

BASILICA OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Parish Community



PARISH ESTABLISHED IN 1827

28 Norfolk Street, Guelph, ON N1H 4H8

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Website: www.basilicaofourlady.com

Pastoral Team:

Father Ian Duffy, KHS, Rector

Father Bill Foote, Honourary Assistant

Deacon Quinto Tami



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



MASSES OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 25 – Christmas The Nativity of the Lord

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. **Christmas Mass at Dawn**

11:00 am – **Solemn Midnight Mass of Christmas**

Tuesday, December 26 – St. Stephen

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. **Mass** – *Maurice & Frances Zadro, Margaret & Jerzy Skowron, Beata & Joaquin Fernandes*

Wednesday, December 27 – St. John

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. – Danny Michieli, *Romeo Wesley*

Thursday, December 28 – The Holy Innocents

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. **Mass** – Intentions for *Doug Farmer*

Friday, December 29 – Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. **Mass** – *Ellen Hughes, Intentions for Umberto Rizzo*

Saturday, December 30 – Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

9:00 a.m. – **Mass For Christmas**

4:00- 5:00 p.m. - Confessions

5:15 p.m. **Mass** – Nicola Stefano, Hunter Smith, Intentions for Irene Boyes, Annol Vaghbla

Sunday, December 31 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 a.m. The Office of Lauds (Morning Prayer)

9:00 a.m. **Mass**

11:00 a.m. **Mass**

5:15 pm **Vigil Mass for Mary Mother of God**

Monday January 1 – Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

10:00am - **Mass**

PARISH & OTHER NEWS

Regina Caeli Shrine Lamps

During the 4th Week of Advent, beginning on Sunday, December 24th, the lamps at the Regina Caeli Shrine will burn in loving memory for the deceased Parishioners Intentions for all Living Parishioners of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate.

To request that one of the lamps be lit for your intentions, or in memory of a loved one, please call or visit the Parish Office. A donation of \$10.00 per lamp is requested.

Stewardship of Treasure

† Thank you for your gift of (to be announced after Christmas) in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's blessing.

Father Ian Message for Christmas

As we celebrate Christmas in 2023, many of us have mixed emotions. The world around us seems more confused all the time, once again people are suffering from the scourge of war, especially in Ukraine, and in the land of Our Lord's birth. Other parts of our world are suffering from violence, corruption, oppressions or natural disasters. And yet into this darkness the Prince of Peace once again shines His immortal light. Our Holy Father Pope Francis has often reminded us that the very first Christmas was not dissimilar. Far from the quiet, silent, pastoral scene that is so often depicted on our Christmas cards, the very first Christmas was marked by poverty, hardship and even exile. Mary and Joseph were forced away from their home to pay an unjust tax, they had to bring The Son of God into this world in a stable, and then had to flee their homeland because Herod sought to kill the baby. Despite all of this, however, the love of God entered our world in the Person of Jesus Christ, the eternal Word of God made flesh. That is as true in 2023 as it was some 2000 years ago. No force in this world can keep the light of God's Love from entering our world through Jesus Christ. As St. John writes " the Light shone in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it ". This is truly the central message of Christmas.

On behalf of Bishop Ustrzycki, Fr. Bill, Deacon Quinto and the entire Parish Team I would like to wish you and your loved ones all the blessings of this Holy Season.

I remain faithfully yours in Christ,
Fr. Ian Duffy

Vocations

We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord you may be called to be a priest, religious or deacons, please contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations and Priestly Formation, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Website: www.hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

Catholic Young Adult Book Study Group

The Catholic book study group will resume in January, meeting every other Wednesday in the Basilica of Our Lady parish hall at 5:30pm. On January 10th, the group will discuss St. John Paul II's " Letter to Artists," and on January 24th, they will begin discussing " A Canticle for Leibowitz" by Walter M. Miller Jr. Young adults in their 20s and 30s are welcome to join for a potluck dinner, fellowship, and discussion. Please RSVP by emailing hannaruthcaruso@gmail.com

Membership in the Basilica Catholic Women's League

The Catholic Women's League of Canada has a core purpose, uniting Catholic women to grow in faith, and to promote social justice through service to the Church, Canada and the World. For more information about the league, visit

cwl.ca and cwl.on.ca. The cost to become a member of the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate CWL is \$40. Payment can be made by cheque or cash and can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the weekly offertory in an envelope clearly marked – CWL Membership Fees. Please include your name and contact information.

Basilica Gift Store (Parish Hall)

New items have arrived this past week: new Nativity Sets, including special nativity sets for children, and one-piece sets. Statues that we have not had before include Our Lady of Knots (actually the “undoer of knots”) and a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Lourdes with St. Bernadette kneeling before her. There are small angels, stocking stuffers, sets that light up – perfect for your home or office. We have plaques just right for children and yes, those difficult-to-buy-for teenagers. There are Books for little ones, and the list goes on and on. Please drop in after Mass and check us out.

Save the Date – Guelph Catholic Churches

Fun Family Bingo – St. Joseph’s Parish Hall 6pm, Bingo starts at 6:30pm, Entrance fee is \$3.00, six cards per person. Saturday Evenings Jan. 13th, Feb. 3rd, March 2nd, Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 10631.

CWL at St. John’s Parish, Guelph

St. John the Baptist Parish in Guelph is in the process of reinstating the Catholic Women’s League. We welcome back members who registered with other councils during our hiatus. Please contact St. John’s Parish Office at 519-824-7311 if you would like to join us again.

Children’s Liturgy

If you are a teen or adult, we still need more volunteers to run this every weekend. Call Mary Muller at 289-230-8856 for more information.

Advent Resource for Teens

The Office of Youth Ministry is pleased to announce the release of the 2023 Advent Resource, “Shine Your Light”. This resource has been developed for youth aged 13-16 in mind. The resource is an interactive journal, inspiring prayerful reflection on the Sunday Gospels, in addition to suggestions for living out the Advent Season. <https://tinyurl.com/2s3h2ejs>.

Divine Mercy PowerPoint Presentation

There will be a whole day seminar at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate on Saturday, January 13, 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm (Bring your Lunch).

A great treasury of revelations, teachings, insights, and prayers of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy. In addition to the many significant revelations of Our Lord about trust and mercy, there are major teachings on several subjects, including the Holy Eucharist, Confession, Blessed Mother, spiritual life and suffering of others.

Jesus said: “Write down these words, my daughter. Speak to the whole world about My Mercy; let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it, will come the day of justice. While there is still time, let

them have recourse to the fount of My Mercy; let them profit from the blood and water which gushed forth for them.”

Renewed by Love – Marian Residence Retirement Home

There is a campaign called Renewed by Love and it seeks to transform the living spaces of the residents of Marian Residence Retirement Home and nurture an environment at Marian Residence that fosters the five values of our organization: Faith, Compassion, Dignity, Respect and Responsibility. For more information please contact: Sister Maria Goretti Figueiredo, SOLI at social@marianresidence.ca.

Special Day Envelopes

Parishioners who donate by weekly or monthly electronic fund transfer (EFT) we now have special donation envelopes available at the parish office for your use.

2024 envelopes and missals are available for pick up, check at the back of the church.

Catholic Moms Group

Calling All Moms! Are you looking for a free, Fun, Faith Filled Afternoon For You and Your Little Ones this Winter?

Meet up Every First Wednesday of the Month 4:30-6:00pm. We have a retired teacher, who will host a Saint Lesson and Craft; While you gather with like-minded Moms, to share a hot chocolate and ideas on how to live out your Catholic Faith. This is a great opportunity to connect with other incredible Catholic Moms; it takes a village. To RSVP or volunteer, please email st.johnbaptistmg@catholicmomsgroup.com

St. John the Baptist 45 Victoria Rd. N, Guelph

Kindergarten Registration at Wellington Catholic DSB

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 8, 2024!

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- Must be four years of age on or before Dec 31, 2024 to attend year 1 kindergarten
- Must be five years of age on or before Dec 31, 2024 to attend year 2 kindergarten

During the registration process, school administration is available to assist you with any questions you may have. To assist admin with registering your child, we ask that you have the following documents available;

- Child’s birth certificate
- Parent or child’s baptismal certificate
- Proof of tax support for families new to the system (ie most recent tax bill)
- Proof of address
- Immigration documents

Please note students currently attending year 1 kindergarten **ARE NOT REQUIRED** to register for year 2. If you have any questions please contact your local Catholic school.

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