



IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

934 Highway #8, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5H7
Ph: 905-643-1637; ihmchurch@cogeco.net; www.ihmchurch.ca



PASTORAL TEAM

FR. GREGORY MERKLEY, Pastor
Ilaria Paletta, Office Administrator

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

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

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

PRAISE & WORSHIP PRAYER GROUP

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

HOSPITAL VISITS/SHUT-INS

Call/Email the Parish Office.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

ssvp.immaculateheart@gmail.com
Ph: 289-799-2314

SCHOOLS

Immaculate Heart of Mary
905-523-2332
St. Gabriel
905-523-2468

VOCATIONS

Fr. Mark Morley
905-528-7988 ext. 2341
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN EMAIL US:

ihmchurch@cogeco.net

VISIT: www.formed.org

SOCIAL MEDIA: @ihmchurchsc

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

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. E-Transfer: ihmchurch@cogeco.net (Offering)
We thank you for your generosity & support.



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✂----- 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.

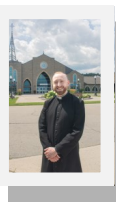
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Please check one: Envelopes _____ Pre-authorized giving _____ (form will be emailed to you)

EMAIL: _____ E-Bulletin yes/no _____

ROSARY 30 mins before All Masses		Confession 30 mins before All Masses	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2025 MASS INTENTIONS: October 20-26, 2025		Diocesan Vocation Prayer Intentions
MONDAY	9:00 AM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF NICHOLAS SANFORD - Walter & Teresa Rzeszotko			Rev. Paul Niesiobedzki
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	†GIOVANNI BRIATICO - Julie Cascio †MIKE CASCIO, GASPARE & PINA SCIARRA — Julie Cascio †MARIO & ELISA DIMARTINO—Family †SHELDON GOMES — Family †QUINTO SIMONE — Family †PETER NGUYEN & MARIA VU - Family FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ADRIAN CASCIO —Julie Cascio FOR THE INTENTIONS OF GIOVANNA SIMONE—Family FOR THE INTENTIONS OF SABRINA ZIPETO —Matteo Gigliotti FOR THE INTENTIONS ELSIE & ASHISH ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR WEDDING ANNIVERSARY			Rev. Paul Patrick
WEDNESDAY	9:00 AM	†DECEASED OF PURIC FAMILY			Consecrated Virgins
THURSDAY	9:00 AM	†DECEASED OF ATTARD & ALAMPI FAMILIES - Manny & Tina Attard			Rev. Msgr. Pierre-Philippe Jean Pierre
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF GEOFF SANFORD - Walter & Teresa Rzeszotko			Rev. Archange Kebe
SATURDAY	5:00 PM	†ELIZABETH BRANDOLINI —Manny & Tina Attard †ELENA CICCHI —Larry & Ilaria Paletta †IRENE D'AMBROSIO —Carmine & Assunta DiBartolomeo †JOSEPH & ANNA GUSTIN — Family †MICHELLE KING — Andreatta Family †MARGARET MCLAUGHLIN ROBERTS — Anna & Vince Rigitano †TERRY & STEPHEN HINCKS, PETER & TERRY DUNN - Family †MARIA POCOBENE—Family †GIUSEPPE PROFETTO — Tony & Daniela Giannini †MARIA LUCIA, GIUSEPPE & ELISA TIMPERIO — Lucia Caruso †TERESA VERTICCHIO — Luisa †HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY — Kunkel Family FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THERESA BENNETT FOR THE INTENTIONS OF RITA TARASCHI - Pat Black FOR THE INTENTIONS OF SEMINARIAN SALVATORE FOR THE INTENTIONS OF LUISA VERTICCHIO FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ADAM (ANDY) & LUCIA MICHLEWICZ—50th Wedding Anniversary			Rev. Godwin Pinto
SUNDAY	9:00 AM 11:00 AM 4:00 PM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF JOE & MARIE GIALONARDO †LUCIETTA SALVATORI—Family PRO POPULO			



My dear parishioners,

This weekend’s readings center on the theme of prayer. What is prayer? Here is a section from the Catechism of the Catholic Church about prayer: *“Prayer is the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” But when we pray, do we speak from the height of our pride and will, or ‘out of the depths’ of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer. Only when we humbly acknowledge that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought’, are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer. ‘Man is a beggar before God.’ ‘If you knew the gift of God!’ The wonder of prayer is revealed beside the well where we come seeking water: there, Christ comes to meet every human being. It is he who first seeks us and asks us for a drink. Jesus thirsts; his asking arises from the depths of God’s desire for us. Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him.” (CCC 2559-2560)* Let us continue to increase and deepen our prayer life as time goes on!

This past Thanksgiving, our parish released what I am titling our *Good News Report*. Over the last couple of years, there have been many positive trends and improvements to our parish. The report only shares a small amount of them to be honest - every day I get to see amazing things and wonderful “good news” stories take place in our parish. As a parish, we can take a step back and see how blessed we are. Please make sure to check it out if you haven’t already!

Our parish will soon have a new Seminarian named Peter Hoffbauer, who will be moving in soon! Peter should be with us for the pastoral year, staying until around the end of the summer. When he arrives, please give him a warm welcome, and be sure to encourage him on his journey of preparing for the priesthood!

Thank you to all who joined us for a special time of praying the Rosary on October 7th – it was a beautiful and powerful time of prayer! October is the month of the rosary, and we are very blessed to have the rosary prayed before all Masses at our parish! All are always extremely welcome to join us. This month we especially, in collaboration with the rest of the Diocese, pray the rosary for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life!

Our parish is blessed to be the home of a new Society of St. Vincent de Paul chapter! I am very grateful to all who have helped make this happen, and I am very excited for all the good this will do in our parish and community. Do you want to help those in our own community who need a helping hand and some loving encouragement? Get involved!

As fall continues, many ministries in our parish have begun again! I want to encourage you to learn more about what activities take place in our parish, and which ones you can get involved in! I propose that to fully develop our faith, as important as it is to merely attend Mass each weekend, we should also really strive to be involved in at least one ministry or additional activity in the parish. Please take a look at our events and stay tuned, asking the Holy Spirit what He is inviting you be a part of!

Our parish’s RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) program began on September 30th - if you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about becoming Catholic, we’d absolutely love to hear from them!

Saint Carlo Acutis designed an exhibit that would display Church-approved Eucharistic miracles of the world throughout history – and a large part of this exhibit is in our gathering space at this present time!

May God bless you abundantly,
Fr. Greg Merkley

UPCOMING EVENTS: See next page for all our exciting events!





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Visit: kofc.org/join (Council # 14421)

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE who donated food for our annual Thanksgiving food drive. Your generosity is appreciated!

COATS FOR KIDS - our annual drive for collecting donations to provide warm coats to kids in our community will take place soon. Stay tuned for details!



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL take place on Tuesday, October 21 beginning with Mass at 7p.m., this meeting will focus on the upcoming elections. Nomination forms will be available

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION will meet each **Tuesday from 8-9pm**. We meet in the church for a brief teaching and a period of silent meditation followed by discussion. All are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS (APART FROM MASS AND CONFESSIONS)

Oct 17th - 7 PM—Ask Fr. Night, Parish hall
Oct 18/19th - Blue Box Collection Weekend
Oct 18/19th - World Mission Collection
Oct 18th - 6:15 PM - Chosen—Season 5, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 20th - 6:30 PM—Card Group, Parish Hall
Oct 20th - 7 PM—SSVP Meeting, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 21st - 7 PM - CWL Mass/Meeting
Oct 21st - 7:45 PM - RCIA, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 21st - 8 PM - Meditation, Church
Oct 22nd - 9 AM—IHM/DeMazenod Door Cooking Team, Parish Hall
Oct 22nd - 7 PM—Activate, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 23rd - 7 PM—Praise & Worship, Parish Hall
Oct 25th - 7:30 AM - COR Men's Group, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 25th - 6:15 PM - Chosen—Season 5, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 26th - 2 PM—Family Catechism at IHM School
Oct 27th - 6:30 PM—Card Group, Parish Hall
Oct 28th - 7:45 PM - RCIA, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 28th - 8 PM - Meditation, Church
Oct 29th - 7 PM—Activate, Meeting Rm 1
Oct 30th - 7 PM—Praise & Worship, Parish Hall
Nov 1/2—SSVP Collection
Nov 1st—Chosen, Season 5, Meeting Rm 1



THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COR MEN'S GROUP at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will be on **Saturday, October 25th at 7:30am in the Parish Meeting Room**. The theme for our meeting is "Spiritual Warfare – Why the Devil Wants You to Fail" and includes a video and discussion. The Cor Men's Group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month for 60 to 90 minutes. The purpose of our group is to prayerfully explore our Catholic Faith. Coffee and donuts will be served. All men of the parish are welcome!

EXPOSITION OF RELICS AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH (304 Highway 8, Stoney Creek, ON) on **Saturday, November 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM** for a special **All Saints Day Mass**. After the Mass, explore a remarkable exhibit featuring **150 sacred relics of the saints**. This is a unique opportunity to walk among the saints and spend time in prayer with relics of great spiritual significance, including the Passion Relics: The True Cross, the Crown of Thorns, the Holy Spear, and the Holy Nail of Jesus Christ. The exhibit will also feature a fragment of the Blessed Virgin Mary's veil and St. Joseph's cloak. Don't miss this powerful chance to draw closer to our faith through these holy treasures. The schedule is as follows: 10am Mass; 11am Talk on the Relics by Fr. Ross Campbell; 11:20am–4:00pm Exposition of the Relics; 5:30pm Saturday Vigil Mass; 6:30pm–8:30pm Additional Veneration Time. Please come and celebrate the saints with us!

STEWARDSHIP OCTOBER 11/12, 2025 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Envelope	Loose	E-transfer	Canada Helps	Pre-Authorized (15th/30th)	Total
\$4655.00	\$1364.00	\$1075.00	\$317.75	0	\$7,361.75



SOCIAL ACTION: Thanks for contributing to the **BLUE BOX this weekend**. Our volunteers made Meatloaf last Wednesday and this week our 2nd group of volunteers will be making Roast Pork. Each of these full course meals will be served to between 375 to 425 people. This would not be possible without your donations to the Blue Box each month. So, **THANK YOU** for thinking of those who are in need.



SSVP provides confidential help for individuals and families in need. Assistance is available to those living within our parish boundaries. **If you or someone you know could benefit, please contact:**

ssvp.immaculateheart@gmail.com. We are dedicated to serving our neighbours with faith, compassion, and respect. **Next collection: Nov 1/2**

MEN'S STREET MINISTRY: is looking for Men's winter coats, all sizes, you can leave them in the hallway by the lost & found. We thank you for your kindness.

DIOCESAN VOCATIONS MONTH: October is Diocesan Vocations Month. Please pray for the men and women of our diocese who are discerning their vocations to marriage, priesthood, the permanent diaconate, the dedicated single life, and consecrated life, that is, as a consecrated virgin living in the world, or as a religious priest, sister or sister. **Since it is also the month of Our Lady of the Rosary, you are encouraged to offer the Rosary, in particular, the Luminous Mysteries, for vocations.** For more information about praying for vocations, visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/pray-for-vocations/>. Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary and Mother of Vocations, pray for us!

WHEN LIFE CHANGES - PART ONE – 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? You are not alone! The Hamilton Diocese offers a six-week grief program for your support. Part one of the program will be offered on **Wednesdays Nov. 5 to Dec. 10 from 7-8:30pm** and will be held at the Chancery Office, at 700 King St. West, Hamilton. **Register hamiltondiocese.com under upcoming events for When Life Changes: Grief Relief (Part 1) or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.**

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH: As the leaves change and the weather turns colder (and often wetter!), we tend to spend more time indoors. This is a perfect season for quality family time. Instead of everyone being on social media and playing online games, try an old-fashioned board game, working together to put a puzzle together, having a family book club, or watching a movie on TV together and pausing now and then to discuss what is going on and/or what might happen next. Interaction is the key and when we do so we build bonds and relationships. Children talk to us and tell us things when they are ready, so the more time we spend together, the greater the chance we will hear about their concerns, joys, struggles and questions about the world. And don't forget, praying together each day and attending Mass as a family is another perfect way to bond.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH: October is the month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving and a perfect time to stop and think with gratitude about our relationship with our spouse. An attitude of gratitude has the proven benefit of having our brain find the good in any situation, so what better way to see the positives your spouse brings into your life than having an attitude of gratitude for them. It is easy to focus on the challenging moments but stop and contemplate what is good. Tell your spouse in person, or in a handwritten note. Think of all the moments you share, your children, your shared home, your faith – when you pause to focus on the good, there will be so much to be thankful for, and you will feel greater love for the one you love!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK:

Emidio Nardini

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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