

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Tuesday	7:00pm	Int. of Dick & Gloria Habinski
Wednesday	8:00am	+Bernard Kerr
	10:00am	<u>Blackadar Nursing Home</u> +Peggy Weir
Thursday	8:00am	Special Intention
Friday	8:00am	Int. of Helen McNamara
Saturday	5:00pm	Dec. of the McNamara Family

DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR

Monday	Rev. Sam Restivo, C.R.
Tuesday	Rev. Tim Uniak, C.R.
Wednesday	Missionaries
Thursday	Rev. Stephen Murrin
Friday	Rev. Timothy Higgins
Saturday	Rev. Romelito Guillen

VOCATIONS OFFICE

Could God be calling you to be a priest or religious consecrated man or woman, and announce the Good News to His People as John the Baptist did? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton 905-528-7988 or Email: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

During Advent let us set aside time to visit our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There is all day Adoration on Wednesday of this coming week. Adoration is from 9:00a.m. To 4:00p.m. There is no Adoration on Wednesday, December 26th, resuming on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

ADVENT HYMN FESTIVAL

The Advent Hymn Festival was a joyous evening in our church presented by the Hamilton Diocesan Choir. A free will offering in the amount of \$1,205.00 was received in support of the St. Augustine's Building Fund.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

December 18th – 7:30pm to 8:30pm or end
December 19th, 20th, 21st, – 8:30am to 9:00am
December 22nd – 4:00pm to 4:45pm

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 24th, Christmas Eve – 5:00pm & 7:00pm
(11:30pm – Festival of Lessons and Carols)
12:00 – Midnight Mass
December 25th, Christmas Day – 9:00am & 10:30am

NEW YEAR'S MASS

Monday, December 31st, New Year's Vigil – 5:00pm
January 1st, New Year's Day – 10:30am Only
(No Tuesday evening Mass on January 1st, 2019)

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR

Donations for poinsettias and floral arrangements will be gratefully received to help defray costs. Anyone wishing to make a donation is asked to pick up an envelope marked "Flower Offering" at the back of the church. Please include your name and envelope number and place it in the collection basket by TODAY Sunday, December 16th.

DIOCESAN NEWSLETTER

The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton offer a wide range of workshops and educational opportunities during the course of the year. These activities and events are open to all interested parishioners throughout the Diocese. If you would like to keep informed regarding these opportunities for growing in your faith, you are invited to subscribe to a weekly online newsletter by going to the Diocesan Website (www.hamiltondiocese.com) and click the "Subscribe to our Newsletter" button on the right side of the homepage. Your email address will be used solely to provide you with Diocesan Newsletter and will never be shared with any third party.



The Diocese of Hamilton is conducting the One Heart, One Soul Campaign to raise money for every parish in the Diocese and for shared ministries. Answers to a set of Frequently Asked Questions appear in parish bulletins regularly. A compilation of all questions that have been published are available throughout the campaign at oneheartonesoul.ca.

What is the state of diocesan finances? Is this a desperate situation that requires a campaign?

The diocesan financial picture is strong – the amount of assets has grown in recent years and investments are doing well. Meanwhile, the Diocese is generous with grants and loans to parishes and Catholic organizations within the Diocese. Parish assessments have been stable in recent years but have not kept up with increases in diocesan operating costs. Property sales have been used more frequently to keep the Diocese’s operating budget balanced and strong, and many assets (such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries) are restricted and not at the Diocese’s disposal. This is not an emergency situation. The Diocese is looking ahead and acting before any kind of emergency could develop. Overall, the campaign is a way to ensure that more parishes will be able to be self-sufficient over the long term, building up themselves and the Diocese at the same time.

I’ve heard the Diocese has a lot of assets. Can’t those be used?

At the end of 2017, the Diocese reported assets of \$322 million. However, the majority of the assets are restricted assets, such as the Care and Maintenance Fund for Cemeteries, money legally reserved for the maintenance of cemetery operations and funds held for pre-arranged funeral services and burials. Unrestricted assets are less than a third of the total capital. Of these unrestricted assets, more than 90 percent is used to generate investment income that – when combined with parish assessments – pays for annual diocesan operations (68 percent) and make funds available for grants and loans to help parishes and organizations within and outside the Diocese (32 percent).

Is there any chance that funds would be used to settle potential claims of abuse of children by clergy?

The tragic stories recently in the news, thankfully, do not reflect the circumstances and history of our diocese. However, it should still be noted that funds raised during the campaign will be held in a segregated account, in trust for the parishes and ministries for which they were raised. Both civil and canon law require the diocese to use the gifts we receive for the stated purposes for which they were given – an obligation to which we are fully committed. Regarding how the Diocese handles abuse allegations, Bishop Crosby said in an August 2018 letter to all in the Diocese: “All allegations of sexual misconduct have been and will continue to be taken seriously and addressed immediately in accordance with our diocesan policy.” For a link to the full letter, see our diocesan website, hamiltondiocese.com.

What kind of financial transparency can we expect during the campaign and beyond?

Transparency is a top priority for the Diocese. Summaries of diocesan financial reports from 2012 through 2017 are on the diocesan website, and copies of the full reports are available from the Diocese’s financial office. Regular updates of campaign goals, projects and fundraising will be communicated during the campaign through a number of avenues – the website, emails, social media, to name a few.

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – DECEMBER 16, 2018

For the past several decades, the Pope has blessed the Baby Jesus figurines from Nativity Scenes that belong to families, and the families themselves, in St. Peter’s Square in Rome. The blessing takes place on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, and is known as Bambinelli Sunday. 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.

Baby Jesus figurines from your homes will be blessed at Mass today as we too celebrate our own Bambinelli Sunday. After the blessing you are encouraged to take your ‘Bambinelli’ home and place it in a gift box, wrap the box and save it for Christmas. Let this be the first gift you open on Christmas day - as you lay Jesus in the Manger, allow this moment to be a reminder of the great blessing we receive at Christmas.