

**3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 13, 2020**

**ST. MARY PARISH      WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tues. Dec 15 - 9:00 a.m. Nellie & Lorenzo Franco Req'd by Mary & Bill Hammond  
Wed. Dec 16 - 9:00 a.m. Margaret & Leo Coulson Req'd by Wilf Coulson  
Thur. Dec 17 - 9:00 a.m. Aiden Felsbourg Req'd by Kathleen Boone  
Fri. Dec 18 - 9:00 a.m. Dr. Kenneth Bridge Req'd by Staff & Student St. Mary School  
Sat. Dec 19 - 4:00 p.m. Braedon Coburn Req'd by Adell Mueller  
Sun. Dec 20 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

**LECTORS**

Sat. Dec 19 - 4:00 p.m. Rachel McCarthy  
Sun. Dec 20 - 9:00 a.m. Emma Westendorp

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

**ST. THOMAS, Harriston**

Sat. Dec 19 - 5:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

**ST. PETER'S, Ayton**

Sun. Dec 20 - 11:00 a.m. Loretta & Jim Murray Req'd by Dot Bourgeois

**Christmas Lessons**

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**Christmas is a special time to give, to serve, to love. It isn't just about yourself, but others that you think of: the presents, the trees, the glowing lights are fun but have no part in what the real meaning of Christmas is... That is in your heart; even if other people don't, you should try to do the things that you would want them to do to you. The holidays are a busy time but they are sometimes good because they keep you thinking about others like you should. So this year try to not think about yourself but think of the things you can do to help others to have a wonderful Christmas and you will find that you will be happy too.**

**-unknown author**

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from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah.

John announces that the savior they seek is already among them, but as yet unrecognized. John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

**Family Connection**

In family life, we learn to trust other people for protection and care. This experience of trust within the family enables children to believe us when we testify about our faith in Jesus. John the Baptist was believed by those who heard him because he helped them to recognize Jesus in their midst. In our family life, we hope and pray that we lead one another to recognize Jesus' presence in our world.

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEGUAGE**

Dear ladies of the CWL, your dues must be in by the end of the year. Please leave in collection basket to the attention of Colleen Dalla Costa. Thank you.

**Liturgical Calendar**

**Dec 14St. John of the Cross**

**"Who teaches the soul if not God?"**

He was proclaimed Doctor of the Church in 1926. His best-known works are: The Ascent of Mount Carmel, The Dark Night of the Soul, and The living Flame of Love

**Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen.**

**- St. Thomas Aquinas**

In preparation for Christmas, we are having Confessions after the weekday and weekend masses during this season of Advent. Guest priest is available.

**"Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down." -Pope Francis**

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**



**Christmas Eve- Thurs. Dec 24**

**Mt. Forest at 4:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:00 p.m., 8:30 p.m.**

**Harriston at 7:00 p.m.**

**Ayton at 7:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.**

**Christmas Day- Fri Dec 25**

**Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m.**

**Harriston at 10:00 a.m.**

**Ayton at 11:00 a.m.**

**Note:** Please call the Parish office or email us your choice of Christmas Mass and how many will attend so that we may follow the Pandemic protocol.

**Floral Tribute Sheets**

To make a donation in honor of a deceased relative and/or friend, please fill out a Floral Tribute Form and attach it to the Dec.6 blue envelope boxes or hand in the Tribute Sheet by itself. The forms are available for pick up in the foyer. Deadline is Dec. 17th

**2021 ENVELOPES**

The 2021 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.

**Anniversary Mass 2021** – The Anniversary Mass scheduled for June of 2021 has been cancelled due to restrictions and concerns around COVID-19. We invite you to register your 25, 40, 50, 60 and 60 plus years Anniversary starting in January on the Diocesan website. We will send you the certificate you would have received from Bishop Crosby at the Mass.

**Christmas Midnight Mass – Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton**

His Excellency, Bishop Crosby, will celebrate Christmas Midnight Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Midnight Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at **11:30 p.m.** Both the Carol Service and the Midnight Mass will be broadcast on Salt+Light Media and shared with CHCH-TV. The Mass will be repeated on CHCH-TV at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

**"God leads every soul by a unique path."**  
**-St. John of the Cross**

**DIOCESAN CALENDAR**

Mon.- Rev. G.Pinto,O.C.D.    Tue.- Rev. R. Hodara  
Wed.- Congration of the Most Holy Redeemer (C.Ss.R.)  
Thurs.- Rev. E. Henhoeffler    Fri.- Rev. J. Schnurr  
Sat.- Rev. J. KrynS.A.C.

**"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." If God is calling you to serve as a priest, contact *Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988 or email [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)***

**" If we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord, then our hearts are filled with hope, our minds are washed in the light of truth, and we come to know the fullness of the Gospel with all its promise and life."**  
**- St. John Paul II**

**Sunday's Readings**

**First Reading**

*Isaiah 61:1-2a,10-11*

**Responsorial Psalm**

*Luke 1:46-50,53-54*

**Second Reading**

*1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

**Gospel Reading**

*John 1:6-8,19-28*

John gives testimony that he is preaching and baptizing in order to prepare for the coming of another.

**Background on the Gospel Reading**

The third Sunday of Advent is also called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete*, a Latin word which means "rejoice." It is a reminder that Advent is a season of joy because our salvation is already at hand.

In Gospel John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received