



MASSSES OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 30 – Sixth Day of Christmas

7:30a.m. – Reg Duffy, Intentions of the Caravaggio, Mattucci, Fedele, Bogart, Campi & Finoro Families

Tuesday, December 31 – Seventh Day of Christmas

5:15p.m. - Frank & Helen (Pollack) Synnott, Luisa Martone, Frances & Maurice Zadro

Wednesday, January 1 – Feast: The Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God

9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

Thursday, January 2 – Feast: St. Basil the Great & St. Gregory Nazianzen

7:30a.m. – Marcel O'Brien, Bruna Girardi

Friday, January 3 – Ferial: Christmas Weekday

7:30a.m. – Giovanni Artuso, Cathy Burns

Saturday, January 4 – Ferial

9:00a.m. – Special Intentions

5:15p.m. – Carla Maria Bendo, Walter Nosal, Alister Scoular, Joan Comeau, Naouimi Maloukian, Intentions of Gary Calverley & Family

Sunday, January 5 – Feast: Epiphany of the Lord

9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

Stewardship of Treasure:

Thank you for your gift in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's blessings.

PARISH NEWS

2020 PARISH ENVELOPES

Envelopes for your 2020 weekly donations are available for pick up behind the altar in the alcove. If you are using envelopes regularly you will automatically receive a new set of envelopes. If you have moved within the past year, please inform the office so that our records are updated and you will receive your proper income tax receipt. Your financial support is an important response to the call of Stewardship and is much appreciated, as together we respond as good stewards for the financial support of our parish community.

MEMORIAL BOOK

Our Memorial Book may be found in the Seasonal Shrine and you are invited to write the names of your deceased loved ones in the Book of Life and they will be remembered at daily Mass.

PASTOR'S DESK:

You may have noticed a new addition to the Basilica. At the front, to the left of the Altar, there is a new statue of Our Lady Queen of Heaven (Regina Caeli in Latin). This statue perfectly fits in with what was formerly known as the "Seasonal Shrine". The statue, an image of Our Lady under her title "Queen of Heaven," is what gives the shrine its new name the "Regina Caeli Shrine". The name comes from the opening lines of an ancient Easter antiphon "Regina Caeli Laetare", which means "Queen of Heaven rejoice." The antiphon is sung during the Easter season, and calls to mind the great joy of Our Lady at the Resurrection of her Son.

The new statue was blessed by His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, when he officially declared the Basilica to be the Diocesan Shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This beautiful statue is rich in symbolism. The tradition of portraying Our Lady as Queen of Heaven dates from the Middle Ages, and has been a popular depiction of the Blessed Virgin ever since. The title, Queen of Heaven, is intimately connected with the doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and speaks to the indispensable role of the Queen Mother in the Davidic Kingdom, which is perfectly fulfilled in the Mother of God. The crowns on the heads of Jesus and Mary indicate their royal role as King and Queen of Heaven and Earth. The jewels on the band of Our Lady's crown represent all the peoples of the earth. In her hand is a sceptre calling to mind the authority vested in her by Christ, and the Cross at the top of the sceptre reminds us that Our Lady herself is subject to Christ, and that even her Immaculate Conception was brought about by the merits of the Cross. The blue and red, which also feature prominently in the nave windows, tell us that Mary is both Virgin and Mother, and that she shares most intimately in the Passion of her Son, while the gold reminds us that she also shares fully in the glory of His resurrection. As in the nave windows Our Lady is close to Jesus, but not possessive of Him. It is customary in ancient and medieval iconography that Our Lady does not hold Jesus in towards her, but holds him out towards us. She fulfils her role of bringing Our Lord to His people, and bringing us to Him. It is worth noting that Our Lady appears as Queen of Heaven in three windows in the Basilica, one in the Sanctuary, one in the Nave, and in the great Rose Window above the Organ.

The statue was made at the Demetz sculpture company high in the Italian Alps and arrived in Canada just in time for its dedication on December 9th. It stands four feet tall, and is made of fiberglass, as it has to be light enough to be carried in the processions which will soon become a feature of our new designation as a Marian Shrine. My sincere thanks to the Catholic Women's League and the Knights of Columbus who shared the cost of the new statue. I hope that as you pray before this image of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven in the Regina Caeli Shrine, you will be drawn "to Jesus through Mary." You are welcome to join our Rosary Guild, who pray to the Rosary at the Regina Caeli Shrine following each weekday Mass

Father Ian Duffy, Father Bill Foote, Deacon Quinto Tami, Deacon Robin Mendonca and all the Parish Staff wish to extend our prayers and best wishes for a Happy New Year to all the members of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate Parish. We also thank everyone for their prayers, cards, gifts and many acts of kindness at Christmas and throughout the year. Thank you all for the many ways in which you serve our parish family!

PLANNED GIVING

The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate began serving the community in 1999 and remains today a strong symbol of faith. The continued support of parishioners is a wonderful sign of your Stewardship and continues to be important. Ongoing repairs and restoration projects continue and are very costly to fund. Please consider us as you prepare or update your estate and financial plans. A modest gift by the way of bequest, insurance or tangible assets can make a substantial difference to the future of our church. The BUILDING FUND finances immediate repairs and restoration work and helps to pay down our debt while the HERITAGE FUND ensures the Basilica will be in a position of financial security for future generations. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 519-824-3951. We are grateful that the Diocese has taken responsibility for the restoration of our Rectory and offices.

2019 CHURCH DONATIONS

All donations for the current year must be received no later than Sunday, December 29th, 2019 to be eligible for a 2019 income tax receipt.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

DONATIONS: During January, we are collecting toques, gloves, scarves and underwear in all sizes for the homeless men and women in our community. Please put your donations into the bins provided.

We also welcome donations of packages of rice, beans and jars of peanut butter for Canadian Food for Children.

MEMBERSHIP: We are now collecting our annual membership dues for 2020. Membership to the League is \$25 and is for every woman over the age of 16. Dues can be placed in the pink offertory envelope or your own envelope addressed to the Catholic Women's League.

Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 31st – 5:15p.m.

Wednesday, January 1st - 9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

OTHER NEWS**VOCATIONS:**

By Baptism we are God's holy family today. Pray for the grace to live faithfully your vocation. If God is calling you, contact Father Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com .

JUNIOR & SENIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATIONS

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting registrations for Kindergarten at our schools beginning January 6th, 2020.

Kindergarten Eligibility:

- must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2020 to attend Junior Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2020 to attend Senior Kindergarten

Please bring:

- child's birth certificate
- a parent or child's baptismal certificate
- custody papers (if applicable)
- proof of address
- proof of tax support for families new to the system
(i.e. most recent tax bill)

Please Note:

Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Junior Kindergarten program are NOT REQUIRED to register for Senior Kindergarten. Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please call your school or visit the Board website www.wellingtoncdsb.ca .

COME RETREAT AT LOYOLA HOUSE

Are you looking to break away and spend some time in silence? See our website at loyolahouse.com for more information on these upcoming retreats & programs at Ignatius Jesuit Centre, 5420 Hwy 6, North, Guelph:

Ignatian Spirituality Retreat – January 11th-15th

Knowing the Heart of Jesus – February 21st -23rd
(facilitated by Father Bill Clarke, SJ)

Directed Prayer Weekend – February 21st- 23rd

Finding Your Way Weekend – February 21st -23rd
(facilitated by Father Paul Panaretos, SJ & Joe Waters)

Register online at www.loyolahouse.com or contact registration@ignatiusguelph.ca or by calling 519-824-1250 ext. 266.

OPERATION KEEP WARM

Donations of tents, tarps, sleeping bags and hiking backpacks are needed. Donations are accepted Monday thru Friday 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m. and Saturday & Sunday from 9a.m.-12p.m. at Wyndham House Resource Centre, 133 Woolwich St., Guelph.