



The focus for the **Third Sunday**, called “Gaudete Sunday” is **Cheer Up! We rejoice** as we are nearing the birth of Christ. This day the priest may wear

pink vestments, or rose, signifying rejoicing. Isaiah 35: 1 “...the dry land shall be glad...rejoice with joy and singing.”

**Our Christian assignment:**

to help build and complete "the reign of God."

God chose John the Baptist to be the one through whom His saving plan for our salvation was to be revealed to the world. As the “advance man” for the Messiah, John’s role was uniquely important. Like the ancient prophet Elijah who was God’s messenger, John was sent to act as herald for “*He who is to come.*”

We celebrate this fulfillment this very day because ... “Christ now appears in the midst of the poor as one of them; and He has taken them to Himself so that they are, in a most special way, *Himself*. What happens to them happens to Him”

So this Advent’s celebration is a reminder that *the reign of God* is at hand, and that we are actively called to build up this reign, now, today, and whenever we take time for church or community service; whenever we frequent our seniors and their nursing homes; whenever we take time to *really listen* to and befriend our children in their sometimes confusing search for life and meaning; and whenever we do *anything* that is good! In God’s own scheme of things, all these people make up “the reign of God,” already in our midst.

Rejoice in the Lord always; for indeed, the Lord is near.

As we wait for the coming of the Lord, we prepare our hearts and homes to receive Him. As Saint Paul instructs, we prepare with patience and a firm heart. We will know He has come into our hearts and homes when we model true discipleship and work to bring the Good News to those around us.

In the first reading, the prophet proclaims the joyful news that God saves His people and gives them great reason for rejoicing. Saint Paul, in the second reading, exhorts the faithful to prepare for the coming of the Lord with patience and a firm heart. In the Gospel, John the Baptist asks if Jesus is really the Messiah, or should they seek another?

**Christmas Confessions:**

**December 17 – 10 a.m. – 12 noon &**

**2: 00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**December 23 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (last confession before Christmas)**

**MASS INTENTIONS**



**FOR THE WEEK**

**Tues. Dec 13 - 7:00 p.m.** – Sacred Heart

**Wed. Dec 14 – 7:30 a.m.** – Rita Sopkow

**Thur. Dec 15 - 9:00 am** – Sacred Heart

**Fri. Dec 16 – 9:00 a.m.** – Elsa Paqliari

**Sat. Dec 17 – 5:00 p.m.** – Elsie & Thomas Sullivan, Wallace Khan, Lillian Stadnicki, Carmen Remedios Skiba, Sabena Rebello & Holy Souls.

**MINISTERS’ SCHEDULE**

**Saturday, Dec 17– 5:00 P.M.**

**Comm.** B. Baldwin  
**Lector** E. Baldwin  
**Euch Ministers** A. Settimi E. Daley L. DiCenso-C  
**Gift Bearers** Rosaline Rocchi Alice Sullivan  
**Rosary** Rita Dugas  
**\*\*Mass at Sacred Heart at 9:00 a.m. \*\***

**Sunday, Dec 18 - 11:00 A.M.**

**Comm** K. Galipeau  
**Lector** S. Galipeau  
**Euch Ministers** E. Portillo A. Scarfone J. Capretta -C  
**Gift Bearers** Galipeau Family  
**Children’s Liturgy** Chris & Rachel McNamara

**DIOCESAN PRAYER CALENDAR**

MON – Rev. Mariusz Durbajlo TUES – Rev Michael Downey  
 WED - Benedictines  
 THURS – Rev. Drago Gatnik FRI – Rev. Allen Varlaki  
 SAT– Rev Peter Ciallella

**Last Week-end’s Contributions:**

Envelopes \$ 3,583.00 Loose \$ 295.00  
 Building Fund \$ 1,393.00 **THANK YOU!**

**Celebrating the Word** on Thursdays at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend as often as you can. The next session will be Thursday, Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Fundscrip cards,** great ideas for gifts. Get your order in early! Inquire after Mass in the Narthex.

**PARISH CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

If you used your envelopes during 2016, your NEW 2017 Box of Envelopes is in the narthex for you to pick up. Please check your name and address carefully on the box. If you would **like to start** using envelopes (it can really help at tax time, since you will get a tax credit of up to 40% of your contribution), then please pick up a box with NO NAME on it. **Be sure to write your information on the sheet nearby, and put your name and address on the first 2 or 3 envelopes you use.** **This is very important to have your information for a tax receipt. Thank you.**

Christmas Cakes made by the Monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey can be picked up at the parish office during office hours, or after the 5 and 11 masses next weekend. \$15.00 for a small and \$25.00 for the large.

**Hamilton Catholic Young Adults Christmas Party.**

If you are Catholic, between the ages of 19-39, and single, couple or married, this will be the place to BE to meet other Young Adult Catholics. An awesome pre-Christmas social, dinner, entertainment has been planned for you. Join us on Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6p.m. to Midnight (Mass begins at 5:00 p.m.) at St. Thomas the Apostle Church (715 Centre Rd., Waterdown). Dinner and Drinks and childcare are included. \$15.00 donation to cover expenses is being requested (however, if this is a concern, please speak to Rachel). Tickets can be purchased from the Parish Office or Rachel.

**A Senior Adult Workshop Series**

6 Wednesday afternoons, starting Jan. 11, 2017 1:30-3:30p.m. Chancery Office - This 6 part workshop/study session will explore the lives of twelve great monks & mystics from the Christian tradition in new & creative ways. This course will be facilitated by Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon SSND. The cost will be \$35 and includes the text, *Illuminating the Way*, by Christine Valters Paintner. Please register by Dec. 22 2016. For further information please contact Monica at [mverin@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mverin@hamiltondiocese.com) or 905-52807988 ext. 2238 or check the website, [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com) for more information.

**2016 White Mass** – Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Parish. Consistent with the white coats and uniforms formerly worn by physicians and nurses, the White Mass is celebrated annually for the spiritual support of healthcare professionals, clergy, chaplains and all caregivers. Join ACT heals, Hamilton Region (formerly the Association of Christian Therapists) as we welcome **Fr. Ted Slaman**, who will celebrate this year's **White Mass** on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Gabriel Church, 2261 Parkway Dr., Burlington. Refreshments and video of Our Lady of Guadalupe to follow. A goodwill offering would be appreciated to help cover expenses. For more information please call 905-335-6902.

**Hamilton right to Life Presents:** STOP THE CENSORSHIP TOUR TUESDAY JANUARY 11, 2017 7:30PM – 9:00PM ST. AUGUSTINE'S PARISH, 58 SYDENHAM STREET, DUNDAS. Please join Hamilton Right to Life and We Need a Law as we learn more about why we cannot get access to abortion statistics and what is being done to change this. Coffee & Refreshments will be served. Please call our office at 905-528-3065 for more details.

**Our Poinsettia Bazaar:**

Your enthusiasm and engagement in the Poinsettia Bazaar 2016 was tremendous! Thank you so much to each and every one of you! Whether you donated, participated, or both... Thank you to the bakers and cakers, time and talent

donators, the talented knitters and craft makers, and the voracious readers who donated their books.

Thank you to the vendors in our community corner as well as those of you who donated to the raffle.

To our Blessed Sacrament students and those who worked with the kids to provide a beautiful Christmas medley of songs that brought the season to life.

To our youth leader, to the best Santa ever, and to our cooks and care team who made the pancake breakfast a fun and fabulous place to be.

And finally, to our Poinsettia Bazaar team: your dedication, enthusiasm, and ability to have fun while planning, doing, implementing and organizing is appreciated beyond measure. Thank you for coming out to the bazaar, for making the day an event to remember, and for helping us to build our faith community. Thank you for engaging our youth and our families, and at the same time helping to cover the cost of the recent floor renovations.

**Thank you with all of our hearts!**

**The Poinsettia Bazaar Team 2016**

**Winners of the Cash Raffle Prizes**

\$500.00 – Luneberg Family  
 \$250.00 – Maxine Staath  
 \$100.00 – Paul Alves  
 \$100.00 – Roland Legare  
 \$50.00 – Ed Daley  
 \$50.00 – Monica Osborne  
 \$50.00 – Geraldine McNally  
 \$50.00 - Eveline DiBattista  
 \$50.00 – Tony Forbes

All are invited to the reception of the Saint John's Bible Heritage Edition and Advent Hymn Festival at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King on Sunday Dec 11 at 7:00 PM.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

The end of the Financial Year for the parish is Dec. 31, 2016. Please make sure all donations for 2016 are in the collection or office by **Tuesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**. There is a mail slot on the door if the office is closed. This is important for entering 2016 donations and issuing the correct tax receipt for you. Most people receive a 29% federal tax credit and an 11% provincial tax credit for any donations to any and all registered charities (including the church).



I love the kind of hugs where you can physically feel the sadness leaving your body.

**Great Opportunity!** There is some space for you or someone you know to advertise on the back of our bulletin. Space has opened up at a very reasonable cost. Call the parish office for details and pricing (905.385.3570) Because of the advertisers our bulletin costs are minimal and the parish benefits. Please Patronize our Advertisers!

**Anyone from Sacred Heart Parish** who is attending Blessed Sacrament Masses and who would be interested in being a gift bearer or Lector or Eucharistic Minister, please call Wendy at the Blessed Sacrament parish office and she can put you on a schedule. Everyone is welcome!

The **Fourth Sunday** is **HURRY UP!** The prophet Isaiah announces, “Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel (God is with us!).” Christmas is very near.

**– Food, Wine, Song and Saints A Trip Through Italy:**

Fr. Mark Gatto and his music director, Dwayne Cahill, are organizing a trip through Italy for next spring. Tentative dates are May 28 to June 7, 2017. Anyone interested in or who would like to get more information, please contact Fr. Mark Gatto at [mgatto@saintmatthew.ca](mailto:mgatto@saintmatthew.ca) or Dwayne Cahill at [dcahill@saintmatthew.ca](mailto:dcahill@saintmatthew.ca)