

4th Sunday of Advent – Dec 19, 2021

ST. MARY PARISH

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tues. Dec 21 - 7:00 p.m. Hildred Page Req'd by Jo Anne & Frank Mc Kenna
Wed. Dec 22 - 9:00 a.m. Teresa Roberts Req'd by CWL
Thur. Dec 23 - 9:00 a.m. Arthur, Mary, John McDonald Req'd by The Family
Fri. Dec 24 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Fri. Dec 24 - 9:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sat. Dec 25 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish
Sat. Dec 25 - 1:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sat. Dec 25 - 4:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. Dec 26 - 9:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

LECTORS

Sat. Dec 25 - 4:00 p.m. Evelyn Collins
Sun. Dec 26 - 9:00 a.m. Marian Flanigan

ST. THOMAS, Harriston

Fri. Dec 24 - 6:00 p.m. The People of the Parish
Sat. Dec 25 - 5:30 p.m. The People of the Parish

ST. PETER'S, Ayton

Sat. Dec 25 - 11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish
Sun. Dec 26 - 11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

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: *Micah 5:1-4*

The ruler of Israel is promised to come from Bethlehem.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 80:2-3,15-16,18-19*

A prayer for God's salvation

Second Reading: *Hebrews 10:5-10* Through his obedience to God's will, Christ consecrated all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 1:39-45* Mary visits Elizabeth, who sings praise to Mary and her child.

Background on the Gospel Reading

On this the last Sunday before Christmas, our Gospel reading prepares us to witness Christ's birth by showing us how Jesus was recognized as Israel's long-awaited Messiah even before his birth. The Gospel turns our attention from the ministry of John the Baptist to the events that preceded John the Baptist's birth. The story of John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah, are reported only in Luke's Gospel. Luke pairs the birth of John the Baptist and Jesus, establishing John's early connection to the Messiah.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE



Christmas Eve - Fri. Dec 24

Mt. Forest at 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
Harriston at 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Day- Sat. Dec 25

Mt. Forest at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Ayton at 11:00 a.m.

HOPE – PEACE- JOY – LOVE

Advent Confessions

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

Our Gospel reading recalls Mary's actions after the announcement of Jesus' birth by the angel Gabriel. Mary goes to visit Elizabeth, her cousin, who is also with child. Elizabeth greets Mary with full recognition of the roles that they and their unborn children will play in God's plan for salvation. If we were to continue to read the verses that follow in Luke's Gospel, we would hear Mary respond to Elizabeth's greeting with her song of praise, the Magnificat. Both women recall and echo God's history of showing favor upon the people of Israel.

In Luke's Gospel the Holy Spirit helps reveal Jesus' identity as God to those who believe. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit and sings Mary's praise because she bears the Lord. We sing these words of praise to Mary in the Hail Mary. Even John the Baptist, the unborn child in Elizabeth's womb, is said to recognize the presence of the Lord and leaps for joy.

It is appropriate in this season of Advent that we consider the role of Mary in God's plan of salvation. Elizabeth describes Mary as the first disciple, as the one who believed that God's word to her would be fulfilled. Mary's faith enabled her to recognize the work of God in her people's history and in her own life. Her openness to God allowed God to work through her so that salvation might come to everyone. Because of this, Mary is a model and symbol of the Church. May we be like Mary, open and cooperative in God's plan for salvation.

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) Mass at Dawn

First Reading: *Isaiah 9:1-6*

To those in darkness, a child will be born who will have dominion over the earth.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 96:1-2,2-3,11-12,13*

Sing a new song to the Lord.

Second Reading: *Titus 2:11-14*

God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Gospel Reading: *Luke 2:1-14*

Jesus is born in a manger in Bethlehem as the angel appears to the shepherds.

The Nativity of the Lord Mass During the Day

First Reading: *Isaiah 52:7-10*

God's salvation is announced to the world.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 98:1-6*

A prayer of praise for God's salvation.

Second Reading: *Hebrews 1:1-6*

God now speaks to us through his Son.

Gospel Reading: *John 1:1-18*

John announces that in Jesus, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. <https://www.loyolapress.com>

We desire to be able to welcome Jesus at Christmas time, not in a cold manger of our heart, but in the heart full of

love and humility, in a heart so pure, so immaculate, for one another. – St. Teresa of Calcutta

“Dear Parishioners,

Preparing for the Christmas season with you this year has been an absolute joy. The faith of this community is so encouraging.



May God be please to impart to you His choicest blessing this Christmas and find you ready when He comes.

Happy Christmas from Fr. Mike and the Parish Staff

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

Food Bank – Harriston

The food bank in Harriston is looking for donations of food, in particular, canned foods and toiletries. If you are able to contribute it would be appreciated.

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.

To be eligible for registering in kindergarten, children;

- must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2022 to attend Junior (Year 1) Kindergarten
- must be five years of age on or before December 31, 2022 to attend Senior (Year 2) Kindergarten

During the registration process, school administration is available to assist you with any questions you may have. To assist administrators with registering your child for kindergarten, 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 (i.e. Most Recent Tax Bill)
- Proof of Address (Government Document, Mortgage or Rental Agreement, Hydro Bill, Credit Card Statement)
- Immigration Documentation (If Applicable)
- Custody Documents (If Applicable)

Please note:

- Students currently attending a Wellington Catholic Junior (Year 1) Kindergarten program are **NOT REQUIRED** to register for Senior (Year 2) Kindergarten.

Should you have any questions about registration procedures or requirements, please contact your local Catholic school.