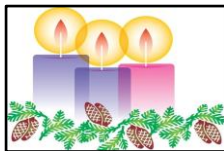




St Anne Parish



3rd Sunday in Advent

December 16-17, 2023

St Joseph Church



Mass Intentions for December 18-24, 2023

Prayer Calendar

	St. Anne	St. Joseph	Diocese of Hamilton
Monday	No Mass	<u>8:00 am</u> † Maria Odete Tinoco – Friends of St Joseph Place	Rev. Msgr. Theodore Slaman
Tuesday	<u>PENITENTIAL SERVICE – No Mass</u> <u>7:00 PM</u>	No Mass	Single Catholics
Wednesday	<u>8:00 am</u> Int of those living with cancer – friend	No Mass	Voluntas Dei Institute (i.v.Dei.)
Thursday	<u>8:00 am</u> † Tracy Balmer – friend Int of Parishioners	<u>8:00 am</u> Int of Parishioners	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino
Friday	<u>8:00 am</u> Int of Parishioners	<u>8:00 am</u> † Holy Souls in Purgatory – Fernanda Lameira Int of Parishioners	Rev. Ronald Hodara
Saturday	<u>4:00 pm</u> † Deceased members of the Carrière family – Yvonne	<u>5:00 pm</u> † DeFrancesco family – Annina DeFrancesco † Teresa Viveiros - family † Ildebrando Silveira – Maria Silveira † Bob Isler – Maria Rosa	Rev. Donald Wilhelm
Sunday	<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:30 am</u> <u>CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm AND 8:00 pm</u> Intention of all parishioners and their families	<u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 11:00 am</u> <u>CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 pm</u> Intention of all parishioners and their families	

PARISH INFORMATION

Confession: 6:30pm on Tuesdays before Mass & during Adoration.

Adoration: 7:30pm on Tuesdays after Mass.

Church Offering Report: once a month, in bulletin. Offertory envelopes can be dropped off in the parish mailbox. Please call the office to pick up your Church envelopes.

Pre-Authorized Giving: next withdrawal – January 15th

DIOCESAN VOCATION CORNER

There was a man named John, sent by God, who came as a witness to testify to the Light, so that through this person all people might believe. Is it possible God could be calling your name to witness to the Light of Christ in our day? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, religious or deacon, call Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988. Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com
Website: hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/

This Week's Liturgical Readings

December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

- 1) Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
- 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- 3) John 1:6-8, 19-28

FOCUS: REJOICE ALWAYS. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.

In today's readings Isaiah, Paul, and John the Baptist rejoice because they have Good News. God is with them and working through them. They are anointed, blessed, and sent to do God's will. On this Gaudete Sunday, we, too, find reason to rejoice. Let us rejoice in sharing the Good News of Christ.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Isaiah is anointed by the Lord and sent to announce *a day of vindication by our God*. In the second reading, Paul encourages the Thessalonians to always rejoice, pray, and give thanks. In the Gospel, John the Baptist testifies to the light and says he *is the voice of one crying out in the desert, "make straight the way of the Lord."*

St Anne: 519-745-5302

www.stanneskitchener.ca

stannekitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

Office: Tuesday – Friday, 8:30-11:30 am

Diocesan Website

www.hamiltondiocese.com

St Joseph: 519-745-9302

www.stjosephkitchener.org

stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

Office: Tuesday – Friday, 12:30-3:30 pm

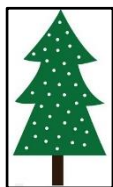
BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

For several decades, the Pope has blessed families & their Baby Jesus figurines on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent. The blessing of the 'Bambinelli' – as they are known in Rome – reminds us that the Nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. All are invited to bring Jesus from your home Nativity set to Mass the weekend of **December 16/17 (THIS WEEKEND)** to be blessed. Afterwards, take your 'Bambinelli' home, wrap it, & save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open and let this moment be a reminder of our great blessings.

ST JOSEPH: ST VINCENT DE PAUL GIVING TREE

Please support those in need in our community this Christmas. Please take an envelope off the tree at the side entrance & return it to the collection. Tax receipts will be issued for any donation over \$20. Cheques payable to: St. Vincent de Paul – St. Joseph. You can also donate by e-transferring to ssvp@stjosephkitchener.org.

ST JOSEPH: CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL TREE



If you would like to participate in the Christmas Memorial Tree this year, please include your donation in an envelope with your name & phone number along with the names of your deceased family members. An ornament will be displayed on the Christmas trees during Advent season. You may then take it home & display it on your tree for Christmas.

ST ANNE: COFFEE SUNDAY and BAKED TREATS!

We look forward to sharing time (and treats) with our St Anne Church community, **THIS WEEKEND, Sunday, December 17**, in the Church hall after Mass.

ST ANNE: CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT

Our annual Children's Gospel Presentation is returning for our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass. We are looking for children to participate in all roles, as well as a few older students to be narrators and lectors. An information and sign-up meeting will be held after the 9:30 am Mass on **Sunday, December 17** in the hall. Our one rehearsal will be on Saturday December 23 from 1:30-3:00 pm. For more information contact Mary mforcier@hamiltondiocese.com



ST ANNE: HELP WITH DECORATING

We will be decorating the church for Christmas & are looking for volunteers. Come out on **Friday, December 22 at 1:00-3:00 pm**, to help set up the trees, creche, lights, flowers & decorations. Many hands make light work! Please contact the office to let us know that we can count on you, 519-745-5302 or stannekitchener@hamiltondiocese.com.

ST JOSEPH: CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Do you feel called to serve? Please prayerfully consider how you can give some of your time and talents to your community; it is a rewarding experience. Some of the ministries of St Joseph where you can make a difference are Altar Servers (Youth and Adult), CWL, Conestoga Lodge, Music Ministry, St Vincent de Paul, Social Group, Ministers of the Word, Eucharistic Ministers, Sacramental Preparation Team, Hospitality (Ushers), Children's Liturgy, Building Committee, Decorating Committee, Spirituality group. **"We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop"**, Mother Teresa. Every ounce of help matters! Contact the Parish office to let us know where you would like to help, stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com.



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Families with children who are planning on receiving Sacraments are reminded of the following dates.

First Eucharist (Gr 2 & up): Reconciliation RETREAT

- Saturday, January 13, 1:00-3:30 pm at St Joseph
- Saturday, January 20, 1:00-3:30 pm at St Anne

Confirmation (Gr 7 & up): Candidates Session

- Sunday, January 28, 7:00-8:30 pm at St Joseph
- Wednesday, January 31, 7:00-8:00 pm at St Anne

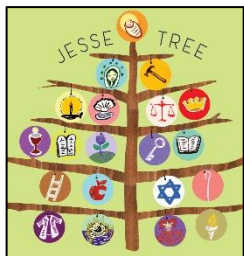
ST JOSEPH: CWL

The Catholic Women's League is a major organization for women; it provides opportunities for social life, service, & support for many parish functions. The membership dues are \$35.00 & will be due in February 2024. If there are any St Joseph parishioners who are interested in joining the St Joseph CWL, can you please email the church office to let us know? We would like to connect with you. Our numbers have been dwindling for some time, & we need to plan for the future of our CWL. A tentative meeting is being scheduled for January 2024, so please let us know if interested. stjosephkitchener@hamiltondiocese.com.

ST TERESA KITCHENER: CHRISTMAS CARDS

St Teresa Kitchener is selling Christmas cards. Packages are available at the back of the church. There are two beautiful designs. Each set contains 10 cards - 5 of each design with envelopes. They are \$20 per set and can be purchased by putting CASH in an envelope marked: **ST TERESA KITCHENER: CARDS**, or by dropping cash off at parish office.

WHAT IS A JESSE TREE?



Taken from the genealogy of Christ in the Gospel of Matthew, a Jesse Tree represents the family of Jesse, the father of David. Made from paper, cloth, or a Christmas tree, families often make ornaments each day depicting one of the ancestors of Jesus. It is like a family tree, a symbolic representation of genealogy.

WHAT ARE THE "O" ANTIPHONS?

From December 17 through Christmas Day, the "O" Antiphons are special antiphons traditionally sung during Evening Prayer, Old Testament passages that speak of the anticipated messiah. They announce the birth of Jesus and renew our hope.

COLOURS OF THE ADVENT WREATH

During the Advent season, purple is the primary colour used, symbolizing preparation and repentance. The rose candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent (this weekend), to illustrate the joyful, anticipatory nature of the season. The white candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ. The color white is for purity—because Christ is our sinless, pure Savior. This candle is lit on Christmas Eve.



CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR MASS SCHEDULE

St. Anne

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 at 9:30 am

Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 pm (Christmas Vigil)

Sunday, December 24 at 8:00 pm (Christmas Vigil)

Monday, December 25 at 9:30 am (Christmas Day)

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 at 4:00 pm

Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 am

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 31 at 4:00 pm (Vigil)

Monday, January 1 at 9:30 am

St. Joseph

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 24 at 11:00 am

Nativity of the Lord

Sunday, December 24 at 5:00 pm (Christmas Vigil)

Monday, December 25 at 11:00 am (Christmas Day)

Feast of the Holy Family

Saturday, December 30 at 5:00 pm

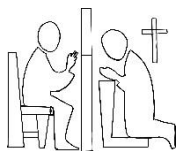
Sunday, December 31 at 11:00 am

Feast of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation)

Sunday, December 31 at 5:00 pm (Vigil)

Monday, January 1 at 11:00 am

EXTRA CONFESSION TIMES



St Anne:

Monday, December 18: 6:00-7:00 pm

Tuesday, December 19: 1:00-2:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20: 8:30-9:30 am

Thursday, December 21: 12:00-1:00 pm

Saturday, December 23: 1:00-2:00 pm

St Joseph:

Monday, December 18: 8:30-9:30 am AND 6:00-7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 20: 12:00-1:00 pm

Thursday, December 21: 8:30-9:30 am

Saturday, December 23: 11:00 am-12:00 pm

AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Tuesday, December 19 at 7:00 pm

St Anne, 268 East Avenue, Kitchener

Wednesday, December 20 at 7:00 pm

St Anthony Daniel, 29 Midland Drive, Kitchener

Thursday, December 21 at 7:00 pm

Blessed Sacrament, 305 Laurentian Drive, Kitchener

