

# Year A - The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)- December 25, 2022

Merry Christmas Parishioners & Friends! Christmas is a time to celebrate and to share meals and gifts with family, neighbours & friends. I hope you will find creative ways to celebrate the joy and peace that Child Jesus brings. Christmas is a celebration of God's love. God has become human like us to love us, give us life, and invite us to become authentic human beings. Let us open ourselves to God's love. Let us share this love with our fellow human beings. Let us reach out to all those who are vulnerable, poor, and many who might find this Christmas difficult. Let us stand in humility before the crib to gaze at the Child Jesus. Let us thank the Lord for coming into our lives. May we all spread the joy, love, hope and peace of Christmas to all in our world.

*I pray that Christmas be for you a gift of love, a blessing of hope and a promise of peace. Fr. Francis*



**8:00am Tuesday, December 27, 2022**

Sr. Roxie – *Happy Birthday!*

**8:00am Wednesday, December 28, 2022**

Denise & Christopher Ryan

**8:00am Thursday, December 29, 2022**

† Fr. John Pace

**8:00am Friday, December 30, 2022**

† Emiliano Jopia

**5:00pm Saturday, December 31, 2022**

† Jeanette Mayor

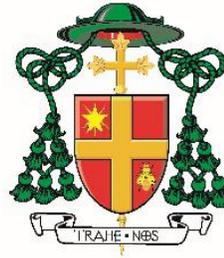
**9:00am Sunday, January 1, 2022**

† Otto Werner

† Mark Werner

**11:30am Sunday, January 1, 2022**

Intentions of Bishop Crosby



## BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2022

*"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." Luke, Chapter 2*

Dear Friends,

Christmas is a time of familiarity. We sing familiar songs, share familiar greetings, we pray and gather and celebrate in all those ways to which we are accustomed. Yet does this familiarity numb us to the awe-inspiring reality of the Lord's Nativity? Look into the Christmas crèche: what do we see here? The King of the Universe - lying helpless in a manger. The Lord God Almighty - wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Eternal Word - an infant, unable even to speak!

The Creator of Heaven and Earth is held in the arms of one he has created, and upon opening his eyes *looks up at his mother* - and so looks up at each of us. God so loves us that *he comes to us*, he lowers himself for us, he refuses to be distanced from us and so becomes one of us - taking on the frailty of the human form yet losing nothing of the greatness of his Divine power.

May we never grow tired of discovering anew these jarring truths, which turn upside-down our expectations of power, greatness, kingship, and so much else. May we renew with fervour our adoration of the God who has become a child, who for love of each one of us has inserted his very self into our human story. This is the blessing of Christmas - may it fill our hearts during these holy days!

*May God, who by the Incarnation brought together the earthly and heavenly realm, fill you with the gift of his peace and favor and make you sharers with the Church in heaven!*

(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas!

*+Douglas Crosby, OMI*

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI  
Bishop of Hamilton.

# Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God- January 1, 2023

*It's with sincere gratitude that we thank everyone who donated money towards our Christmas Flowers. Thank you for helping make our Parish look festive for Christmas. God Bless you!*

## SUPPORTING ST. THOMAS, THE APOSTLE PARISH

Thank you very much for your generosity towards St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. We invite you to **consider pre-authorized withdrawal**. It is an easy and convenient for you and for the parish. You can also sign up for online giving through our website. If you wish to make any donations that you want to be included in 2022 income tax receipt, please do so before the 29th of December.

**Thank you and God bless your generosity.**

**MASS INTENTIONS** are available for 2023. Masses can be offered for various reasons such as in loving memory of someone who has passed, for the personal intentions of people, for healing, for special occasions and for many others. Intentions remain \$10 and Mass Intention cards are \$2.00.

## Chapel & Parish Office Closures

The Parish office will have sporadic hours during the Holidays to accommodate staff also supporting their own families.

**Should you have an urgent request, please email us, and leave a voicemail.**

Closed: December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> & Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023.

**Fr. Francis** will be away from **January 3 to 26, 2023**, visiting family in India. Monsignor Sheridan will take care of all the pastoral needs during his absence. Please call the parish office for any of your pastoral emergencies.

## **JOIN US ~ Starting in January ~ 2023**

### **Movement Fellowship with Alana Leger Wellness**

Introductory Special, \$75/ person for 6 classes

Please sign up and pay the Parish Office by **January 5<sup>th</sup>**.

Biweekly Thursday Classes from 2 -3pm

Jan 12 & 26, February 9 & 23 and March 9 & 23

*Minimum 10 people to run the class. RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!*

email the Parish [stthomaswaterdown@hamiiltondiocese.com](mailto:stthomaswaterdown@hamiiltondiocese.com)



## Mass Intentions

**8:00am Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

Werner/ Blumer families

Intentions of Bishop Crosby

**8:00am Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

† Fr. John Pace

**8:00am Thursday, January 5, 2023**

† Elaine Porter

**8:00am Friday, January 6, 2023**

† Francine Gaudet

**5:00pm Saturday, January 7, 2023**

Teresa Chau

† Angela Giornofelice

**9:00am Sunday, January 8, 2023**

† Mark Werner & † Otto Werner

**11:30am Sunday, January 8, 2023**

Ileana Valades – *Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday!*

## **A Note from the Waterdown St. Vincent De Paul Society**

We would like to thank you for your support and generosity in our Christmas Angels initiative. We collected gift cards, socks, toys, books, and other wonderful items which we will be given to families in need in and outside our community.

**Please continue to bring all your empties to the bottle shed as funds will be used to help people in need.**

Thank you and God Bless.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

**May your  
NEW YEAR  
be  
Joyous & Fruitful**

