

### Fourth Sunday of Advent

We are now on the eve of the birth of Jesus. In today's Gospel, Matthew tells us how this came about. His account is totally different from that of Luke. The only thing in common with both accounts are the central ideas that:

- Jesus is conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and
- Joseph and Mary are the parents of Jesus.

In both accounts there is an angelic appearance: in one case to Mary and in the other to Joseph. Mary is told – in Luke's gospel – that she is to bear a son. When she says that she is still a virgin, she is told that the Holy Spirit will come upon her and her child will be the Son of God. In Joseph's case, he is told – in Matthew's gospel – not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife because the child with whom she is pregnant is from the Spirit of God. The stories are different but the central message is the same. Mary is the mother of the Child but Joseph is not the father. The child has been conceived by the power of God's Spirit. The son is to be called 'Jesus', which means 'Saviour' because His mission is to save His people from their estrangement with God.

**Advent with Children** - Join our parish for Advent with Children. This will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during the busy holiday season. Each day of Advent, dedicate 5-10 minutes to prayer, meditation and some activities. On the first Sunday of Advent, we gave each child an Advent package to help them to journey through this special season deepening their relationship with the Holy Family. Children who join this program and attend Mass during this Advent Season will receive, on the Fourth Sunday of Advent (this Sunday) - a special gift. **Do not miss your chance to get your gift and get ready for Christmas!**

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** - The Eucharist is the center and origin of the life of the Church. Therefore, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is taking place Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., in our church (Divine Mercy Chapel). We would like to invite our parishioners to sign up for adoration and dedicate at least one hour a week to be with Jesus and nourish your spiritual life. To sign up, please contact Elisabeth at 519-590-5348. **"If you are passing before a Church, enter to greet our Lord. Could you pass the door of a friend without saying hello?"** St. Jean-Marie Vianney

**Mass Intentions**  
**December 19, 2022 – December 25, 2022**

Tuesday, December 20, 2022 – **7:00 p.m.**  
**Group Mass Intentions**  
**Holy Souls in Purgatory** – *Theresa & Brigitta + Albert Luft* – *Dorothy Luft & Family*  
**Intentions of Sandy Burke** – *Ken & Betty*  
**Intentions of Murray & Audrey Brockman** – *Ken & Betty*

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**  
**Intentions of Ken** – *Magie*

Thursday, December 22, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**  
**Intentions of Fatima Pacheco** – *Magie*

Friday, December 23, 2022 – **8:30 a.m.**  
**Intentions of Marlowe** – *Mom*

Saturday, December 24, 2022 –  
***Vigil of the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord***  
**5:00 p.m.** – **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

Sunday, December 25, 2022 –  
***Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)***  
**10:00 a.m.** – **Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish**

Following the Diocesan Initiative to "Come Home for Christmas" we have suspended live-streaming from our church at this time.

**Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar**

December 19 – Rev. Msgr. Ivan Vuksic  
December 20 – Rev. Pierre Caouette, L.C.  
December 21 – Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.)  
December 22 – Rev. Louis DeVaugelas, L.C.  
December 23 – Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.  
December 24 – Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.  
December 25 – **Christmas Day (The Nativity of the Lord)**

**Serra Prayer for the Perseverance of Vocations**

O God, You have constituted Your only-begotten Son supreme and eternal Priest for the glory of Your majesty and the salvation of mankind; grant that those whom He has chosen ministers and dispensers of His mysteries may be found faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Amen.

#### Vocations

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife... When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him." Are you willing to respond as Joseph did? If God is calling you to be a priest, deacon, brother or sister or a consecrated virgin, contact:

**Fr. Mark Morley**, Director of Vocations  
(905-528-7988); [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

or

**Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate Vocation Office**  
71 Indian Trail, Toronto, ON M6R 2A1  
[vocations@omiap.org](mailto:vocations@omiap.org)

### PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Preparing For Confirmation & First Communion & Reconciliation

**Gift Bearers:** We welcome our Reconciliation/First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates and their families as they bring the offertory gifts to the altar on the following dates:

**December 18** – 10 a.m. – Kieran Williams and family  
**January 8** – 10 a.m. – Tanner Sereda and family

#### Pierogies Sunday - Fundraiser for our parish **THIS Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**

In the Parish Hall following the 10:00 a.m. Mass

**Christmas Flowers** – Envelopes are available at the back of the church for those wishing to make a contribution to assist with the cost of flowers, trees and decorations. Your donations will help to beautify the church during the Christmas Season and are greatly appreciated! Thank you for your generosity!

**Mass Intentions for 2023** – In order to provide an equal opportunity to all members of our parish, who would like to request Mass intentions in 2023, I would propose the following: Each family may reserve 1 Saturday Mass and 1 weekday Mass. This is based on the number of registered families. Please make your requests over the next several weeks. After January 27, 2023, we will accommodate any available request, for as many Mass intentions as you wish. In 2020, I introduced a Mass with Multiple Intentions, in order to respond to the needs of our parishioners. These will continue, on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

**2023 Offertory Envelopes** – The 2023 Offertory Envelopes are now available for pick up. Please pick up your envelopes after Mass, this weekend, on the table at the back of the church. There are boxes for those who have signed up for Pre-Authorized Giving, as well. To ensure our parish records are up-to-date, we ask that you please put your name, address and phone number on the first envelope you use. Many ID/ENV#s have changed for 2023 - please use the envelope for the current year to ensure your donation is processed correctly. Thank you for your assistance.

**Donations for the year 2022** – As we approach year end, we wish to remind you that the diocesan bookkeeping policy requires that parish books close on December 31, 2022. Any donations you wish to make for the 2022 taxation year must be submitted by December 31, 2022. If you have moved in 2022, please inform the parish office so that we can ensure your receipt is sent to the correct address and our parish records are updated. Thank you for your generosity to the parish!

**Building Fund Collection** – The second collection for the Building Fund, will take place the weekend of **December 31<sup>st</sup>/January 1<sup>st</sup>**.

**Stewardship Report** – The Stewardship Report for December 11, 2022 will be in next week's bulletin.

**Euchre** – The games are scheduled for every second and fourth Wednesday of the month starting December 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and will take place in the Rectory Basement Meeting Room. For information, call Chris - 519-575-1692.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



#### COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Any time is a good time to invite family, friends, and neighbours to attend Mass. Especially so during the beautiful Christmas season. What better gift can we give a loved one who

is away from the Church than a warm invitation to *Come Home for Christmas*? Whether they have been away for a short time or a long time, we want all Catholics to know that they are warmly welcomed back to our Parish community. Please consider extending this invitation to loved ones, neighbours, and colleagues – for more information, visit <http://hamiltondiocese.com>.

**EVENINGS WITH HIS EXCELLENCY** – Auxiliary Bishop Wayne Lobsinger invites everyone to join him for "Evenings with His Excellency." Learn more about our Catholic Faith based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Class is the second Friday of each month from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Ann Parish, Ancaster. It is also available on St. Ann's YouTube channel. No cost, no homework, just an opportunity to learn about our faith. All are welcome.

**Mastering Your Money: A Financial Wellness Presentation for the Diocese of Hamilton** - Financial worries are the top source of stress for all Canadians, ranking above work concerns, health worries and even relationship struggles. The need for financial literacy has never been more pressing. Join us for this special zoom session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7-8:30 p.m., presented by Mr. Fred Masters, President & Founder of Masters Money Management Inc., and the author of the critically-acclaimed new book 'Lessons on Mastering Money'. He has delivered dozens of financial literacy presentations and is a sought-after media commentator on financial literacy. This is a free virtual event, but you must register at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com) under Upcoming events, or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, to receive the Zoom link.