

# ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

The Blessings Of  
*Christmas*  
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE



## Merry Christmas, 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. 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*

### **The office will be CLOSED on following days for Christmas Holidays**

December 26, 27, 29, 31, 2023 and January 1, 2 & 5, 2024

Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, January 8, 2024.

If you require a meeting with Fr. Francis, please email the office.

No 8:00am morning Mass on Dec 26, 2023.



The Church extends an invitation to children of Grade 2 to prepare for and celebrate the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. It is the child's parents who will decide when the proper time has arrived to celebrate these Sacraments. This is an important decision, as it will shape your child's faith journey throughout his/her life.

**We invite both parents and children to join us after any Mass (5pm Saturday, 9 or 11:30am Sunday) on the weekend of January 13/14, 2024.** During this meeting I will walk you through the preparation process for your child's upcoming Sacraments.



**Baptism Information...** please stop into the Parish Office to pick up a Baptism Package to start the Sacramental process. **Requirements for parents:** 1 group meeting held in the Parish on the last Sunday of the month following the 11:30am Mass and one private meeting prior to Baptism. Registration is required.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank the generosity and support of all our Parishioners to the Angel Wish Tree. We collected \$1000 in food cards, \$400 was donated to St Mary's School, \$200 to 4 needy families in Hamilton. The balance in food cards will be used for any family in need of food in the following year. We dropped off pillows, towels, winter accessories, waterproof mattress, and pillow protectors to the Waterdown Manor. St. Martha's house received formula, diapers, winter wear and toys. The DeMazenod Door received nonperishable food items.

Please remember to drop off your empties at the bottle shed after the holidays.

Merry Christmas and Best wishes for 2024.  
St. Vincent de Paul Council

*Downsizing? Have too much?*

## **CONSIDER DONATING YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS FOR THE 2024 BAZAAR**

**Please bring your Christmas  
décor donations to the Parish  
on the weekend of Jan 6/7<sup>th</sup>  
following any Mass– We will  
accept any Christmas décor in  
working order. Thank you!!**



## MASSSES OF THE WEEK

**8:00am Wednesday, December 27, 2023**

Intentions of Fr. Gill Elberge

Intentions of Sr. Roxie

Intentions of Peter Warrien & Margaret Hovanec

**8:00am Thursday, December 28, 2023**

† Micheline French

**8:00am Friday, December 29, 2023**

† Patricia Taylor

**5:00pm Saturday, December 30, 2023**

† Elizabeth Werner

**9:00am Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Thanksgiving for Blessings of 2023

**11:30am Sunday, December 31, 2023**

Thanksgiving for Blessings of 2023

**5:00pm Sunday, December 31, 2023**

† Umberto Bruno

**10:00am Monday, January 1, 2024**

Intentions of the Peason family

† Carmen Micallef

**8:00am Tuesday, January 2, 2024**

Intentions of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist

**8:00am Wednesday, January 3, 2024**

Intentions of the Staff of St. Thomas Parish

**8:00am Thursday, January 4, 2024**

† Elizabeth Werner

**8:00am Friday, January 5, 2024**

Intentions of Brian & Anne White

**5:00pm Saturday, January 6, 2024**

Intentions of the Philpott family

† Ava Gil

† Juan Ruben Garcia

**9:00am Sunday, January 7, 2024**

Intentions of the People -

of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish

**11:30am Sunday, January 7, 2024**

† Catherine D'Mello

## Heart to Heart

December 15, 2023 (#525)

**CHRISTMAS 2023**



Dear Friends,

The 1928 Nobel Prize winning Norwegian author, Sigrid Undset, wrote this beautiful reflection on Christmas. I offer it as a gentle gift of wisdom.

Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us!

Ex corde, *† Douglas*, OMI



And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans - and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused - and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.

- Sigrid Undset



**May your**

**NEW YEAR**

**be**

**Joyous & Fruitful**

