



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

934 Highway #8, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5H7

Phone: 905-643-1637

ihmchurch@cogeco.net; www.ihmchurch.ca



OUR PARISH'S VISION STATEMENT:

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is a welcoming place of joyful worship where one finds grace, refuge, serenity, strength and compassion.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, with the love of the Father, the parish offers outreach, understanding and hope to a diverse community in a meaningful way.

Prayerfully, openly and lovingly, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish provides a faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.

PARISH PRAYER:

Come Holy Spirit, Come by the means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Your well beloved spouse upon the Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Amen

LORD'S DAY MASSES

SATURDAY 5:00p.m; SUNDAY 9:00a.m; 11:00a.m; 4:00p.m

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9a.m; Tuesday 7p.m; Wednesday-Friday 9a.m
(Please check Bulletin for modified times)

CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday 6-7p.m; Saturday 3:45-4:45p.m
30 minutes before all other regularly scheduled Masses
(including Sunday Masses)

BAPTISMS

Call/Email the Parish office to book.

MARRIAGE

Call/Email the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance

R.C.I.A

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Call/Email the parish office

SPECIAL NEEDS

Families with children that have special needs are always welcome in our parish.
Please contact us to show us how we can help you.

STEWARDSHIP

"Donate to our Parish" through our website. Mail/Drop Off Donations to the Parish Office. We thank you for your generosity & support.



Scan to Donate!

FR. GREGORY MERKLEY, Administrator
Rev. Mr. Joe Gigliotti, Deacon
Ilaria Paletta, Pastoral Assistant
Billie Filice, Youth Minister
Francine Regaudie-McIsaac, Music Director

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday to Thursday

9:30a.m – 4:30p.m.

Friday 9:30a.m - 12:30p.m

Closed: Saturday, Sunday & Monday

PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 10a.m. until Saturday 9a.m
(Building is locked at 5p.m. each day)

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday evenings 8p.m in the church
(September to June)

PRAISE & WORSHIP PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays 7p.m - Parish Hall
(September to June)

PARISH FAMILY ROSARY

30 minutes before All Masses

HOSPITAL VISITS/SHUT-INS

Call/Email the Parish Office.

VOCATIONS

Fr. Mark Morley

905-528-7988 ext. 2341

<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

SCHOOLS

Immaculate Heart of Mary

905-523-2332

St. Gabriel

905-523-2468

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN

ihmchurch@cogeco.net

VISIT:

www.formed.org

REGISTER WITH OUR PARISH:

We welcome you to our Parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Greg.
Kindly complete the information below and place it in the collection basket.

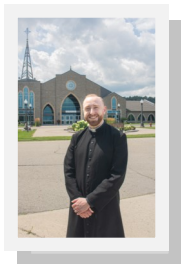
NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please check one: Envelopes _____ Pre-authorized giving _____ (form will be emailed to you)

EMAIL: _____ E-Bulletin yes/no _____

Join us in Praying the ROSARY 30 mins before All Masses	Confessions 30 mins before All Masses	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 MASS INTENTIONS: December 25-31, 2023		Diocesan Vocation Prayer Intentions
MONDAY	9:00A.M	PRO POPULO ***** ✠ STEFANO, FRANCESCA, SALVATORE BUONACCOLTO, GIOVANNI CAZZOLA—Renzo & Gina Cazzola ✠ MARIA STELLA RIZZO & GIOVANNA RIZZO—Renzo & Gina Cazzola ✠ JANUSZ ZAGRODZKI, JANINA & MICHAEL SZPAKOWSKI, JANINA WACKAWCZYK—Halina ✠ DECEASED OF HOBBS, WHYTE, HARRISON & WASSINK FAMILIES—Kathleen Whyte FOR THE INTENTIONS OF FRANK & MARIA LUCATO & FAMILY ***** NO CHANTED MASS		Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord
CHRISTMAS DAY	11:00A.M	✠ GUNI SAPRA—Julie Cascio ✠ DECEASED OF KUNKEL & COLTERMAN FAMILIES—Kunkel Family FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE GIGLIOTTI FAMILY—Paletta Family		Chancery Staff
WEDNESDAY	9:00A.M	PRO POPULO		Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne
THURSDAY	9:00A.M	✠ LOUISA SIU—Lou & Lisa Groen		The Holy Innocents
FRIDAY	9:00A.M	IN THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED & FOR THE INTENTIONS OF RYAN A.—L.H		Rev. Edward Hinsperger
SATURDAY	5:00P.M	✠ STEFANIA & JOSEPH BURY—Family ✠ FLORA & PETER MENEGALDO—Grace Ivezic ✠ IAN MCINTOSH—Lea Marrone ✠ ANTHONY SALVATORI—Family ✠ GUNI SAPRA—Henry & Maggie Tomala		Rev. Phillip Cook
NEW YEAR'S EVE SUNDAY	9:00A.M ***** 11:00A.M ***** 4:00P.M	✠ DONALD HENDERSON & SARAH TRUDEAU—Giallonardo Family ***** PRO POPULO ***** PRO POPULO		Scripture Readings December 31, 2023 First Reading Genesis 15:1-6, 17:3b-5, 15-16; 21:1-7 Second Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19 Gospel Luke 2:22-40
NEW YEAR'S DAY (MONDAY)	9:00A.M ***** 11:00A.M	PRO POPULO ***** CHANTED MASS		



My dear Parish Family,

As we joyfully approach the holy season of Christmas, we would like to share some important updates and reminders:

Please see our Christmas Mass Schedule and note the Holy Days of Obligation in Canada. Confessions will be available 30 minutes before each Mass. Please be aware that Christmas and New Year's Day are Holy

Days of Obligation.

We warmly welcome Seminarian Giuseppe Njuaem over the Christmas holidays. He currently studies for the priesthood at St. Peter's Seminary in London, Ontario, and will return there after the Christmas break.

Chant Masses at 6 PM on Mondays will be paused for Christmas and New Year's Day. However, *we have added an 11 AM Chant Mass on January 1st*, both to help offer another opportunity to attend this great Solemnity and fulfill one's obligation, and also for those who enjoy this type of Mass.

The Adoration chapel will be temporarily closed from the morning of December 23rd until January 8th. This is because over the Christmas season, it is hard for our usual adorers to commit to their usual hours. All are warmly encouraged during this time to consider praying before the tabernacle in the main body of the Church, where Jesus is equally present in the most Holy Eucharist.

The CCCB have commented on a recent document signed by Pope Francis regarding blessings: "On 18 December 2023 the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith released the Declaration [Fiducia Supplicans](#), which responds to questions that had been raised regarding the possibility of offering blessings to persons living in irregular unions, including same-sex relationships. While explicitly affirming the Church's traditional understanding of marriage, *Fiducia Supplicans* allows pastors to bless

people who freely request a blessing, seeking divine help to live in fidelity to God's will. The Declaration makes clear that such blessings must be directed to the persons themselves rather than their situation and that they must be spontaneously requested and are not ritual or liturgical actions." (The underlining is added here for clarification.)

Luigi Visocchi, a longtime organist of our parish, will step down at the end of this year. We thank him for his many years of generous service and look forward to celebrating this milestone achievement. We will celebrate this particularly after the weekend Masses of January 13th and 14th! Ken Bates has graciously offered to play at the 9 AM until further notice. Thank you to all our parish musicians for your service.

Bishop Crosby has graciously reduced our interest rate on our parish loan to 0% until November 30th, 2025. This will save us over \$30, 000 a year. May God bless our Bishop!

From my Christmas rap at our parish Christmas concert:

*"So allow me to invite you, to invite Him in.
 Deeper into your heart than He's ever been.
 Don't be afraid even if you know you have sinned.
 He came here for you, now your 'yes' is His win."*

Thank you to all our staff and volunteers who help make our parish the beautiful, warm, and welcoming faith community that it is. Also, *thank you to each and every one of you* who have kindly offered me cards and gifts this Christmas. May God reward you all a thousandfold!

May you and all of your families experience an abundantly blessed Christmas and a happy new year when it arrives!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Blessings, Fr. Greg



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

May you enjoy a Blessed Advent & Christmas Season

Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of each Month at 7:30p.m

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

We wish our ladies and their families a

Most Blessed Advent and Christmas Season!

Meetings: 3rd Tuesday of each Month at 7p.m.

IHM YOUTH MINISTRY ACTIVITIES

Please visit: www.ihmchurch.ca, Youth Ministry tab.

First Five Saturdays: January 6; February 3; March 2.

Beginning with Rosary at 8:30a.m followed by Mass at 9a.m.

FOR DAILY/WEEKLY ACTIVITIES: Instagram: [ihmyouth_](https://www.instagram.com/ihmyouth_)



ST. JOSEPH'S BROTHERHOOD — is starting a Men's Bible Study at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church on **Wednesday, January 3rd at 7:00pm**. We will follow the "Men of the Word – The Good News" Bible study program which consists of 12 sessions that cover the overarching story of salvation: from creation to our own lives. Meetings are every Wednesday night at 7:00pm except for the second Wednesday of the month. All men of the parish are welcome to attend. Please bring a Bible.



JOIN OUR PRAISE & WORSHIP PRAYER GROUP THURSDAYS at 7p.m. in the Parish Hall on January 11. "Therefore I will praise You, O LORD, among the nations; *I will sing praises to Your Name.*" 2 Samuel 22:50 If you are in need of prayers, comfort, join us!



643-1637

CALLING ALL YOUTH! We are looking to start a Youth choir at our 11a.m. Sunday Mass (Alternating weeks), if your child is in Grade 3 and up we want them! Grade 7 & 8's are most welcome to assist! (We will offer Christian Service hours) **Email: Music Director, Francine: fmcisaac0@gmail.com or call the parish office 905-**



EUCHRE & TRIOMINOES Mondays at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall. All levels of skill are welcome. Entrance donation \$4. Come out, enjoy an evening of fun & fellowship! The Last night is December 18.



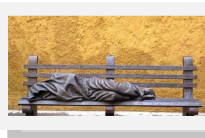
PLEASE NOTE: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL will be closed starting, Saturday, December 23 and will re-open on Monday, January 8 at 10a.m.
You are welcome to stop by and pray in the church during the weeks the Chapel is closed.



THANK YOU to all our volunteers who helped prepare our church for Christmas. Thank you to the Lucato family for their generous donation towards the Christmas flowers. Thank you to our Musicians, Singers, Lectors, Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Altar Serves and Computer Operators, Cleaners for their generous time. Thank

you to John & Adele vanTroost for donating the Christmas trees on the sanctuary & setting up the nativity scene, Deacon Joe & Nadia for the outdoor Christmas planters and to Noel Ennis, Ron Ogulin and John vanTroost for setting up the Nativity scene outside. We are truly blessed!

May the Joy of Christmas live in your hearts throughout the year!



SOCIAL ACTION: A sincere **THANK YOU** to all those who contributed to the **BLUE BOX** this past weekend or online. To those who contribute each and every month you are especially **THANKED** as your ongoing generosity enables our parish to continue to prepare and cook meals for the many individuals who come to DeMazenod Door. I hope you realize the joy you bring to those who are fed and given drink at The Door. **A special THANK YOU to all our volunteers who give of themselves each and every month to prepare and cook these meals.** What a wonderful gift you are to our parish and to DeMazenod Door. **To those parishioners who volunteer to serve meals at The Door - THANKS. You are the face of IHM parish.**

May the **SPIRIT** of Christmas and the **JOY** of the Birth of our Saviour bring you and your family **PEACE**.



CHRISTIAN MEDITATION: Christian Meditation will be cancelled on Dec. 26th and January 2nd. We will resume at 8pm on January 9th.



GRIEF RELIEF: Has someone you cared about died? Are you grieving the loss of the person's presence in your life? Are you looking for relief from the feelings associated with the loss of this loved one? Are you wondering if your feelings are normal? You are not alone! **The Diocese of Hamilton will offer a six week grief program starting January 17, 2024. The sessions are held from 1:30-3:00pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West.** You are welcome to join in person or by zoom. To register go to hamiltondiocese.com and look for the start date under upcoming events.

VOCATIONS MASS AND YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT - JANUARY 5 - HAMILTON The Serra Club of Hamilton invites all parishioners to attend a Mass for vocations at 6:00pm. Following the Mass, Fr. Mark Morley invites young adults to attend a night of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in celebration of the Christmas Season. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:30pm), praise night and vocations talk (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Friday, January 5th at Annunciation of Our Lord (280 Limeridge Rd W, Hamilton, ON L9C 2V2). Co-sponsored by the Serra Club of Hamilton and the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

OFFERTORY

December 17, 2023

Envelope Donations: \$4527.00

Loose Donations: \$360.00

Online (December 14): \$593.57

(Note: Pre-Authorized Giving 15th/30th of each month)

Pre-Authorized: \$2970.00

Total: \$8450.57

We thank you for your generosity.

2024 Sunday Offering Envelopes available for pick up! If you would like to go "Green" please visit our website: www.ihmchurch.ca click the link "Donate to our Parish" and fill in the attached form and email or drop it off to the parish office.



CHRISTMAS MASSES & CONFESSION TIMES:
CONFESSIONS beginning half hour before each Mass
CHRISTMAS EVE: 4p.m; 8p.m; 12Midnight;
CHRISTMAS DAY: 9a.m & 11a.m.
NEW YEAR'S EVE: 9a.m; 11a.m; 4p.m
NEW YEAR'S DAY: 9a.m. & 11a.m

PLEASE NOTE: THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 26 and will re-open JANUARY 9

Law office of
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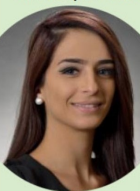


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