



# IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY PARISH

934 Highway #8, Stoney Creek, ON L8E 5H7  
Ph: 905-643-1637; ihmchurch@cogeco.net; www.ihmchurch.ca



## PASTORAL TEAM

**Fr. Gregory Merkley**, Pastor  
**Ilaria Paletta**, Office Administrator  
**Claire Mackness**, Lay Pastoral Assistant

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

**Tuesday to Thursday**

9:30a.m – 4:30p.m.

**Friday**

9:30a.m-12:30p.m

**Closed: Saturday, Sunday, Monday**

## PERPETUAL EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Monday 10a.m. until Saturday 9a.m

## CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Tuesday evenings 8p.m in the church  
(September to June)

## PRAISE & WORSHIP PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays 7p.m - Parish Hall  
(September to June)

## HOSPITAL VISITS/SHUT-INS

Call/Email the Parish Office.

## SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

ssvp.immaculateheart@gmail.com  
Ph: 289-799-2314

## SCHOOLS

Immaculate Heart of Mary  
905-523-2332  
St. Gabriel  
905-523-2468

## VOCATIONS

Fr. Mark Morley  
905-528-7988 ext. 2341  
<https://hamiltondiocese.com/vocations/>

## ELECTRONIC BULLETIN EMAIL US:

ihmchurch@cogeco.net

**VISIT:** [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org)

## OUR PARISH'S VISION STATEMENT:

*The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish is a welcoming place of joyful worship where one finds grace, refuge, serenity, strength and compassion.*

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit, with the love of the Father, the parish offers outreach, understanding and hope to a diverse community in a meaningful way.*

*Prayerfully, openly and lovingly, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish provides a faithful witness to our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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## PARISH PRAYER:

*Come Holy Spirit, Come by the means of the powerful intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Your well beloved spouse upon the Parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. Amen*

## LORD'S DAY MASSES

SATURDAY 5:00p.m; SUNDAY 9:00a.m; 11:00a.m; 4:00p.m

## WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 9a.m; Tuesday 7p.m; Wednesday-Friday 9a.m

## CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday 6-7p.m; Saturday 3:45-4:45p.m  
30 minutes before all other regularly scheduled Masses  
(including Sunday Masses)

## BAPTISMS

Call/Email the Parish office to book.

## MARRIAGE

Call/Email the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance

## R.C.I.A

(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Call/Email the parish office

## SPECIAL NEEDS

Families with children that have special needs are always welcome in our parish.  
Please contact us to show us how we can help you.

## STEWARDSHIP

"Donate to our Parish" through our website. Mail/Drop Off Donations to the Parish Office. E-Transfer: ihmchurch@cogeco.net (Offering)

We thank you for your generosity & support.



Scan Here

## ✂----- REGISTER WITH OUR PARISH:

We welcome you to our Parish! Please introduce yourself to Fr. Greg.  
Kindly complete the information below and place it in the collection basket.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one: Envelopes \_\_\_\_\_ Pre-authorized giving \_\_\_\_\_ (form will be emailed to you)

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Bulletin yes/no \_\_\_\_\_

ROSARY 30 mins before All Masses		Confession 30 mins before All Masses	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2025 MASS INTENTIONS: December 28, 2025-January 4, 2026		Diocesan Vocation Prayer Intentions
MONDAY	9:00 AM	FOR THE INTENTIONS OF JOE LEMMEN (90TH BIRTHDAY) - Louise & Mario Castellani			Rev. Edward Mahony
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	†SARAH TRUDEAU & DONALD HENDERSON — Giallonardo Family †ANTHONY SALVATORI —Family †FLORA & PETER MENEGALDO — Grace Ivezic SOULS IN PURGATORY—Jadwiga Zychowicz			Rev. Francis Hubilla
WEDNESDAY	5:00 PM	PRO POPULO			Religious Life Candidates
THURSDAY	9:00 AM	PRO POPULO			Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God
	11:00 AM	PRO POPULO			
FRIDAY	9:00 AM	IN REPARATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS—Jadwiga Zychowicz			Most Rev. Douglas Crosby
SATURDAY	5:00 PM	†RENO CORTIULA — Family †LILLIAN CUNNINGHAM—Patricia & Walter Tymchuk †ANGELO & MARY EVANGELISTO — Tony & Daniela Giannini †MIKE, CRISTINA & PASQUALE TIMBERIO—Lucia Caruso FOR THE INTENTIONS OF BARBARA ANN KING — Kunkel Family FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ANNE PRITCHARD — Carol McIntosh			Very Rev. Adrian Lee
SUNDAY	9:00 AM	PRO POPULO			
	11:00 AM	PRO POPULO			
	4:00 PM	PRO POPULO			



My dear parishioners,

**Merry Christmas!**

**Christmas Day and the solemnity of Mary Mother of God (*New Year's Day*) are the only two *holy days of obligation* in the Church in Canada.** This means that, as with Sundays,

Catholics have the gift *and responsibility* to attend Mass on those days (or on the evening before, 4 PM and on). This responsibility is only dispensed by sickness, an emergency (e.g. something out of our control that stops us from making it to Mass), or if one is dispensed by their pastor for a reasonable cause. Please be sure to plan accordingly, as we are blessed to worship God, and He can never be outdone in generosity! Plus, I personally also love having you all here at our parish!

**A huge thank you to all those who have put so much effort into making our Christmas Masses so special, including all music ministry, lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, ushers, sacristans, those decorated the church, and more!** May the Lord graciously reward you!

**Thank you to *all* our wonderful volunteers and those who serve in our parish.** We look forward to our volunteer appreciation celebration on the evening of January 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers, please RSVP by January 2nd and join us as we celebrate your amazing contributions!

**In addition, thank you to all who have generously offered kind Christmas cards and gifts.** Thank you so much very much for your kind thoughtfulness. I am very blessed to be the pastor here, in such a kind and thoughtful community! May God reward all of you many times over!

**Thank you to all those who so generously donated poinsettias in memory of your loved ones!** What a truly beautiful way to honor God, our loved ones, the birth of Jesus, and create an uplifting experience of beauty in our parish! Your generosity is appreciated!

**This year on December 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, which is always celebrated the Sunday after Christmas!** The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and St. Joseph are a perfect example of what every family is called to be – centered on God's commandments, praying and working in harmony, and trying to bring Christ's presence to the rest of the world. Each of us can ask ourselves this question, "how can I make my family more like the Holy Family?" Let's each think of at least *one* thing we could do to make that more of a concrete reality. Holy Family, pray for us!

**Our Eucharistic adoration chapel is temporarily closed until Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM, because unfortunately during the Christmas season many adorers are away, and it is very challenging to ensure that there is always at least one adorer in the chapel.** That said, you are still welcome to come into the Church and pray in front of the Tabernacle, where Jesus Christ is still truly present in the most Holy Eucharist, even if you can't see the Host! Jesus is no less present in the Tabernacle than He is during exposition of the most Holy Eucharist, so please know that you're encouraged to spend quality time with Jesus during the Christmas season!

May God bless you and your loved ones abundantly in this sacred season,

Fr. Greg Merkley



## KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:

Visit: [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join) (Council # 14421)

**Annual Christmas Food Drive** - Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Christmas Food Drive

**Thank you to all the volunteers** who helped Stoney Creek Santa Claus Parade and at all our events, and to all parishioners who donated to or participated in our fundraising events! This Christmas season we made donations to: Martha House (Good Shepherd); DeMazenod Door; Christian Refugee Relief; Global Wheelchair Mission; Euthanasia Prevention Coalition; Hamilton Right to Life; and Hamilton Food Share; and the IHM Building Fund. These donations would not be possible without your participation and the participation of our Bulletin Sponsors.

**We wish everyone a blessed and happy Christmas!**

- Joe van Troost, Grand Knight



## CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

**Wishing all our Members a Blessed Christmas Season.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS (APART FROM MASS AND CONFESSIONS)

Dec 20 — Jan 5 — Eucharistic Chapel Closed  
 Dec 23 — Jan 6 — Parish Office Closed  
 Dec 24 — 4 PM — Christmas Eve Mass  
 Dec 24 — 12Midnight — Christmas Eve Mass  
 Dec 25 — 9 AM/11 AM — Christmas Day Mass  
 Dec 31 — 5 PM — New Year's Eve Mass, Holy Day of Obligation  
 Jan 1 — 9 AM/ 11AM — New Year's Day Mass, Holy Day of Obligation  
 Jan 5 — 6:30 PM — Card Group, Parish Hall  
 Jan 6 — 8 PM — Meditation Group, Church  
 Jan 9 — 6:30 PM — Youth Night, Parish Hall  
 Jan 10 — 8 AM — COR Men's Group, Meeting Rm 1  
 Jan 10 — 6:30 PM — IHM Parish Volunteer Dinner, RSVP required  
 Jan 11 — 2 PM — Family Catechism, IHM School Gym  
 Jan 12 — 6 PM — Chant Mass  
 Jan 12 — 7:15 PM — Men's Recollection, Church, Meeting Rm 1  
 Jan 13 — 8 PM — Meditation Group, Church  
 Jan 14 — 10:30 AM — IHM School Mass  
 Jan 14 — 7:30 PM — Knights of Columbus Meeting, Parish Hall  
 Jan 15 — 7 PM — Praise & Worship, Parish Hall  
 Jan 17/18 — Blue Box Weekend



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL will be closed on Saturday, December 20 at 9a.m. and will re-open on Monday, January 5 at 10a.m.** Unfortunately, with many adorers away, we are not able to keep the chapel open as usual. That said, you are warmly invited to visit the Jesus in the Tabernacle in the church throughout the Christmas Season!



**COR MEN'S GROUP** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish will be this will be on **SATURDAY, JANUARY 10 AT 8 AM** in the Parish Meeting Room. The theme for our meeting is "Mission of the Family: Healing in the Family" and includes a video and discussion. The Cor Men's Group meets regularly on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 8:00am in the Parish Meeting Room for 60 to 90 minutes. The purpose of our group is to prayerfully explore our Catholic Faith over coffee and donuts. All men of the parish are welcome!



**2026 SUNDAY OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK UP:** Going "Green" email the parish office: [ihmchurch@cogeco.net](mailto:ihmchurch@cogeco.net) or visit: [ihmchurch.ca](http://ihmchurch.ca) for more options. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please let the parish office know!

### STEWARDSHIP DECEMBER 20/21, 2025

Envelope	Loose	E-transfer	Canada Helps	Pre-Authorized (15th/30th)	Total
\$6573.70	\$1411.30	\$1195.00	\$677.68	\$2,905.00	\$12762.68

**Thank you for your Generosity!**

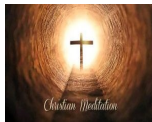


**SOCIAL ACTION: THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BLUE BOX EVERY MONTH.** Your donations have enabled our parish volunteers to cook two meals a month for the guests who come to DeMazenod Door for their DAILY BREAD. Our parish

provided over 8,000 meals this year. **To our monthly BLUE BOX contributors, our TWO groups of volunteer cooks/food preparers/dishwashers, our Costco drivers and our volunteers who go down to the Door to help serve - a HUGE THANK YOU.** This Christmas our parish will once again sponsor the Christmas dinner and our guests will be served Prime Rib along with mashed potatoes, root veggies and alot more. In addition, the guests will be given Christmas gift bags that will include hand knitted hats and gloves and scarves made by one of our parishioners. May GOD BLESS each and everyone of you. MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR.



**As we celebrate the birth of Christ,** we thank you for your generosity and compassion toward our neighbours in need. Your support brings hope, dignity, and the light of Christ into many lives. May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts and homes. **Next Collection: January 3/4, please make any cheques payable to "The Society of St. Vincent de Paul".** Thank you for your generosity and for helping us serve those in need within our parish community. Your support truly makes a meaningful difference.



**CHRISTIAN MEDITATION every Tuesday from 8-9 pm, (No Meditation Dec 23)** We meet in the church for a brief teaching and a period of silent meditation followed by discussion. All are welcome. "When we begin to meditate we recognize the constant whirl going on in our mind...The task of meditation is to bring all of this mobile and distracted mind to stillness, silence and concentration." Father John Main OSB, The World Community for Christian Meditation.



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

**CLOSE OF THE JUBILEE OF HOPE:** All are welcome to join Bishop Crosby and Bishop Lobsinger for the close of the Jubilee Year at a Eucharistic Celebration on **Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. We will have an opportunity during this Mass to offer thanks for Bishop Crosby's ministry as Bishop of Hamilton at this celebration.

**PARENTING TIP:** Christmas is a wonderful time of year! We see family, experience the joys of gift giving and receiving and have some time as a family just to be. It is however, more than any of these things, the celebration of the birth of Christ. In the hustle and bustle of the season we can forget to focus on this moment, where a child came into the world so that each of us could experience the profound gift of Salvation. This Christmas, enjoy all the fun stuff, but remember to focus, through stories, Mass, prayer and discussions, on the joy of Christ's birth and the real reason for the season.

**MARRIAGE TIP:** Marriage is a journey that two people undertake with a plan to navigate life together. When researchers investigate what makes the journey both long and happy, many things come into play, but a strong one is repeated by most: "I married my best friend." It is good to ask yourself then, are you being a good friend to your spouse? Do you spend time together, share parts of your day, invite them to share in an event with you, watch a movie together, or even a series that can become together time? Do you call once in awhile to say hello during the time you are not together and plan time for your spouse in your agenda – everyday? Are you patient when they make a mistake, are not perfect, or let you down? Friendships thrive and last in this kind of environment, so make friendship a foundation of your marriage.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK:**  
*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.*



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