul Campaign** to raise money for every Parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. Answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions appear in Parish bulletins regularly. A compilation of all questions that have been published are available throughout the campaign at [oneheartonesoul.ca](http://oneheartonesoul.ca). **Who will actually conduct the campaign at each Parish?** The Diocese, with the help of the Steier Group, will manage the overall campaign effort, including the preparation of materials. At each Parish, the Pastor will identify campaign leaders who will work with the Steier Group. Those Parish leaders will help recruit other volunteers to form a campaign team that will conduct the personal visits and other elements that are the key to the success of the campaign. **How much help with the campaign can our Parish expect to get from the Diocese and the consulting firm?** The Diocese will pay the financial costs of the campaign. Parishes will not be responsible for any campaign expenses such as postage, printing or diocesan events held at the parish. If a Parish hosts an event to promote the campaign to its parishioners, the Parish will bear those costs. In addition, several Steier Group campaign managers will guide the Parishes through the campaign process. Each Parish will be assigned to one of four "waves." The Parish will be responsible for forming a team of volunteers that implements the necessary elements of the process.

**How long will this take?** On a diocesan level, the entire campaign will run through early 2021. On a Parish level, there will be four campaign "waves." A Parish's particular wave will run for six to seven months. That includes preparation, solicitation and follow-up phases. The active solicitation period will last three to four months.

**What happens if our Parish doesn't hit its financial goal?** A clergy committee will implement policies that all parishes will follow on such questions. There will be incentives for Parishes to reach their goals. Parishes not reaching their goals face the prospect of not being able to complete needed projects.

### Questions of the Week

**Theme:** Waiting, hoping, and preparing.  
**Question for Children:** What can you do to be ready for God to come into your heart and your life?  
**Question for Youth:** The Gospel tells us we don't know when the Son of Man will return. If He were to arrive today, would you be ready for Him? What is one thing you can do during Advent to prepare for his coming?  
**Question for Adults:** As you prepare to re-welcome Christ into your heart while you prepare for Christmas, what does Isaiah call you to do? What does Isaiah call us as a people to do?

### The Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy team is looking for new volunteers. Children's Liturgy is offered at the 9 and 11 am Sunday Masses from September - June. Volunteers are usually scheduled for one Mass every 3 - 4 weeks, and have a variety of roles including preparing short lesson plans, proclaiming readings, leading prayers, assisting with worksheets, and doing set-up and clean-up. This is a very rewarding ministry to be part of. We are looking for adults in particular at this time to join the team, but also welcome anyone who is in Grade 8 or older. If you would be interested, please contact Wes at the parish office by January 18, 2019.

### St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree

**Wow! We are surely blessed with generous parishioners.** After just two weeks our Society of St. Vincent de Paul Jesse Tree tags are all gone. Thank you to everyone who took tags. **Please remember to attach the card to the (unwrapped) gift and return it to the parish office by Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.** If you have any questions, please contact 905-664-8605. *"Thank you for helping us serve in hope."*

### Gala St. Francis Xavier Dinner

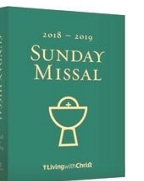
The St. Francis Xavier Dinner Committee would like to thank all those involved for their help in making the gala dinner a successful event. We would especially like to thank Roma Bakery, Gay Lea, Weld-Tech, Diletti Salon & Spa, and Luisa Conti for their donations. We extend our appreciation to all parishioners who showed their support by purchasing tickets. Profits will go towards the Parish renovation debt.

### Upcoming Events

- Dec. 03 - 8:00 am - St. Francis Xavier Feast Reception - CH
- Dec. 03 - 7:00 pm - Family Life - Rectory Conference Room
- Dec. 05 - 7:00 pm - CWL General Meeting - SMR
- Dec. 05 - 7:00 pm - K of C General Meeting - Chambers
- Dec. 06 - 3:00 pm - Pierogi Dinner & Take-out - GH
- Dec. 06 - 7:00 pm - RCIA - Rectory Conference Room
- Dec. 06 - 7:00 pm - Bereavement Course - SMR
- Dec. 07 - 7:00 pm - SFX Card Club - Great Hall
- Dec. 07 - 9:00 am - K of C Christmas Party - GH
- Dec. 08 - 6:30 pm - Digging Deeper Youth Group

### 2019 Sunday Missal

The 2018-2019 Living with Christ Sunday Missal is the resource that helps Catholics prepare for and celebrate the Eucharist every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation of the year. This inspirational Sunday Missal includes all Sunday readings for Year C, complete Order of Mass and Sunday prayers and blessings, and spiritual reflections on the readings. These are now available for sale for \$4 starting this weekend. The Advent season starts this weekend (December 1st/2nd)







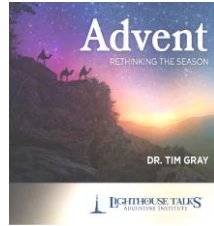
## Bambinelli Sunday

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

The blessing takes place on **Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent**, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines from your homes to Mass on Sunday, **December 16<sup>th</sup> at the 9 & 11 am Masses** to be blessed as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your 'Bambinelli' home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day - as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

## Advent: Rethinking the Season

Lighthouse Media CD of the Month! Advent is an odd season. Unlike most other seasons, it's a season that isn't about itself, but is instead about preparing for Christmas. But that reality often gets lost in the shuffle and stress of trying to find all the right gifts, decorations, and dinner ingredients. In this talk, Dr. Tim Gray uses storytelling and the readings of the Old Testament to explain that we need to live the 'pre-season' of Advent well, so we can be prepared to welcome and receive the greatest gift God the Father wants to give us at Christmas: His Son, Jesus. Please see our Lighthouse Media stand that is located in the lobby of the church for new Books and Advent CDs for your reading and listening pleasure!



## World Youth Day retreat

World Youth Day is an event that takes place every 2 - 3 years in a different country and brings together mainly Catholic young adults from all over the world for 1 - 2 weeks of

faith-formation events and cultural experiences. A group from our parish had the blessing of taking part in World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow, Poland. The next World Youth Day is taking place in Panama in late January 2019. Our parish is not sending a group this time, but is starting to think about plans to attend the following World Youth Day (the date and location of which will be announced at the conclusion of the events in Panama on Sunday, January 27th).

Do you think you might be interested in attending World Youth Day in the future, or experiencing a little bit of the events in Panama? **We will be having a retreat at the parish from the afternoon of Saturday, January 26th to the afternoon of Sunday, January 27th.** The retreat will include the opportunity to watch coverage of the final World Youth Day events, as well as other activities on this World Youth Day's theme: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your word." (Luke 1:38) The retreat will be geared to ages 16 and up. Teens, young adults, and adults are all invited to attend.

A registration form with finalized details will be available on the youth ministry page of the parish website and in the letter trays in the Narthex starting in early December. Stay tuned!

## The Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of the Carmel of St. Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus, December 16<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. Are you troubled? Do you need spiritual support? You can participate in the Novena to Infant Jesus. Send your Prayer intention slip with your name and address to: Carmel of St. Joseph, 1127 Carmel-Koch Rd., RR #1, St. Agatha, ON N0B 2L0



## St. Francis Xavier – Ora Pro Nobis!

December 3rd celebrates the **Feast of Saint Francis Xavier** in the Roman Catholic Church, the patron of our parish community. This day commemorates the dedication and service that Saint Francis Xavier committed himself to through his outreach of faith and missionary work in Europe and throughout Asia. Prayer to St. Francis Xavier: **"God our**

**Creator, You sent St. Francis Xavier to make known your unbounded love to the peoples of the East. As we honour him today, grant us some part of his zeal for your glory, his love for the poor, and his constant fidelity to your call. Let our lives bear fruit in the spread of your Gospel and the salvation of others. We ask this in Jesus' name. St. Francis Xavier, pray for us! Amen"**

## Christmas Flowers



We all enjoy the beauty of the flowers in our church, how the sanctuary looks decorated. Christmas is not that far away, so we have begun the planning of the flowers for the Christmas Season! During this holy time of Advent 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 would like to contribute, please kindly put your donation into a separate envelope during Advent and write "donation for Christmas Flowers" on the outside. Donations can also be made **in memory of a loved one**, whom you would like to remember on Christmas Day – please write **"donation for Christmas flowers in memory of"** and your loved one's name on a piece of paper in your envelope, **as well as the Christmas Mass that you are planning to attend.** Their name will be placed in the parish bulletin for Christmas and the Mass you indicate will be offered for the repose of their soul.

**Special envelopes** are available in the Chapel Hall for our parishioners who wish to make a donation to the "Christmas Flowers".

## Marriage Congratulations

Natalie Di Gregorio & Christopher Assettino

## "Share the Journey" walk for refugee assistance

In continuation of this year's campaign to assist refugees, our parish's Development and Peace group is planning a fundraiser walk which will take place on Sunday, June 2. The walk will include prayer, music, and the opportunity to hear real-life stories of refugees. The group is looking for adults and students in Grades 7 and up who would like to be part of the walk's planning team. This would involve meeting several times starting in the winter, assisting with advertising, preparing supplies, collecting funds, planning the programme for the walk, and being present on the day for various roles. If you would be interested, or would like more information, **please contact Wes** at the parish office by **Friday, January 11.** The first meeting will take place before the end of January.



## Interested in Minutes from Parish Council?

The Parish Council is made up of representatives from many of our parish groups and ministries. They meet every two months to report on past and upcoming events and to discuss parish-related issues. Hard copies of the minutes from these meetings will be posted in the Narthex starting this month. Council would also like to offer the option of making the minutes available to parishioners via email. If you would be interested in receiving your own email copy, please contact the parish office.

**Thank you to all who support our Parish with their financial offerings – your contributions assist in the spiritual, pastoral and practical work of the Parish and the upkeep of St. Francis Xavier Church.**