

**MASSES OF THE WEEK**

**Monday, December 19 - Ferial: Weekday**  
7:30a.m. - Earl Cardow, Maria Carmela Alpe.

**Tuesday, December 20 - Ferial: Weekday**  
7:30a.m. - Margaret Goetz, John & Mary Krusky & the Deceased Members of the Krusky Family.

**Wednesday, December 21 - Ferial: Weekday**  
7:30a.m. - Violet & George Cartledge, Mary McDonald.

**Thursday, December 22 - Ferial: Weekday**  
7:00p.m. - Mary Macerollo, Evelyn Flaherty.

**Friday, December 23 - Ferial: Weekday**  
7:30a.m. - Elsie Piovesan, Thomas Howitt.

**Saturday, December 24 - Feast: The Vigil of Christmas**  
5:15p.m., 8:00p.m. & 12Midnight.

**Sunday, December 25 - Feast: Christmas**  
9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

**Stewardship of Treasure:**

Thank you for your gift of \$10,864.70 in support of your parish community in gratitude for God's many blessings.

† We offer our prayers and sympathy to the family of Margaret Hudelson and Tino Comini, custodian of St. Michael's School, who were called to the glory of the resurrection. May they and all our deceased loved ones rest in peace.

**PARISH NEWS**

**2012 PARISH ENVELOPES**

Today we invite you to pick up your church envelopes for 2012. If you do not find your envelopes and wish a package please sign the sheet provided with your name and address and phone number. If you have moved during the past year be sure to let the office know so that you will receive a receipt for 2011. Your financial support is a sign of good stewardship and is much appreciated as together we respond to the financial welfare of our parish community.

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: "MY SOUL MAGNIFIES THE LORD"**

Jesus invites us to "pray". In the midst of our busy schedules, prayer must be our first priority. Prayer is indispensable if we are to prepare properly for Christmas. Only by praying can we echo Mary's heartfelt hymn of praise. "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour for He who is mighty has done great things for me." (Lk.1:47-49). As we come before the Lord in humble adoration, the Holy Spirit will reveal to us the marvelous things that the Father has done for us through His Son, Jesus. The Spirit will reveal Jesus as the eternal Son of the Father. He will show us the love that Jesus had for us in coming into a world of sin and death. He will convince us that out of love for us Jesus died on the cross. The Spirit will touch our hearts so that we can love and honour Jesus in return. Only if we pray can our hearts rejoice at Christmas time. Prayer is central to our spiritual lives, as food, air and water are, to our physical lives. Without prayer we die to Jesus' presence and His work in our lives, without it Christmas is just another holiday. Joseph, Jesus and Mary prayed together as a family and that responsibility is no less for us today.

**INCOME TAX RECEIPTS**

Income Tax Receipts: In order to have a donation receipt for 2011, the donation must be received no later than December 29<sup>th</sup>. After that donations are automatically credited to 2012. Thank you.

**PLANNED GIVING**

Church of Our Lady began serving the community in 1888 and remains today a strong symbol of faith. The continued support of parishioners is a wonderful sign of your Stewardship and has never been more important. Major repairs and restoration projects are underway and are very costly to fund. Please consider us as you prepare or update your estate and financial plans. A modest gift by way of bequest, insurance or tangible assets can make a substantial difference to the future of our church. The BUILDING FUND finances current repairs and restoration work while the HERITAGE FUND ensures that the Church of Our Lady will be in a position of financial security for future generations. For more information contact our Office at 519-824-3951.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Please note our parish office will be closed Friday, Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup>, Monday, Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



To spiritually prepare for Christmas the Sacrament of Reconciliation is available:

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Saturdays..... 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.  
Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> ..... 8:00a.m. - 12noon  
..... 2:00p.m.-5:00p.m.  
Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> ..... 7:00p.m.-8:00p.m.  
Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> ..... 4:00p.m.-5:00p.m.  
No Confessions December 24<sup>th</sup>

**CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2011**

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> ..... 5:15p.m.; 8:00p.m.; 12:00midnight  
Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> ..... 9:00a.m. & 11:00a.m.

We welcome into our Catholic Faith Family through Water and the Holy Spirit in Baptism: Colton Robert Bothwell; Jesse Cole Melville; Sophia Ellen Margaret Smith and Liam Charles Smith. We congratulate their families.

**OTHER NEWS**

**DUBLIN STREET UNITED CHURCH DINNER**

Dublin Street United Church will be hosting a dinner on Christmas Day for community members looking for fellowship during the holidays. This is a family-friendly event with activities for children but all are welcome. Doors open at 2p.m. and dinner starts at 2:30p.m. This event is free but tickets are required to ensure we have enough for everyone. Rides are available for those without transportation. For tickets or to book a ride contact Anita Jarvis at dublincvm@bellnet.ca or call 519-821-0610 ext. 222.

**LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA**

Many of us do not have the time to go to bible study, adult education classes or to read a lot of books, but we can keep learning and growing in our faith wherever we are - at home, in the car or while out for a walk. In the tower entrance you will find a display of CDs with 16 different titles to choose from and we ask for a \$5 donation per CD and you may place your donation in the box by the book rack or in the collection.

**PYXES**

A number of our Pyxes (to bring the Eucharist home to shut-ins) are missing. If you have one and it is not being used, please return it to the parish.

**CHCH-TV HAMILTON MIDNIGHT MASS**

CHCH-TV Hamilton will broadcast Christmas Midnight Mass live from the Cathedral of Christ the King on December 24<sup>th</sup> starting with carols at 11:30p.m. The Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency, the Most Rev. Douglas Crosby OMI D.D. Bishop of Hamilton. The Mass will be repeated on CHCHTV Chanel 10 on Christmas Day at 8:00a.m.

**SUNDAY SMILE!**

Chloe came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised said, "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied Chloe. "You just change "y" to "i" and add "es"."

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS "KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS" SIGNS**

"Keep Christ in Christmas" lawn signs are available at the church exits. The cost is \$12. A great way to remind family and friends and neighbours of the meaning of the day. Please help send the message.

**TREES OF LIFE**

Once again this Advent we will have our trees of life up at the front of the Church. The tree at the Sacred Heart altar is for all those who have died and been born to eternal life during this past year. Please put their names on the paper ornaments provided and place them on the tree. The tree at the St. Joseph Altar are for all the newly baptized during the past year. Take a moment to look at and pray for them all.

**THOUGHT FOR TODAY!**

The person who cannot lead and will not follow, makes a deadly roadblock.

**CHURCH OF OUR LADY HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE**

We invite you on an incredible journey of faith to the Holy Land March 8-17th, 2012. Our journey will feature daily Mass at the holy sites, times of reflection and visiting the significant sites of Jesus' story - Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, and Galilee. Float in the Dead Sea, visit Qumran and encounter the sorrow of Massada. Walk the streets of Jerusalem, the most spiritually provocative city in the world with the Western Wall, Via Dolorosa, Garden of Gethsemane and much more. Then you will understand why this is "holy ground" for many pilgrims the world over. For a brochure contact the Parish Office, or Karen Zorzi at 519-821-3004 or Joanne Cothran of Skylink Holidays at 1-866-296-3345. A \$500 deposit is required at the time of registration.

**STEWARDSHIP:**

Some of the obstacles that keep us from "making a straight path" for the Lord are the same obstacles that keep us from embracing stewardship as a way of life. John the Baptist calls us to reform our lives and let go of selfishness and greed that keep us from following God's will.