



251 Glenridge Avenue, St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 3Y7  
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#### Mass Schedule

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 a.m. (Children's Liturgy of the Word)  
11:00 a.m.

#### Confessions

Saturday 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

#### Office Hours

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### Diocesan Bishop

#### Pastor

#### Deacons

#### Director of Music

#### Maintenance

#### Administration

Most Rev. Gerard P. Bergie D.D.

Fr. Greg Schmidt  
[frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com](mailto:frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com)

Deacon George Newman  
Deacon Brian Jeynes

Dr. David Holler

Jim Salmon

Christine Buckley  
Cheryl Wood

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Parish Mailing Address: 16 Adelene Cres., St. Catharines, Ontario L2T 3C7

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# December 25, 2022—The Nativity of the Lord



CHRIST IS  
*Christmas*



## Parish Calendar

**Monday, December 26**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Stephanie & Marjan Vokal †  
Richard Mc Nelis † | Special Intention

**Tuesday, December 27**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Joe Capacchione †

**Wednesday, December 28**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Harry Edmondstone †

**Thursday, December 29 - No Mass**

**Friday, December 30**

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Elizabeth Mellon †  
Gladys Rozario †

**Saturday, December 31**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

5:00 p.m. (Livestream) - Mary & Joseph Petric †  
Kevin Murphy †

**Sunday, January 1**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

9:00 a.m. - Mass for the People

11:00 a.m. - Cecilia Leo †

It is Christmas! Our Gospel reading on this festive holy day is the opening words of the Gospel of John. St. John says, "The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, the shepherds and finally the message awaited for centuries is heard." and the world came to be through him." That is why we celebrate today. Pope Francis opened his sermon on Christmas day last year by saying this: "In the darkness, a light shines. An angel appears, the glory of the Lord shines around

At Mass on Christmas Eve we hear, "I proclaim to you good news of great joy; today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord." It is this joy we need to feel, this joy we need to carry to others. Many have expressed the joy of today. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said this about Christmas: "Joy is the true gift of Christmas. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us... Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

The angel Gabriel greeted our Blessed Mother Mary with the Greek word, *Kaire!* That means "Be joyful." God is near us today; He is so near that He became a child. Let us take that joy and share it with others; let us take that joy and change our lives and the lives of others. When we say "Merry Christmas" let us mean it with every fabric of our being.



*Christmas Prayer*

Lord, we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches and peace in our hearts, especially when it feels like the world all around us spins out of control.

Help us stay focused on You, this Christmastime and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so we might truly have a very merry Christmas, even in a not-so-merry kind of world. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

# Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,  
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



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

### Parish Calendar

**Monday, January 2**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) -

John & Margaret Doodeman †

**Tuesday, January 3**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Elodia Pangia †

**Wednesday, January 4**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Special Intention

**Thursday, January 5 - No Mass**

**Friday, January 6**

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Tom Longo †

**Saturday, January 7**

5:00 p.m. (Livestream) - CWL Gathering Mass

Anthony & Mary Delorenzo † | Noemia Tavani †

**Sunday, January 8**

9:00 a.m. - Walter & Rose Bonasheski †

Alfonso DiFrancesco † | Lubomir Kamendy †

11:00 a.m. - Mass for the People

The blessing included in the First Reading from the Book of Numbers is one with which most of us are familiar. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord let His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you..." In the Jewish culture this has been known for centuries as the Aaronic blessing as it was dictated by God Himself to Aaron. It is important to note that it begins with "The Lord bless you."

All blessings come from God. One error we make is to conclude that blessings always mean happiness or security or prosperity. God knows what blessings we need, even if we do not. The key for us is to be grateful for whatever blessings we may have. That mind set is at the hub of stewardship — knowing all blessings come from the Lord, and our need to be appreciative of them.

To be "kept" by the Lord is to turn our lives over to Him, to know that He is with us and that He loves us, blesses us, and does indeed "keep" us ever in His care. The truth is that to be blessed by God is one of the greatest gifts we can receive. It is available to all of us without exception.

During this continued Christmas season, it is well to remember and repeat the classic statement by the character Tiny Tim in Charles Dickens' immortal A Christmas Carol: "God bless us, every one," for certainly He does.

May the New Year bring you  
happiness, peace, and prosperity.  
Wishing you a joyous 2023!





## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the ninth chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah we find these words, "For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Approximately seven hundred years after the death of Isaiah, this prophecy was fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. On a cold winter night in Bethlehem, we received the 'Prince of Peace' and the world was changed forever.

In the Gospel of St. Luke we are told that at the time of Jesus' birth angels from heaven appeared to shepherds saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favours" (Luke 2:14). From that moment to the present, the gift of God's peace has continued to be offered in many wondrous ways.

People of faith believe that Christmas is a time of miracles. A beautiful example of this truth can be found in an event that happened in 1914 at the beginning of the First World War.

On Christmas morning, after many months of fierce fighting with great loss of life, the guns mysteriously became silent. Eventually both the British and German troops ventured out of the trenches. The two enemies gathered on the battle-scarred terrain and spontaneously began to sing Christmas carols in their own languages. They also shared food and drink and exchanged simple gifts. Similar encounters took place across the entire Western Front. Historians call the event the Christmas Truce of 1914. It can also be called a Christmas miracle.

As the world continues to deal with the ongoing war in Ukraine, and the many other places where there is armed conflict, we can begin to lose heart. It is so easy to become discouraged when we do not believe in miracles. With God all things are possible!

This Christmas, let us pray for more than just a truce in Ukraine. May the Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, soften the hardened hearts of those at war. May enemies, touched by Divine Love born in Bethlehem, become allies and even friends. "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those he favours."

May you have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines