

## **St. Joseph Church**

**Location:** 920 Wellington St.  
Port Elgin, ON



### **Masses this week:**

Tuesday, 7 pm  
Wednesday, 9:30 am  
Friday, 9:30 am  
Saturday, 5 pm  
Sunday, 11 am  
Monday, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, 11 am

### **Confessions:**

Saturday, 4 – 4:45 p.m.

## **St. Patrick Church**

**Location:** 36 Albert St. S. (Hwy 21)



Southampton, ON

### **Masses this week:**

Sunday, 9 am  
Thursday, 9:30 am

### **Confessions:**

Thursday, 10 – 10:30 am

### **Parish Office Hours :**

Tuesday to Friday  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### **Church Collections**

This week's regular  
contributions were  
\$11538.95

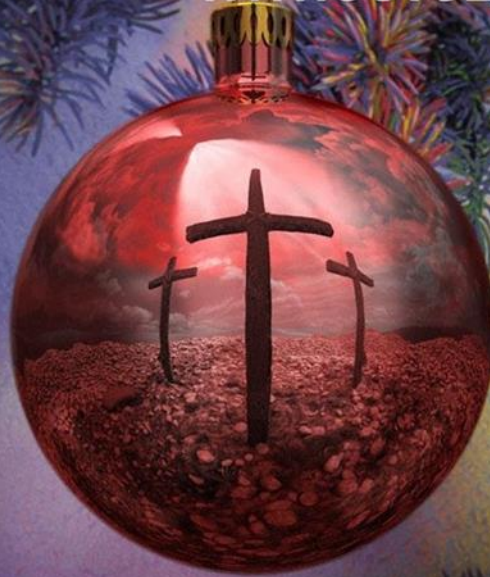
PAR \$1447/week  
Christmas \$2685

**Thank you to all who  
support our parish with  
your gifts.**

**SSVP Hot Line:**

**519-832-2207**

# THERE'S NO REASON FOR CHRISTMAS WITHOUT JESUS



Titus 2:11 For the  
grace of God  
that bringeth salvation  
hath appeared to all  
men.

**May Baby Jesus  
be reborn in your heart...**  
the desire from Fr. Francisco,  
his staff and volunteers of  
St. Joseph & St. Patrick



# Merry Christmas

## Liturgies of the Octave of the Nativity

Date	Day	Time	+ RIP * Ints.	Intention	Requested by	Diocese
26-Dec-23	Tue	7pm	+	P.C. Chacko	Elsa Sybi	Chancery Staff
27-Dec-23	Wed	9:30am	*	Bruce & Susan Gubb	Mary Kischuck & Family	Congregation of the Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)
			*	Holy Souls in Purgatory	Dave & Mary Lepper	
			+	Noreen Hilbig	The Family	
			+	Dave Brown	Dorothy James	
28-Dec-23	Thu	9:30am	+	Fr. Terry Sehl	Joe & Mairead Keely	The Holy Innocents
29-Dec-23	Fri	9:30am	+	Ellen Marie Hughes	Maureen Kirvan	Rev. Edward Hinsperger
30-Dec-23	Sat	5pm	*	People of the Parish	N/A	Rev. Phillip Cook
31-Dec-23	Sun	9am	*	Kate Gilhooly	Joe & Mairead Keely	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>
		11am	*	Andrew Lepper	Dave & Mary Lepper	
1-Jan-24	Mon	11am	*	Rita O'Byrne	Joe & Mairead Keely	<b><i>The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God</i></b>

**Divine Mercy Candle** – For + Mary Ann Murray  
**For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world!**

**Canadian Food for Children CFFC** is a registered charity with the Canadian government. Donate at [Canada Helps](#) or in the collection box at the back of both churches. CFFC accepts all food donations. In December we are focusing on rice and sugar. Thank you for your generosity.

**St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank** – You can contribute regular monthly donations to St. Vincent de Paul by Preauthorized Remittance (PAR). SSVF is offering the families in need of assistance to visit the Food Bank, on the third Wednesday of each month, from 1 pm – 6 pm, at the downstairs hall at St. Joseph Parish. No proof of income or documentation required.

Office will be closed the week of  
 December 26 to January 2<sup>nd</sup>

# SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

920 Wellington Street, Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C3  
 519-832-2202

Website: [www.stjospar.com](http://www.stjospar.com)

Email Address:

[stjosephportelgin@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:stjosephportelgin@hamiltondiocese.com)

Visit our Facebook page

[facebook.com/St-Josephs Parish](https://facebook.com/St-Josephs Parish)

### Liturgy this week:

Tue. Dec. 26 – St. Stephen, the First Martyr, (F)  
 Wed. Dec. 27 - St. John, Apostle, Evangelist (F)  
 Thurs. Dec. 28 – Holy Innocents, Martyrs (F)  
 Week within the Octave of the Nativity  
 Mon. Jan. 1 – Mary – The Holy Mother of God (S)

F – Feast  
 M – Memorial  
 S – Solemnity

### First Communion 2024

Next preparation session is Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in Jubilee Hall.

**R.C.I.A.** Candidates are gathering to discern and gauge readiness on Saturdays at 10 a.m. in the downstairs Hall. We will resume our lessons on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Vocations** - We celebrate the birth of our Lord into our world; however, many have not received the birth of our Lord into their hearts. If Christ lives in your heart and you would like to help others discover the Lord, you may be called to be a priest, religious, or permanent deacon. If God is calling you, contact Fr. Mark Morley, Director of Vocations, Diocese of Hamilton at 905-528-7988.

[vocations@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:vocations@hamiltondiocese.com)  
[hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/](https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/)



# The Nativity of our Lord



*Heart to Heart*

December 15, 2023 (#525)

## CHRISTMAS 2023

Dear Friends,

We will soon celebrate the great *Solemnity of The Nativity of the Lord – Christmas*. Already Christmas cards are in the mail, Christmas music fills the airwaves, and Christmas décor can be seen on, and in, our homes. Christmas gifts are being exchanged. Choirs are practicing Christmas music and parishioners are beginning to decorate the churches in preparation for the Christmas liturgies. Advertisements throughout the diocese encourage Catholics to **“Come Home For Christmas”!** We want to welcome sisters and brothers who worship with us at Christmas, so all will experience the profound blessing of being a follower of Jesus Christ – the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, as Handel’s Messiah so beautifully proclaims!



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



At this darkest time of the year, *“Jesus is born in our midst; He is God with us. He comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears. He comes as a helpless child. He is born in the cold night, poor among the poor. In need of everything, he knocks at the door of our hearts to find warmth and shelter.”* (Pope Francis, Christmas Message 2022)

During these Christmas festivities, take time to recall your blessings and give thanks in quiet prayer. When caught up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations, be attentive to recognize the abundant presence of grace and goodness that surrounds you. The Lord reveals himself still in boundless acts of kindness and generosity. When you are aware of his presence through others, allow him to move you deeply, and to be generous in turn. His mercy works in and through us. As we are blessed by the goodness of others, so others are blessed by our generous acts!

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

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I will look as well as I can,  
dress becomingly,  
keep my voice low,  
be courteous, criticize not one bit.  
I won't try to improve anybody but myself.