



Monday, December 31 *St. Sylvester I*

8:00a.m. NO MORNING MASS

5:00p.m. Missa Pro Populo

Tuesday, January 1

9:00am Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

11:00am Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wednesday, January 2 *Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory*

8:00a.m. Irma Cengarle

Thursday, January 3 *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*

8:00a.m. Richard Starai

Friday, January 4

8:00a.m. Marica Ladika

Saturday, January 5

9:00a.m. John Kostas

5:00p.m. Rocco Salatino Louisa Almeida
Antonio Santos Jose Marques



**Diocesan Prayer Calendar
Week of the December 30th**

This week we especially pray for:

- Monday Rev. Peter Meyer
- Tuesday Rev. Jim Petrie
- Wednesday Holy Cross Fathers
- Thursday Rev. Kevin Cull
- Friday Rev. Stephen Gilbert
- Saturday Rev. Marko Puljic, O.F.M.

Loving Father, bless Your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those whom You are calling to the married state and those You are choosing to live as single persons in the world the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of Your Son so that through Him, with Him, and in Him, we may love You more deeply and serve You more faithfully. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Christmas at St. Ann's
CHRISTMAS SEASON SCHEDULE**

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, January 1st

Monday, December 31st 5:00pm

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019 9:00am and 11:00am

January 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation

Regular Mass Schedule Resumes on January 2nd

Parish Office Hours

The Parish office will be closed from 4:30pm on Fri., December 21 until 8:30am on Thursday, Dec. 27, and again from 12noon on Monday, Dec. 31st until 8:30am on Wednesday, Jan. 2nd to enable our staff to spend some time with their families over the Christmas Holiday.



Envelopes for 2019 are now available in the Parish Centre. *Please check the box label to ensure it is the correct name and address. Please do not use envelopes from previous years, the numbers may have been allocated to another family which would mean your donations will be recorded in the wrong account.*



An overwhelming thank-you goes out to the parishioners of St. Ann's Parish, for the generosity shown to those in need at this time. Both the Christmas trees for Neighbour to Neighbour and Ancaster Community Services were well stocked with gifts for children and young teens. Canadian Food for Children once again appreciate all your effort in putting together the Christmas Shoe Boxes for children who are less privileged that we are here. We were also able to sell many Fruit Cakes for Campaign Life Coalition, proceeds go towards defending Life and Family. Once again Thank-You.

-Father Ian Duffy

VOCATIONS

Are you called to follow in the footsteps of Mary as a priest or religious consecrated man or woman, or deacon to carry the Good News of God's great Love? If you think God is calling you to be a priest, **contact Fr. Michael King, Vocation Director, Diocese of Hamilton 905-528-7988**

email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Friday Night Support Group for Persons Separated or Divorced - Would it help you to have people around you to understand what you're going through? Would you like to hear some ideas that will encourage you and help you to develop new ways of coping with the stresses in your life? The Hamilton Diocesan Support Group meets the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month and they can help! No need to register just come and join us at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West, Hamilton from 7 – 9 p.m. For more information call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. There is NO COST, but great learning, caring and support!



Stress in Your Marriage? Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated or angry in their marriage. This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information about the program beginning with a weekend on March 15, 2019, call 905-664-5212 or email hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca



PROJECT RACHEL

There is Hope after an Abortion - Are you struggling with an abortion decision – either your own, or someone else's? Do you feel alone, emotional, or angry? Project Rachel is a ministry of healing for any person suffering pain or problems from an abortion experience. This confidential service allows people to work through their feelings and find hope and healing. Please contact us at 905-526-1999 or toll free at 1-888-385-3850.

Are You Separated and/or Divorced? LEARNING TO COPE is a ten week support program offered in both Hamilton and Kitchener starting Tues., March 19 and running from 7pm to 9:30pm. The locations are as follows: **In Hamilton:** At the Diocesan Chancery Office, 700 King St. W, Hamilton **In Kitchener:** St. Francis of Assisi Parish, 49 Blueridge Avenue, Kitchener 519-745-7301 The program is for persons experiencing difficulties as a result of a separation or divorce. For more info, please contact the Family Ministry Office at (905) 528-7988, ext. 2249. Cost: \$35. Have you already completed level 1, 2 or 3? Join the next level and continue the journey toward healing. Find out more on line at: www.hamiltondiocese.com under the start date below *Upcoming Events*.

MEANING OF THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

You're all familiar with the Christmas song, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" I think. To most it's a delightful nonsense rhyme set to music. But it had a quite serious purpose when it was written.

Catholics in England during the period 1558 to 1829, when Parliament finally emancipated Catholics in England, were prohibited from ANY practice of their faith by law - private OR public. It was a crime to BE a Catholic.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" was written in England as one of the "*Catechism Songs*" to help young Catholics learn the tenets of their faith - a memory aid, when to be caught with anything in writing indicating adherence to the Catholic faith could not only get you imprisoned, it could get you hanged, or shortened by a head - or hanged, drawn and quartered.

The songs gifts are hidden meanings to the teachings of the faith. The "*True Love*" mentioned in the song does not refer to an earthly suitor, it refers to God Himself. The "*me*" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person. The partridge in a pear tree is *Jesus Christ, the Son of God*. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge which feigns injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings, much in memory of the expression of Christ's sadness over the fate of Jerusalem: "Jerusalem! Jerusalem! How often would I have sheltered thee under my wings, as a hen does her chicks, but thou wouldst not have it so..."

The other symbols mean the following:

1. Partridge in a Pear Tree = Jesus Christ, Son of God
2. Turtle Doves = The Old and New Testaments
3. French Hens = Faith, Hope and Charity, the Theological Virtues
4. Calling Birds = the Four Gospels and/or the Four Evangelists
5. Golden Rings = The first Five Books of the Old Testament, the "Pentateuch", which gives the history of man's fall from grace.
6. Geese A-laying = the six days of creation
7. Swans A-swimming = the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments
8. Maids A-milking = the eight beatitudes
9. Ladies Dancing = the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
10. Lords A-leaping = the Ten Commandments
11. Pipers Piping = the eleven faithful apostles
12. Drummers Drumming = the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed