

ST. MARY PARISH **WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tue. Dec 28 - 7:00 p.m. NO MASS
Wed. Dec 29 - 9:00 a.m. NO MASS
Thur. Dec 30 - 9:00 a.m. NO MASS
Fri. Dec 31 - 9:00 a.m. Maria Arruda Req'd by Luis Arruda
Fri. Dec 31 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish, **Mary, Mother of God**
Sat. Jan 1 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish, **Mary, Mother of God**
Sat. Jan 1 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. Jan 2 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Jan 1 - 4:00 p.m. Pauline Mills
Sun. Jan 2 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Westendorp

CONFESSION only by appointment, call Fr. Mike at: 519-323-1054 ext. 7

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Fri. Dec 31 - 5:30 p.m. The People of the Parish, **Mary, Mother of God**

Sat. Jan 1 - 5:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sat. Jan 1 - 11:00 a.m. The People of the, **Mary, Mother of God**

Sun. Jan 2 - 11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish



Holy Family of Nazaret

**Protect our families,
keep us united in love
and
lead us to eternal joy.**

**My soul thirsts for you,
O Lord my God.**

**Let heaven and earth
exult in joy!**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus is found in the Temple.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

CWL Membership Dues

CWL dues for 2022 are \$25.00 and must be paid before the end of the year 2021. Please use the blue envelopes in your boxes or any envelopes and address to Colleen Dalla Costa 519- 323-9112

Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.

— St. Pius of Pietrelcina

Mary, Mother of God- Jan 1



First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 67:2-3,5,6,8

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:16-21

In today's Solemnity, this reading also helps us focus on Mary as the Mother of God. The reading tells us at least three things about Mary as a mother. First, Mary is described as a reflective person, keeping the reports of the shepherds in her heart. Second, we are reminded of how obedient Mary was to God when she named the baby *Jesus* as the angel Gabriel had directed. Third, this reading shows Mary and Joseph faithfully observing their Jewish tradition by having Jesus circumcised. Mary's faithfulness to God is evident in all three of these things. Her reflection upon the events in her life indicates that she was a person of prayer. This prayer made possible her obedience to God and God's will, even if the outcome was not clear. Finally, her faithfulness to a community of faith grounded her relationship with God and enabled her to participate in God's plan of salvation. Because of Mary's faithfulness to God, she was able to receive the gift of God's Son and accept her role in God's plan for salvation. By doing so, she models for us the path of discipleship and is also called Mother of the Church. Our call to discipleship also includes these three aspects. First, discipleship means prayer and reflection on the events of our lives that we might see God's presence and work in our lives. Second, discipleship means obedience to God and God's will. Third, discipleship includes fidelity to a community of faith. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

Kindergarten Registration at Wellington Catholic DSB

The Wellington Catholic District School Board will be accepting new registrations for kindergarten at our schools beginning January 3, 2022.

Food Bank – Harriston

Thank you to all Parishioners for donation.

2022 ENVELOPES

The 2022 contribution envelopes are available for you to pick up this weekend. Please verify that the address shown on your label is correct as it is the address that will be used on your income tax receipt in February. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box, please call the office.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed over the holidays from Dec. 24, 2021 to Jan. 4, 2022. The office will be re-open on Wed. Jan.5, 2022.

Operation Christmas Child - Shoe Boxes

Dear Parishioners, Thank you for your support of the Shoe Box Program. Through a combined effort, St. Thomas, St. Peter and St. Mary parishes contributed a total of 37 boxes. In combination, the following counties Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth, Wellington and Dufferin, donated 6099 boxes. This number of boxes was approximately 1000 more boxes than were donated last year. To all the

individuals and families who participated in this program, a sincere "Thank you".

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28 (The first reading from Cycle A may also be chosen, Sirach 3:2-6,12-14.)
Hannah dedicates her son, Samuel, to the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 84:2-3,5-6,9-10 (The psalm from Cycle A may also be chosen, Psalm 128:1-5.)
Those who dwell in the Lord's house are happy.

Second Reading

1 John 3:1-2,21-24 (The second reading from Cycle A is the oxygen of the may also be chosen, Colossians 3:12-21
We are God's children now.

