

Pope Francis’ Vocations Day Message

Though the global situation risks plunging people into pessimism, Christians are called to pursue their vocation of becoming ‘men and women of hope’, Pope Francis said in his message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations, 21 April 2024.

‘As individuals and as communities, amid the variety of charisms and ministries, all of us are called to embody and communicate the Gospel message of hope in a world marked by epochal challenges,’ the Pope wrote in his message for the day.

Global challenges such as war, migration, rising poverty rates and climate change, in addition to personal difficulties encountered daily, ‘risk plunging us into resignation or defeatism,’ the Pope wrote in his message released on 19 March. He encouraged Christians to instead ‘cultivate a gaze full of hope and work fruitfully in response to the vocation we have received, in service to God’s kingdom of love, justice and peace’.

To be ‘pilgrims of hope and builders of peace’ means ‘to base our lives on the rock of Christ’s resurrection, knowing that every effort made in the vocation that we have embraced and seek to live out will never be in vain’, the Pope wrote. Pursuing a vocation, he explained, is not an imposed duty but rather ‘the surest way for us to fulfil our deepest desire for happiness’.

The Holy Father noted all Christians are called to welcome our God-given vocation to serve Him in the world, whether it be through the consecrated life, the priesthood, marriage, or as a single person.

‘Our life finds fulfilment when we discover who we are, what our gifts are, where we can make them bear fruit, and what path we can follow in order to become signs and instruments of love, generous acceptance, beauty and peace wherever we find ourselves.’

The Pope expressed his gratitude for the ‘hidden efforts’ of those who consistently respond to their calls in life, namely parents, workers, consecrated men and women and priests, and he urged young people to make room for Jesus in their lives to discover their vocation.

‘Let Jesus draw you to himself; bring him your important questions by reading the Gospels; let him challenge you by his presence, which always provokes in us a healthy crisis,’ he told young people.

The pope also highlighted the ‘synodal character’ of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, noting how ‘amid the variety of our charisms, we are called to listen to one another and to journey together in order to acknowledge them and to discern where the Spirit is leading us for the benefit of all.’ Prayer, he added, ‘is more about listening to God than about talking to him.’

The Pope called on Christians to ‘open the doors of the prison in which we so often enclose ourselves, so that each of us can discover his or her proper vocation in the Church and in the world’.

‘Let us be passionate about life and commit ourselves to caring lovingly for those around us in every place where we live,’ he wrote.

Sources: OSV News; Vatican News

Mass Intentions
April 22, 2024 – April 28, 2024

Tuesday, April 23, 2024 – **7:00 p.m.**
+ **Stanislaus Das – Agnes & Ted**

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
Shut-ins of St. Teresa Parish – CWL

Thursday, April 25, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ **Florence Cybulski – Family**

Friday, April 26, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**

Saturday, April 27, 2024
9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. – + Leona and Sheldon Grobe – Peter Grobe

Sunday, April 28, 2024 – **10:00 a.m.**
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

April 22 – Rev. Innocent Nwachukwu
April 23 – Rev. Apree Nicolas Urquico
April 24 – Jesuit Fathers (S.J.)
April 25 – Rev. James Petrie
April 26 – Rev. Donald Wilhelm
April 27 – Rev. Nishil Varghese, C.M.I.
April 28 – **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Vocations
Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 21, 2024

This is World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The world needs leaders with courage and integrity. The Church needs good leaders as well, leaders who will unselfishly care for the needs of God’s people and minister to them. If you feel God is calling you to priesthood, religious life or diaconate, call:

Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations
905-528-7988; vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those who wish to plan First Communion for public school students, please contact the parish office to schedule the First Sacrament of Reconciliation with Fr. Stefano Lee.

Baptisms

On Saturday, April 20th at 1:30 p.m., through the Sacrament of Baptism, we welcome:

Jacob Higgins,
son of
Tim Higgins and Megan Higgins

Congratulations on your Baptism, Jacob!

First Communion Interviews with Families
First Communion interviews with First Communion students and their families will take place in April and May. A letter to parents has been sent out shortly with more details. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

Confirmation – May 15th, 2024

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated at St. Teresa of Avila Parish on May 15th, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Very Reverend Monsignor Murry Kreotsch, Vicar General of the Diocese of Hamilton will preside at the celebration. Prior to Confirmation, **there will a retreat and rehearsal on May 8th, 2024** in the church of St. Teresa of Avila at 7:00 PM. It is necessary to attend these events before Confirmation. For any questions, please contact the parish office.

Bible Study

A reminder that on the first Friday of the month only, the bible study will take place after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. On all other Fridays, the bible study starts at 7:00 p.m.

Office Notice

On Monday mornings, due to recording donations, we may not answer the phone. Please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible!

Stewardship Report – April 14th, 2024	
Sunday Offerings	\$2,141.00
Votives.....	\$ 21.50
Building Fund.....	\$ 20.00
Easter.....	\$ 100.00
Indigenous Reconciliation.....	\$ 265.00
Donation for Ambry.....	\$ 560.00

DIOCESE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Exploring God's Call:
Join Our Religious Life Vocation Retreat

How do I discern a vocation to Religious Life? If you're looking to understand God's plan for you, join us for the 'Come and See' day retreat on May 25th at St. Mary's Parish. This retreat offers a chance to join community prayers, engage in discussions with three Resurrectionists, and meet other young people on a similar journey. For

further details, please visit our website: <https://resurrectionists.ca/vocations/come-see>

Wedding Anniversary Mass

The Hamilton Diocese Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 1:30 PM. Please see the Hamilton Diocese website for details and to register. You will also be able to register at the parish.

We are most appreciative of your ongoing prayerful and financial support for our parish, St. Teresa of Avila.

Donations to the parish can be made through the use of Sunday Offertory envelopes, Pre-Authorized Giving, CanadaHelps and Interac e-Transfer.

Pre-Authorized Giving – A digital copy of the form can be found on our parish website or call the parish office. Simply print the form, complete it and return it to the Parish Office.

E-Transfer – To donate through E-Transfer, please use the following email account:
stteresakitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

CanadaHelps – To support our parish via **credit card** or **PayPal** please visit canadahelps.org You can access our parish directly by following this link:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119110450RR0053-st-teresas-parish/>
Please note that donations made through the CanadaHelps website, will receive a tax receipt directly from CanadaHelps, via email.

If you require any further information, please contact the parish office.

Wisdom of the Saints

“I am not my own; I have given myself to Jesus.”
-- *St. Kateri Tekakwitha*

“Do you want our Lord to give you many graces? Visit him often. Do you want him to give him few graces? Visit him seldom. Visits to the Blessed Sacrament are powerful and indispensable means to overcoming the attacks of the devil. Make frequent visits to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and the devil will be powerless against you.”
-- *St. John Bosco*

Pope Francis’ Prayer Intention
April 2024

Please join Pope Francis in praying for the role of women during the month of April.