

Dates	Time	Mass Intentions and Celebrations	Prayer Calendar
MONDAY, December 10 Isaiah 35.1-10 Luke 5.17-26	7:30 am	† Frank Aquino	Rev. Lech Wycichowski
TUESDAY, December 11 Isaiah 40.1-11 Matthew 18.12-14 St. Damasus, (OM)	7:30 am	† Spinella Di Stefano	Rev. Stanley Zaryczny
WEDNESDAY, December 12 Zec. 2.10-13 or Rev. 11.19a; 12.1, 3-5a, 10ab Luke 1.39-47 Our Lady of Guadalupe, (F)	7:30 am 6-6:45pm 7:00 pm	Intentions of Suzanne Konkle Sacrament of Reconciliation † Filomena Greco † Fabio Pettorossi † Angela Trulli † Serafina Rettura † Alfonso Di Fiore † Maria Butera † Milka Zrinscak † Pierina Pin † Mary Covre † Bill & Sophie Colterman † Giuseppe Morrone † Fr. Roger Formosi	Carmelites of Mary Immaculate
THURSDAY, December 13 Isaiah 41.13-20 Matthew 11.11-15 St. Lucy, (Memorial)	7:30 am 10:30 am	Special Intentions for Lucinda Kunkel Mass at Clarion Nursing Home - † Antoniette D'Imperio	Rev. Brendan McGrath
FRIDAY, December 14 Isaiah 48.17-19 Matthew 11.16-19 St. John of the Cross, (M)	7:30 am 8 - 9 am 5 - 7 pm	† Holy Souls in Purgatory Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament , in the Church (Benediction at 9 am) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament , in the Church (Benediction at 7 pm)	Rev. Miro Grubisic
SATURDAY, December 15 Sirach 48.1-4, 9-11 Matthew 17.10-13 Our Lady's Saturday, (Optional Memorial)	8:30 am 4 - 5 pm 5:30 pm	† Delores Norri & Brother Sacrament of Reconciliation † Giuseppina Fuca † Delfina Verrecchia † Lucia Fantozzi † Giuseppe Capoferri † Virginia Allega DiSanza † Mary Schiavo † Donata Raniero † Fedele Memmolo † Clementina D'Andrea † Rosario Paolini † CHML Staff † Linda Cavichia † John Buck † Mario & Anna Trinetti † Gregory & Laura DiPietro † Achille Luison † Margherita & Giuseppe Pupillo † Alan Bailey † Giuseppe Danesi † Sabatino & Enrichetta Capretta	Rev. David Perrin
SUNDAY, December 16 Zephaniah 3.14-18a Philippians 4.4-7 Luke 3.10-18	9:00 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	† D'Intino Family † Fernandez & Sequeira Families † Lucia, Costantino, Philip & Rocco DiNucci	



If you are visiting our community this Sunday, St. Francis Xavier Parish welcomes you!



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 7th**.

"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.



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.

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 started the weekend of 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, Dec. 16th 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.



Year-end Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2018 donations in 2019. If you would like to make a "year-end donation" please do so **before or by December 30, 2018**. Donations received after December 30th must be credited for 2019. Your cooperation and understanding is appreciated. As a registered Charitable Organization, the Parish must comply with these CRA regulations. Thank you for your understanding.

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!

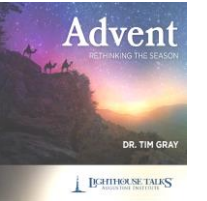


Questions of the Week

Theme: God's kingdom is at hand - it is here.
Question for Children: Beyond toys and other things, what do you hope will happen in your family this Christmas?
Question for Youth: What are the greatest challenges you face as a young person today in terms of allowing Christ to be your teacher and following him?
Question for Adults: Name the one thing in your life which you must "move out of the way" in order to make more room for Christ - a grudge, a possession, a memory, hurt, or feeling.

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!



Advent and Christmas Season Schedule

Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24:
5 pm, 8 pm and 12 midnight
Christmas pageant will take place before 5pm Christmas Eve Mass starting at 4:50 pm
Christmas Day, Tuesday, December 25:
8:30 am, 10:00 am, 11:30 am
Note: please remember that there are no Masses anywhere in the Diocese of Hamilton on the afternoon of Christmas Day.
Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God,
(Holy Day of Obligation in Canada)
Monday, December 31, 2018 at 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 at:
9:00 am and 11:00 am

Upcoming Events

Dec. 10 - 7:00 pm - Quest & Epic Youth Groups - GH, CH
Dec. 13 - 7:00 pm - RCIA - Main RCR
Dec. 13 - 7:00 pm - SSVP - Back RCR
Dec. 14 - 7:00 pm - SFX Card Club - Great Hall & SMR
Dec. 16 - 5:30 pm - (Rehearsal) Christmas Pageant - Church

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.

National Day of Prayer

The Catholic Aboriginal Council, founded by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1998, proposes that the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12th) be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity.

Christmas Fruit Cakes are be Back!

Knights of Columbus Council 7969, will be selling Christmas Fruit Cakes after all Sunday Masses, **this weekend and December 15/16th only**. Proceeds go to Campaign Life Coalition in support of Pro Life issues. To pre-order, please call **905-562-5304**. **Cost will be Small (500 grs.) - \$20 Large (1 kg.) - \$27**. Thank you for your support!!

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 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.



The Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of the Carmel of St. Joseph will pray for you during the Novena to Infant Jesus, December 16th – 25th. 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

Advent Confessions

"Confession is an act of honesty and courage - an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving and forgiving God." Saint John Paul II

All Saturdays:	4pm – 5 pm
All Wednesdays:	6pm – 6:45 pm
Saturday, December 15,	10am – 12noon - In Italian & English.
Monday, December 17,	8am – 9am and 5pm – 7pm
Tuesday, December 18,	8am – 9am and 6pm – 8pm - In Italian & English
Wednesday, December 19,	8am – 9am and 5pm – 7pm
Thursday, December 20,	8am – 9am and 6pm – 8pm
Friday, December 21,	8am – 9am and 5pm – 7pm
Saturday, December 22,	9am – 10am and 3pm – 5pm and
Saturday, December 22,	10am – 12noon - In Italian & English

**Please take advantage of this sacrament in preparation for Christmas.
Come early if you can to avoid the last minute rush!**



Did You Know... 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.

What kinds of things does the Diocese do for Parishes and others already?

The good work of the Diocese of Hamilton is widespread. Here are a few examples of the ways diocesan offices enhance the life of our Parishes and people:

- Advocating for the dignity of all life and supporting and promoting marriage and family life.
- Encouraging vocational discernment to priesthood and religious life.
- Programming and support for youth and young adult ministry.
- Adult faith formation, catechesis, religious education and sacramental preparation.
- Assistance in the relocation and resettlement of refugees.
- Advocacy on behalf of the poor and marginalized.
- Assistance for Parishes in all aspects of sacred worship, including formation for liturgical ministers.
- Support for Parishes in the areas of human resources, building maintenance, financial reporting, stewardship, charitable giving and Parish development.

Does the Diocese help organizations outside of it?

Yes, the Diocese is generous to many in need. For example, the Diocese has an ongoing financial commitment to help the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, which is still suffering from the effects of the devastating earthquake

there in 2010, and the Diocese of Churchill-Hudson Bay, which includes northern Manitoba and the territory of Nunavut. The Diocese also supports many worthy causes within and outside of the Diocese, such as: organizations who support the poor and marginalized, like St. Vincent de Paul, the Good Shepherd and several others; health care initiatives, including hospice care and conscience protection for those in the medical field; community organizations such as the Catholic Youth Organization, Catholic Family Services and Catholic Children's Aid; and several other organizations and causes in need who do the work of the gospel. Additionally, the Diocese is proud to have made a significant gift to St. Peter's Seminary in London, helping to ensure the seminary can continue its mission to form priests for our Diocese and the Church in Canada.

Why a significant gift to a seminary in another Diocese?

There is a longstanding and fruitful connection between St. Peter's Seminary in London and the Diocese of Hamilton. For more than a hundred years, St. Peter's has trained a majority of our diocesan Priests – and those of so many Canadian dioceses. Of the current Hamilton seminarians, the majority are at St. Peter's, which is one of only three English-speaking seminaries in Canada. Hamilton Priests have also served on the seminary's staff. The seminary is in need – these funds were required for St. Peter's to continue its mission of forming Priests, deacons and lay ministers – and its vitality is important to the long-term outlook for vocations in Hamilton.



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!

"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.

Share the Journey ✨
#sharejourney

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.

