

MASS INTENTIONS -- December 3 - 8, 2019

Tuesday, 3rd	- St. Francis Xavier, Priest 9:00 am +Sr. Agnetta & John Furtado – Gene Furtado
Wednesday, 4th	- Advent Weekday Sacrament of the Sick 9:00 am Intentions of Kelly Krause – Fr. Raphael Ma, CR Intentions of Fr. Raphael Ma, CR – Marg Beckner +Barbara Diemert – Joan Ferraccioli
Thursday, 5th	- Advent Weekday 9:00 am +Patricia Newbrough – the Family
Friday, 6th	- Advent Weekday First Friday 9:00 am +Carl Bender – Bonnie & Chris, Ron & Jane & Grandchildren 9:30 am Adoration & Benediction
Saturday, 7th	- 2nd Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm In Thanksgiving – Julie Wilkins Intentions of Maria Ferreira & Family Intentions of Michael Martin – Cathy Vanzielegem +David O'Farrell – Cathy & Lucille Vanzielegem +Leonel Silveira – Carolina Ribeiro & Children +Jerry Sorochan – Natalie Dineen & Family
Sunday, 8th	- 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:00 am +Anne Fischer – Betty Corrigan 11:00 am Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi

December 1, 2019

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Collection Nov. 16/17	\$5,060.25
2019 Total Collection to date	\$250,858.28
2019 Total Budgeted Collection	\$322,300.00

Looking Ahead to December 1, 2019

2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Isaiah 11: 1-10
Romans 15: 4-9 Matthew 3: 1-12

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Mon. Dec. 2: **Rev. Michael Vanderbeek, LC**
Tues. Dec. 3: **Rev. Todd Arsenault, LC**
Wed. Dec. 4: **Diocesan Priests**
Thu. Dec. 5: **Rev. Pierre Caouette, LC**
Fri. Dec. 6: **Rev. Thomas Flynn, LC**
Sat. Dec. 7: **Very Rev. John Van Hees**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

Sunday	
Sacrament of Confirmation (St. Louis)	2:00 pm
Youth Ministry (H)	7:30 pm
Monday	
Celebrating the Word (RR)	7:30 pm
Overeaters Anonymous (H)	7:30 pm
Tuesday	
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR)	4:15 pm
Wednesday	
Christmas Dinner (H)	6:30 pm
St. Vincent de Paul Mtg (RR)	7:00 pm
Thursday	
Catechesis of Good Shepherd (AR)	4:15 pm
Choir Practice (C)	7:30 pm
Sunday	
Songs of Advent and the Birth of Jesus with John Miller & Friends (C)	7:00 pm

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Pope Francis traditionally blesses the Baby Jesus figurines from nativity scenes that belong to families in St. Peter's Square in Rome, on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, also known as Bambinelli Sunday. The blessing of the Bambini Jesu reminds us that the nativity scene is a school of life where we can learn the secrets of true joy. **You are invited to bring your Baby Jesus figurines** from your home nativity scenes to Mass on Dec. 14 and 15 to be blessed as we celebrate Bambinelli Sunday with Catholics around the world. After the blessing please take your Bambini Jesu home and wrap it as a Christmas gift. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas Day, and as you lay Jesus in the manger, allow the moment to be a reminder of the great blessings we receive at Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you wish to donate towards our Christmas flowers and decorations in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope in your box. We will pray collectively for our loved ones at all the Christmas Masses.

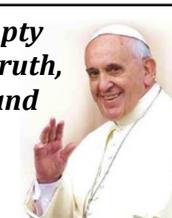
CHURCH ENVELOPES 2020

Church envelopes for 2020 will be available for pickup in the church hall beginning Dec. 14/15. If you use Direct Deposit please note you still have a small box of special envelopes to pick up. If you wish to sign up for Direct Deposit please call Alice in the parish office for details.

MISSALS for 2019-2020 are available for \$3.50 after Masses or in the parish office.

"Peace is no more than an empty word unless it is founded on truth, built up in justice, animated and perfected by charity, and attained in freedom."

~ @Pontifex, Nov. 24, 2019



AN ADVENT CALL

As our ministry leaders make up the ministry schedules for Christmas Masses we have realized how many of our wonderful volunteers have retired over the past year or moved to different ministries. During this season of Advent please prayerfully consider where God may be calling you to ministry in His church here at St. Francis. We particularly need Hospitality Ministers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. To be a Communion Minister you must be confirmed and have a desire to share Christ's body with the congregation. Hospitality Ministers can be adults, couples, maybe your whole family would like to do this ministry together. Training is provided for both ministries. If you would like to learn more or sign up please contact the parish office. Thank you for being Christ's hands and feet by serving our parish community.

AROUND TOWN

Prayer Vigil Thurs. Dec. 5 from 9 to 10 am in front of Freeport Hospital for babies being aborted. All are welcome to pray quietly for those who have no voice, but our own! Parking across the road at Schneider Park. Any queries, contact Cathy at: kwc.prayervigil@rogers.com

Adoration for Life 4 Locations:

- Thurs. Dec. 5, 11am, St. Mary, Kitchener
- Thurs. Dec. 5, 6pm, St. Agnes, Waterloo
- Fri. Dec. 6, 6pm, St. Teresa, Kitchener

All Adoration times are followed by Mass.

Never Been a Night Like This! Join the Wayne Gilpin Singers for an evening Christmas carols, songs and our 15th annual Jazz Messiah. Sat. Dec. 7, 8pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, Kitchener. Tickets at \$20, \$15 for students and seniors, available at the door or by calling 1-800-867-3281.

From the Pastor's Desk:

(Most of this article is a repeat). During the Fall of 2018 our bulletin, over the course of some 12 weeks, included information concerning the Hamilton Diocese "One Heart, One Soul" campaign. A fund-raising campaign seeking to raise 35 million dollars, of which 75% will go directly to parishes, an additional 10% to those parishes most in financial need, and 15% towards what we call "shared ministries" (school campus ministry, hospital ministry, prison ministry and migrant workers ministry).

Each parish in the diocese is expected to participate in this campaign, and as mentioned above, 75% of what each parish raises will remain in the parish for its use. The amount each parish is expected to raise is based upon the total income for 2017. In our case here at Saint Francis the amount we are being asked to raise is \$373,985.61. If our parish meets its goal 75% will be \$281,250.00.

How will these funds be raised? Each household of the parish will be **invited** to make a financial pledge towards this campaign over and above their regular giving to the parish (the diocese is fully aware that not everyone will be able to contribute financially towards the campaign, or if they participate it could be in a limited way). You will be asked to **pray and discern** about your level of giving towards the campaign. The pledges will be paid over a three year period. Not all the parishes will begin the campaign at the same time, they will begin in waves. Our campaign will begin shortly, the behind the scenes preparation work has already begun. Formal kick off will be early in May 2020.

Shortly in the new year we as a parish will decide how we intend to use these funds here

at Saint Francis. This decision-making will draw upon the feedback received at last year's Parish General Meeting when you were asked for ideas as to how to use the campaign funds.

This is an exciting time for our parish, and the entire Diocese, as we begin to explore ways to use our financial resources to build up the church of the Hamilton Diocese as we move confidently into the future.



Father Tim, C.R.

COOKIES FOR HOMEBOUND

If you are making Christmas cookies and are able to make an extra dozen to share with our parishioners who are homebound, please drop them off at the parish between Nov. 27 and Dec. 4. Fr. Tim and Fr. Raphael will visit our homebound during Advent and share the Christmas spirit. Thank you for keeping our parish family connected at Christmas.



YOUTH MINISTRY

The next Youth Ministry meeting is **TODAY! Sun. Dec. 1st at 7:30pm**, and our theme is **Relationships**. Meet in the parish hall. All high school youth are welcome, bring your friends! Snacks provided.



Plus, follow us on Instagram!
[stfrancisyouthkw](https://www.instagram.com/stfrancisyouthkw)

CHRISTMAS DINNER SETUP

If you have an hour to spare this Wednesday Dec. 4 after the morning Mass, we need some helpers to set up for the Christmas Dinner. Please meet in the Hall at 9:30am. Thank you!

SONGS OF ADVENT AND THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Join us for a musical evening of traditional and contemporary seasonal music with John B. Miller and Friends, featuring Steve Martin, Donna McLellan, Joe Orlando and Andrea Weber Steckly. Sunday December 8th at 7pm, cash donation is appreciated at the door. This will be a fun and prayerful event, a great break from the bustle of Christmas preparations.



ADVENT CONFESSIONS

During this Advent season of spiritual preparation we invite you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confession times are Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:30 pm, or if you prefer a different time please call the office to make an appointment. There are also Penance Services at some of the other local churches if you prefer that option. A complete list of services can be found on our website.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

If you are grieving, lonely or sad for any reason as the Christmas season approaches and the days get darker, we invite you to join us for an ecumenical service on Fri. Dec. 20. This will be an evening of scripture, reflective music and prayer in solidarity with one another. The service will begin at 7pm and a time of fellowship will follow in the hall. No one should be alone at this time of year, so please come and spend some time with us. All are welcome.

Celebrating 60 Years

Our next North of 60 campaign for our 60th Anniversary year is the:

Health for Fort Hope Initiative

The community of Fort Hope (also known as Eabamentoong First Nation) is a fly-in community located on the shores of Eabamet Lake in the Albany River system 360 km north of Thunder Bay. Health for Fort Hope is led by a team of medical professionals to help serve the needs of the approximately 1500 people who live on the reserve, and an additional 700+ community members living off the reserve. Like many First Nation communities, the lack of access to affordable nutritious food has led to many health problems, especially diabetes and all the associated foot care concerns. The team first visited in June 2019 and, in collaboration with nursing station and home care staff, the Health for Fort Hope project was able to fit and assess for orthotics and home care needs. With this relationship between the team and community members of Fort Hope, the team will be providing a foot care nurse and continued visits for orthotics and home care needs. We have much greater detail about the goals for this relationship on our website, www.stfrancskw.ca.

How can we help?

Our **Advent Charities Collection** this year will go to support the Health for Fort Hope Initiative. You have envelopes for this collection in your church boxes, please put them in the collection on the 1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30/Dec. 1. Extra envelopes will be available at the entrances that weekend. Thank you for helping us celebrate 60 years by giving back to our northern neighbours.



Advent Novena 2019

This 9-day Advent Novena of 6:30 am Masses has been an annual tradition in K-W for the past 41 years. Start a new tradition by inviting your family and friends



to attend this year. Each day there will be a different celebrant for Holy Mass, along with musicians from across the twin cities. St. Agnes Parish, Waterloo, Dec. 6 – 14. For more information call Marg Weber @ 519-747-5937 or marg.weber@sympatico.ca. We come together in joyful praise and worship to prepare for Christmas and give thanks to the Lord! Plan to join us! See the full schedule at www.stfranciskw.ca.

St. Teresa of Avila Christmas Dinner on Fri. Dec. 6 at St. Teresa Parish, Elmira. Meal will be begin at 6pm, cash bar available. Tickets are \$21 for adults, \$10 for children 6-12 years, 5 and under are free. Call the parish office, 519-669-3387 from 9am – 1pm. Gift basket raffle, and our very own local band, No Requests, will be playing during and after the dinner. Plan to stay and sneak in a dance or two! Funds raised from this event will go towards the Building Maintenance Project.

A Family Christmas Concert in support of The Gies Family Centre, Hospice of Waterloo Region. John McDermott with special guest Dala, featuring the Waterloo Regional Police Chorus. Sat. Dec. 7, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Kitchener, 7:30pm. Tickets are \$40, visit www.hospicewaterloo.ca or at the Hospice Family Centre, 298 Lawrence Ave.

The Diocesan Choir presents **Evening Prayer with Advent Hymns** together with the Saint John's Bible and a small reception, at St. Raphael Parish, Burlington, Sun. Dec. 8, 7pm.

Anything But Merry Workshops When you're grieving the death of a loved one, the holiday season can seem Anything But Merry. It can be a time of overwhelming emotions, new challenges and unrealistic expectations from family and friends. Anything But Merry is a community information session where we acknowledge the difficulties the holiday season can bring, and share coping strategies to help you through. There are many sessions throughout November and December:
- Waterloo Public Library, Dec. 9
- Guelph WMCA-WYCA, Dec. 12
- Cambridge Idea Exchange (Old Post Office), Dec. 12
Free of charge, registration is required. Visit www.bfomidwest.org or call 519-603-0196.

Job Opportunity Blessed Sacrament Parish in Kitchener (and St. Brigid Mission in Ayr) is looking for a full-time Youth Minister / Pastoral Associate! The job description is now posted on the Diocese of Hamilton Website. If you are interested or know someone who would be right for this position, visit www.hamiltondiocese.com.



**QUALITY • INCLUSIVE
FAITH-BASED • EDUCATION**

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is currently **accepting applications for Occasional Teachers**. Please visit our website for job details and application criteria: www.wcdsb.ca

St. Francis of Assisi Parish



49 Blueridge Ave., Kitchener, Ontario N2M 4E2
519-745-7301 www.stfranciskw.ca
stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

Administered by the Congregation of the Resurrection: www.resurrectionists.ca

Pastor:	Fr. Tim Uniac, C.R. (tuniac@hamiltondiocese.com)
Associate Pastor:	Fr. Raphael Ma, C.R. (rma@hamiltondiocese.com)
Pastoral Minister:	Miss Ruthann Fisher (rfisher@hamiltondiocese.com)
Music Ministry:	Mrs. Terriane Moulton
Admin. Assistant:	Ms. Alice Soeder
Building Manager:	Mr. Gary Howell

Lord's Day Masses

Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 am

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Friday 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 – 4:30 pm
or by appointment

Sunday Children's Liturgy

Sunday 9:00 am Mass

Prayer Network

Call parish office to request prayers

Communal Baptism

Monthly, please call the parish office to register.

Marriages

Congratulations! Please contact the parish one year before wedding date.

**Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 am to 12 noon
1:00 pm to 4:30 pm**

Vocations Information: www.vocationinfo.ca
www.vocationculture.ca



"We are a Christ-centred faith community seeking to be instruments of God's peace."

*"Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation."*

Psalm 85: 7



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 1, 2019