



# SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

December 22, 2024

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Issue 51 | Volume 5

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**Deacon Terry Murphy**

Today is the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent – Stockings are hung by the chimney with care. It's only two days until the Boxing Day sales. But let's not rush past today – the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent. The focus on this Sunday is *Love*. St. Francis advises that love lightens all difficulties and sweetens all bitterness. Jesus speaks to us in John's Gospel: *"I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another"*.

It's really crazy, isn't it? Here we are listening to the same story, again. Who doesn't know how it is going to come out? The plot doesn't change from year to year. Every shepherd is in place; the star is shining on cue. No matter how predictable, we keep listening. We lean forward with anticipation, for somehow, despite the familiar details, we believe that this story is about us. What if the angel's message to Mary (the Lord is with you) is God's message to us?

According to Luke, this is what Gabriel told Mary, *"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God."*

Those are the elements of the story that we know.

But somewhere, along the way, we have to think about what we don't know. And what we don't know is what happened after the angel left the room.

You know how it is... someone asks you a tough question, or you're faced with a difficult situa-

tion. Later, you slap yourself on the forehead and say, "I wish I'd said this..." You never think of the right – or clever – response at the time. It only comes later. "I wish I'd said that..."

Was that the way it was with Mary? "Why didn't I ask Gabriel this while I had the chance?" "Will Joseph stick around? Will my parents still love me? Will my friends stand by me or will I get dragged into town and be stoned...? Will the pregnancy go all right? Will the labor be hard? Will there be someone there to help me when my time comes? Will I know what to do? You say the child will be king of Israel, but what about me? Will I survive his birth? What about me?"

All the angels in heaven couldn't possibly prepare Mary for what she would be experiencing. That's just not the way it works. You've got to go through it before you know what it's like. The only way you really can understand it is in hindsight.

It is hard for most of us today, who take our possible salvation in Christ for granted to appreciate the importance of this revelation that defined where the Jewish religion evolved into the Christian religion. Yet, it is the revelation of this most important mystery of God that we celebrate at Christmas: "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ".

If we want to find ourselves in this ancient but life-giving tale, we need to look at the one who received this word of assurance: Mary – who has been called, "the figure that is raised above all the figures of Advent."

*(... read the rest on our parish website)*

## PARISH LITURGIES

— THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT —

**Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm **Christmas Eve Mass**

7:15 pm **Christmas Eve – Family Mass**

11:30 pm **Christmas Eve – Midnight Mass**

**Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day**

9:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**

11:00 am **Christmas Day Mass**

**Thursday, December 26 - St. Stephen**

**NO MASS**

**Friday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle**

**NO MASS; NO ADORATION**

— THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH —

**Saturday, December 28 - The Holy Innocents**

4:00 – 4:30 pm **Reconciliation**

**5:00 pm For:**

+ Edith & Jerry Bonett, + Kathleen Corona, + Sundeep Khosla, + Mien Donkers, + Charles Ward, + Darryl Ward, + Lino Liberatore

**Sunday, December 29**

9:00 am For our

11:00 am Parishioners

*The Octave of Christmas – Dec. 25 to Jan. 01*



**CHRISTMAS  
Mass Times**

As you make plans to celebrate the great Feast of the Birth of Christ, please note the date and time for celebrations in our parish:

**Christmas – The Nativity of the Lord**

**Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24**

- 5:00; 7:15 (Family Mass); 11:30 pm  
*(On Christmas Eve, Christmas Carols will begin 15-20 minutes before Mass)*

**Christmas Day – Wednesday, December 25**

- 9:00 & 11:00 am

**The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God - Holy Day of Obligation**  
Tuesday, December 31 – 5:00 pm *and*  
Wednesday, January 1 – 10:00 am



**SANCTUARY LAMP**

*Our Sanctuary Lamp will be lit this week  
In Memory of Jerry & Edith Bonett*

*Parishioners are invited to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp that hangs above the tabernacle. This candle burns 24 hours a day, seven days a week as a sign of honour to Our Lord.*

*If you wish to sponsor the Sanctuary Lamp for a special intention during a specific week, you are asked to please contact the parish office. The cost is a \$10 donation per week. Your intention will be noted in our weekly bulletin.*

**THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS  
SAVE THE DATE**

Are you celebrating your 25<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup>, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2025? Then you are cordially invited to join Bishop Crosby and couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on Sunday, June 01, 2025, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Registration will be available online in January at [hamiltondiocese.com](http://hamiltondiocese.com))

**NEW YEAR'S EVE GAMES NIGHT & CELEBRATION**


On Tuesday, December 31st, 2024, our Social Committee will be hosting a **New Year's Eve Games Night & Celebration** starting at 6:30 pm in the parish centre. It will be a fun, social, and perhaps a little competitive night with games for everyone. Attendees are asked to bring an appetizer or treat to share. There will be a special New Year's toast at 9:00 pm, as the countdown will be rolled ahead for an early celebration. A variety of games and possibly a special GAME SHOW will be part of the evening! The cost of this event is free. All are welcome to attend!

**CHRISTMAS – YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT**

During the Christmas Season, Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer and fellowship, and praise music in support of your vocations on Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 pm, at the Annunciation of Our Lord Parish, 280 Limeridge Road W., Hamilton. Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact [vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)

<b>HAMILTON DIOCESE PRAYER CALENDAR</b>	
Monday, December 23	Rev. Jerek Scherber, L.C.
Tuesday, December 24	Rev. Adam Zettel, L.C.
Wednesday, December 25	Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord
Thursday, December 26	Rev. Jerry Punnassery, C.M.I.
Friday, December 27	Rev. Rijo Jose, C.M.I.
Saturday, December 28	The Holy Innocents

**SAINT DOMINIC PARISH**  
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Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D'Sa OCD  
[rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com)

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar  
[michael@saintdominic.ca](mailto:michael@saintdominic.ca)

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

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

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On behalf of Fr. Ranjan and staff at Saint Dominic Parish, **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and Happy New Year!

*Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.* —Robert Louis Stevenson 'Christmas Eve Prayer'

*“Shout aloud and sing for joy:  
great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”*

#### JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE 2025

The Diocese of Hamilton joins the celebration of the Global Church in this Ordinary Jubilee Year, 2025, as “Pilgrims of Hope!” We are all invited to journey through this year drawing closer to God through prayer, service and experiences of renewal. Six churches have been designated as pilgrimage sites across the Diocese, welcoming you as a visitor over the course of the Jubilee to come and pray. Resources, information and locations of the pilgrimage sites are all made available on the Diocesan Website: [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome on Christmas Eve, inaugurating the Jubilee Year. In Cathedrals around the world and in our Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, the Holy Year will be inaugurated on December 28-29, 2024, the Feast of the Holy Family. The year will be officially launched in each Parish in the Diocese on this same day. The Jubilee of Hope will conclude on January 6, 2026.

*“In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring... may the Jubilee be an opportunity to be renewed in hope.”*

*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”*

#### SAINT DOMINIC PARISH FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING 2025



It has been a tradition in a number of cultures to prayer a particular blessing over the home on the Feast of the Epiphany. Known colloquially as ‘chalking the door’, this Epiphany Blessing is one way that families and individuals can invite God’s blessing into their home and family life throughout the year.

To ask of this blessing of God for your home, our Parish Social committee has prepared “Epiphany Blessing Kits” for all families of the parish who would like to perform the blessing of the family home on this year’s Epiphany. The kits will be distributed for FREE following all masses the weekend of January 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

This traditional home blessing is a wonderful way to engage the whole family, your friends, and even neighbours in seeking the graces they need for the coming year. **May 2025 be truly blessed!**



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