



SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

December 31, 2023

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The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Family, Foundation of Humanity
Fr. Ranjan D'Sa

While addressing the 7th World Meeting of Families, Pope Benedict XVI said, *“Without the family humanity has no future; young people in particular need to learn the values that give meaning to life, they need to be born into and grow up in that community of life and love which God himself desired for men and women.”*

This weekend as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we are invited to focus on the family life that we live in the present world. Family is the most important aspect of our life. It is the basic social structure that gives us protection and holds our civilization strong. All the human values that Christianity holds close to her, like – **love, peace, joy, compassion, care...** – can be lived well, only in the context of a proper family.

The words of Pope Benedict XVI are very true and extremely powerful, *“without the family, humanity has no future”*. It is in the context of family, especially on the lap of our parents and sometimes grandparents, that we learn the values of love and forgiveness. Family teaches its young ones, for the first time, how to receive love and share it with others; forgive each other and care for each other's well-being. It is the family that forms us and makes

us true human beings. In a way, family gives us our identity.

True faith in God is passed on to us in the family. If we want to create the best possible family for the future our children, then one thing we must remember is to give them the taste of God. The Psalmist invites us to taste the goodness of our God – *“Taste and see that the LORD is good”* (Ps 34:8). Love and respect for God is a key ingredient that makes a family, an ideal family. The best family values are biblical values – given by God – and only they can make us true human persons.

Today's First Reading reflects on God's invitation to Abraham, our father of faith. In that invitation, God invited Abraham to have a personal relationship with Him. It is the first step in making all humanity true children of God.

The Gospel passage presents the Holy Family of Nazareth as an ideal for family living. The Holy Family shared unconditional love with each other and offered everything they had to God. In today's reading, Jesus, who was given to us as a gift at Christmas, is offered back to God. It is an offering made at the temple in Jerusalem on behalf of the whole of humanity, and in thanksgiving by the young couple Mary and Joseph.

Faith-filled family is the surest hope for the future, for they are led by the hand of God.

PARISH LITURGIES

—THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY & JOSEPH—

**Monday, January 01 - Solemnity of Mary,
the Holy Mother of God**

10:00 am + Stefan Stoica

**Tuesday, January 02 - Sts. Basil the Great
& Gregory Nazianzen**

8:30 am – NO MASS

**Wednesday, January 03 - Feast of the Holy
Name of Jesus**

8:30 am + Gerald McGraw

Thursday, January 04 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am + Joanne Dulke

Friday, January 05 - St. John Neumann

8:30 pm + Sharon McCormick

—THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD—

Saturday, January 06 - St. Andre Bessette

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Reconciliation**

5:00 pm **For:**

+ Royston Clunies, + Edith & Jerry Bonett,
+ Deonarine Tewari, + Edward Falgar,
+ Pete Petersen, + Stefan Stoica, + Kathryn
Elizabeth Hudson, + Diana Moulden,
+ Sundeep Khosla

Sunday, January 07

9:00 am For our

11:00 am Parish



Solemnity of Mary Mother of God



*Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Holy Day of Obligation - Mass Times*

- Sunday, December 31, 2023 – 5:00 pm
- Monday, January 01, 2024 – 10:00 am

Note: the evening Mass on Dec. 31st does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. These are two separate obligations.

“The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in the manger.”

SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

The first Social Committee event of 2024 will be a live concert by Fiddlestix – a local community 5-piece band on Saturday, February 03. More details to follow.

On Tuesday February 13, we will be having our Traditional Pancake Supper. If you would like to pitch in and help, to plan and host this event, you are invited to join the pancake supper volunteer committee at their scheduled meeting on Wednesday November 29th at 7:00 pm in the parish centre. We appreciate the support that our wonderful Saint Dominic parishioners give to all social committee initiatives and we look forward to a FUN and event-filled 2024.



SANCTUARY LAMP

*Our Sanctuary lamp will be lit this week
for the Intentions of Alegria Lomibau*



The CHOSEN

Beginning January 12, our parish will be offering Season 2 of the hit series, *The Chosen*. The series allows us to see Christ through the eyes of those who knew him. The Chosen takes the stories of the Gospels and at the same time tells us a story that is in between the lines of scripture.

Participants are welcome to join us Fridays in the Parish Hall from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm for a screening of an episode, followed by group discussions and activities led by our Pastoral Minister, Michael Aguiar; materials will be provided. We will be focusing on season 2 of the series, spread throughout 8 sessions on the following dates:

January 12, 2024	February 16, 2024
January 19, 2024	February 23, 2024
January 26, 2024	March 1, 2024
February 2, 2024	March 8, 2024

To register, please contact Michael at the parish office or email: michael@saintdominic.ca

“Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the Prophets; in these last days he has spoken to us by the Son.”

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

By Baptism we are God's holy family. Pray today for the grace to live faithful your vocation as a single, married, ordained, or consecrated person. If God is calling you, contact, Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988, email vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, May 26, 2024 at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. Space allows room for Anniversary couples only (those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is now available online at hamiltondiocese.com

THE PASTORAL PARISHES IN THE MODERN WORLD

The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is happy to offer a three-workshop series entitled, The Pastoral Parish in the Modern World. This new handbook created by David Wells and Bill Huebsch provides a comprehensive outline of the new vocabulary of pastoral ministry, and how to enact it in your local setting. This workshop series is designed for anyone who is working on volunteering in parish life including pastoral teams. Parish councils, and youth ministry leaders. Registration for this workshop series is now OPEN. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/pastoralparish>

SUPPORT FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy, does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – whose one purpose is to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This is a practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couples themselves. It is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. For struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. The next Retrouvaille weekend is March 8-10, 2024. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email: teamrecine@gmail.com

HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR	
Monday, January 1	The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
Tuesday, January 2	Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
Wednesday, January 3	Diocesan Priests
Thursday, January 4	Rev. Jason Kuntz
Friday, January 5	Rev. Gabriel Morais Catarino
Saturday, January 6	Rev. David Perrin

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

The Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (January 21, 2024) marks the celebration of Bible Sunday in the Diocese of Hamilton. At the conclusion of the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis encouraged every Christian community to choose one Sunday a year to renew its efforts to make the Sacred Scriptures better known and widely diffused. Our celebration for Bible Sunday is a call to listen to how #TheBibleSpeaks in our hearts and within our communities of faith. The Pastoral Offices of the Diocese of Hamilton have prepared a wide variety of resources for youth and adults in celebration of Bible Sunday 2024. Visit our website: hamiltondiocese.com/thebiblespeaks

WHEN LIFE CHANGES

The Hamilton Diocese is offering a new grief program. 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! Our six-week grief program starts January 17 and will be held from 1:30 -3:00 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King Street 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 on the home page.

*May the faith of God be with you this year.
May the peace of God surround you and
may you be blessed each day.*

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

2415 Rebecca Street,
Oakville, Ontario, L6L 2B1
Phone: 905-827-2373
Fax: 905-827-6055
Email: office@saintdominic.ca
Website: saintdominic.ca



Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D'Sa OCD
rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar
michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Reverend Mr. Terry Murphy
Parish Accountant: Brian Thornton
Secretary: Mary Evans
Sacristan: Judi Kingry
Custodian: Peter Coffey

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
(Closed from noon to 1:00 pm).

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