

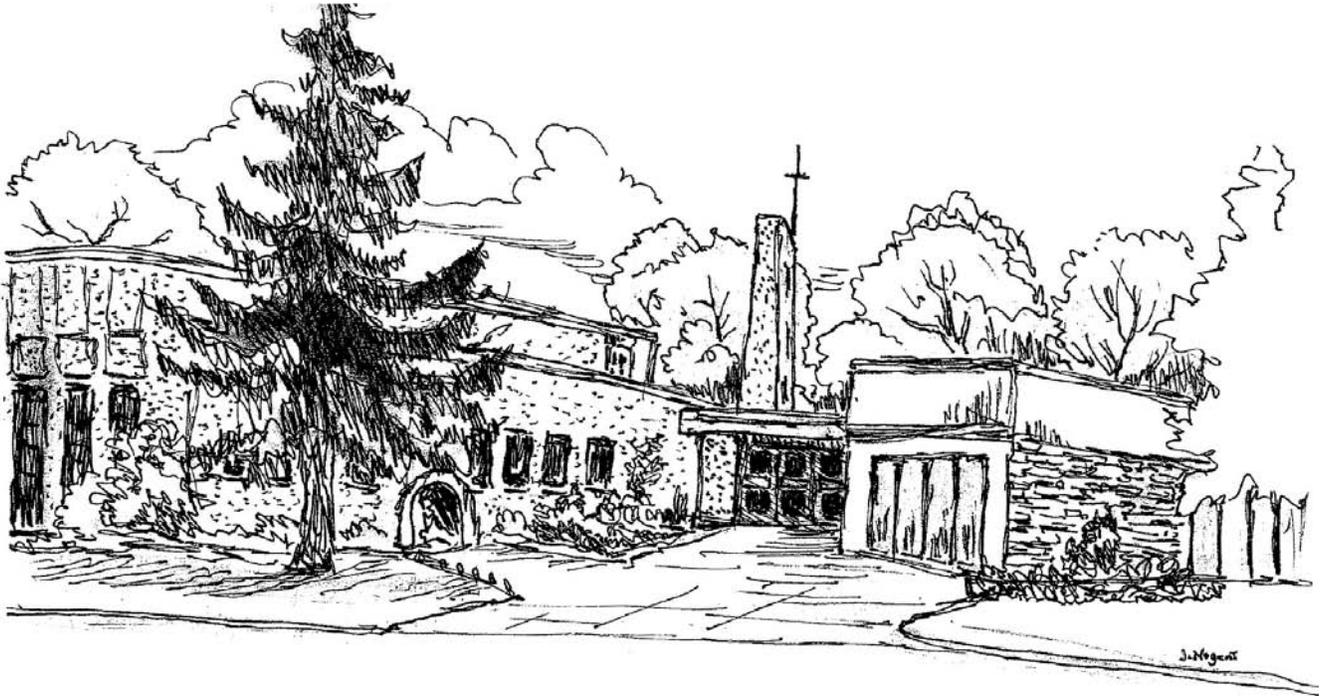


ST. MARGARET MARY PARISH

20 Idlewood Avenue, Hamilton, Ontario L8T 1V9

☎ 905-388-2200 ☎ 905-388-8416

🌐 stmargaretmaryparish.ca ✉ office@stmargaretmaryparish.ca



Very Rev. Msgr. Cornelius O'Mahony, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Rene Marechal, Deacon

Divine Dimaranan, Administration/Secretary

Office Hours:

Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1:00-5:00 pm.

July & August: 9:00 am - 12:00 noon, 1:00-4:00 pm.

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday: 7:00 pm

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 9:00 am

Sunday Mass:

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 9:00 am, 11:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Available Saturday 4:00-4:30 pm or
by appointment.

Parish Devotions:

Eucharistic Adoration: Mon-Fri: 8:00 am-8:00 pm.

Sat: Benediction 8:45 am.

Baptism: Celebrated by appointment only.

Participation in a Baptismal Preparation Session is required. Please contact the parish office (905-388-2200) well in advance.

Marriage: Parishioners who are planning to marry should contact the parish office at least six months before the proposed wedding date.

Visits to the Sick: If you or someone you know is in need of a visit in home or hospital please call the parish office.

New to the Parish: Please register by completing a registration form (available online and in the Narthex). We also ask that you notify the office of any change in address or telephone number.

Schools:

St. Margaret Mary	905-383-8122
St. Kateri Tekakwitha	905-385-8212
St. Anthony Daniel	905-389-5186
St. Thomas More Secondary	905-388-3030

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2026

REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL

Reflect upon next Sunday's Gospel throughout the week.

The Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord is:

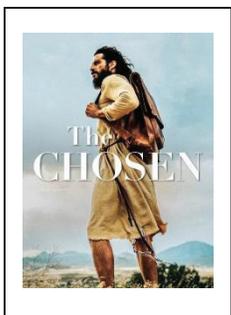
Matthew 27.11-54

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

March 15th ,2026 Collection

Regular Sunday Env.	\$ 4,910.00
Loose Cash	\$ 630.00
St.M.M. Parish Outreach	\$ 90.00
Mission Coop- HAITI	\$ 1,020.00

We thank you for your continued, dedicated and regular financial support for St. Margaret Mary Parish.



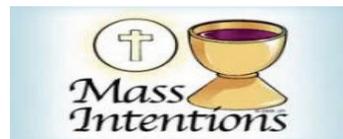
MOVIE NIGHT IN PREPARATION FOR HOLY WEEK

The people responsible for the **Chosen** series of video presentations on the life of Jesus have produced a series of beautiful introductions to holy week that are a perfect way to prepare for Holy week. Please join us after the 5.00 pm. Mass on Saturday, March 28th in the Hearth Room for pizza and ice-cream

and two episodes of the **Chosen** presentation of the events leading up to Jesus entry to Jerusalem and the Passover meal with his disciples. Please let us know if you plan to attend, how many will come with you and any food allergies. (905) 388-2200 or email office@stmargaretmmaryparish.ca.

The new **FIRE SAFETY PLAN** for the Church, meeting rooms and rectory will be presented to staff, group leaders and volunteers who have responsibility for meetings and guiding people into and out of the buildings on **Tuesday evening, April 14th at 7.30 pm**. Everyone will hear about the report and procedures that need to be in place so that we are in compliance with the regulations of the Fire Department, City of Hamilton and the Diocese. A new requirement of the Fire Department is that we have a fire drill during one Mass each year which we will also discuss.

Please note: we are happy to accept Mass intentions for Mass during the week and for the Saturday evening Mass at 5.00 pm. We no longer accept Mass intentions for Mass on Sunday morning at 9.00 or 11.00 Both of these Masses are reserved "for the people", a term from the Code of Canon Law which requires the pastor or the presiding priest to offer the "**Missa pro populo**", Mass for the "spiritual and temporal well-being of their parishioners every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation." (Canon 534) Please contact the office well ahead when you require a Mass intention for a specific date. Intentions for a date that falls on a Sunday can be transferred to the Saturday at 5.00 pm.



Mass at 7:00pm on Tuesday
9:00am on Wednesday – Friday

Tues., Mar 24 7:00 pm.	Intentions of Jake Blais †David & Flaviana Rosal
Wed., Mar 25 9:00 am	†Fortunato Mirabile Mark Bistoyong
Thurs., Mar 26 9:00 am	†Joe McSweeney †Cesar, Joel & Jessie Cabugawan †Lozaly Dacayo
Fri., Mar 27 9:00 am	†Luisa & Francesco Iannitelli
Sat., Mar 28 5:00pm	†Remo Trifone †Holy Souls in Purgatory †Renato Pozzolo †Edgardo Fondevilla

The last Friday Day of Prayer during Lent for this year happens next Friday beginning with Mass in the morning at 9.00 am. and adoration of the Blessed sacrament during the day in the church. **A Holy Hour with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Meditations on the Stations of the Cross** begins at 7.00 pm.

MASS ON HOLY THURSDAY: During Mass on Holy Thursday, after the washing of the feet and homily we are going to introduce an ancient tradition where we will bring gifts for the poor during the time when the offertory procession normally takes place. Those attending mass are invited to come forward and place their gift for the poor in the baskets close to the Altar. Dry good such as pasta and rice or canned soup or beans and lentils are always welcome and will be distributed to Neighbor to Neighbor. Gift cards for grocery stores or cash will be distributed to our Parish Outreach Program.



FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

The Teaching Mass for children preparing for First Communion will be at **11:00 AM (only) today, March 22nd**. The final one takes place on **Sunday, April 19th**.

Reconciliation for Grade 2: Children are invited to celebrate First Reconciliation on **Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM or any Saturday during April from 4.00 to 4.45 PM**. Thank you for your cooperation.



A REFLECTION FOR LENT 5:

The Gospel of the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1–45), brings the Lenten journey to its highest and most dramatic point. After the Samaritan woman who discovered living water and the man born blind who

received sight, we now stand before the mystery of life and death itself. The story prepares us for Holy Week by revealing Jesus as **the Lord of life**, while also showing his deep human compassion in the face of grief.

The setting is filled with sorrow. Lazarus has died; his sisters, Martha and Mary, are surrounded by mourners. When Jesus arrives, both sisters speak words that carry faith mixed with disappointment: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." Mary's words are especially bold. They express the prayer that many believers carry silently, the ache of unanswered hopes and the question of why God sometimes seems late. The Gospel does not hide this tension. Lent teaches us that faith does not exclude honest emotion. We can bring our confusion, anger, and grief to Christ without fear.

What makes this passage so powerful is that Jesus himself enters fully into human sorrow. The shortest verse in Scripture, "Jesus wept" reveals the heart of God. Jesus does not stand at a distance from suffering; he shares it. Even knowing that he will raise Lazarus, he allows himself to grieve. This speaks deeply to us today. In a world marked by loss, illness, and uncertainty, the Gospel reminds us that Christ walks with us in our mourning. God's power does not erase compassion; it deepens it.

At the same time, Jesus leads those around him beyond grief toward faith. To Martha he declares, "I am the resurrection and the life." This is not only a promise for the future but a revelation about the present. Eternal life begins now in relationship with Christ. The raising of Lazarus is a sign pointing toward Jesus' own death and resurrection, soon to unfold in Holy Week. It shows that even when all hope appears buried, God is still at work.

The moment at the tomb contains an important Lenten lesson. Jesus commands that the stone be rolled away, even though Martha hesitates because of the odor of death. Faith sometimes requires us to let Christ into places we would rather keep sealed, old wounds, regrets, or fears we hide from others. Jesus then calls Lazarus by name: "Come out!" The dead man emerges, still bound in burial cloths, and Jesus tells the community, "Untie him and let him go." Conversion is never purely private; we need the support of others to help us live in the freedom Christ gives.

As Lent draws to a close, this Gospel invites us to examine what in our lives still feels lifeless or enclosed behind a stone. The story calls us to trust that Jesus can bring renewal even where we see only endings. It also prepares our hearts for Holy Week by reminding us that the path to resurrection passes through the reality of the cross.

In these final days, the message is clear: do not be afraid to bring your grief, doubts, and hopes to Christ. He weeps with us, calls us by name, and leads us toward new life. As we approach Holy Week, we are asked to stand with Jesus at the tomb, to listen for his voice, and to believe that God's life is stronger than death.



LISTENING AND FASTING: POPE LEO XIV'S MESSAGE FOR LENT 2026

Pope Leo XIV's message for Lent 2026, entitled "Listening and fasting. Lent as a time of Conversion," was published on Friday, February 13, by the Holy See Press Office. To read Pope Leo's message, and download a helpful infographic, visit the Dicastery for Integral Human Development here: www.humandevlopment.va.

VOCATIONS RECOGNITION DINNER 2026 The Serra Club of Hamilton warmly invites you to attend the 23rd Annual Vocations Recognition Dinner on **Wednesday, April 29, 2026**, at Liuna Station to celebrate the dedicated service of our Priests, Deacons, Religious Brothers and Sisters, and Consecrated Virgins in the Diocese of Hamilton. Milestone anniversaries will be honored, and we will hear the inspiring faith journeys of this year's ordinandi and candidates. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$90 per person. For more information and to order tickets, visit the Diocese of Hamilton website: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/events/>. This event is co-sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton.



NOVENA FOR THE UNBORN

As we approach the Feast of the Annunciation, how can you say YES to life like Mary did? This year let's all pray this novena - Spiritual Adoption of an Unborn Child (by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen). The prayers are said for nine months - from March 25 thru December 25.
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph,
I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.

Pray one decade of the Rosary

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Unborn, pray for us. Amen

For more information on how you can help with pro-life issues, visit our website Hamiltonrighttolife.org or contact us at 905-528-3065

CATHOLIC SPEED DATING MAY 16TH IN STONEY CREEK

St. Ann Hamilton and Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish invite Catholic singles to a special speed dating event on Saturday, May 16th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Hall in Stoney Creek. This event features two sessions for different age groups — including an afternoon session specifically for adults ages 30–59, and an evening session for ages 20–39, with a shared dinner for all attendees in between. Those aged 30–39 are welcome at both sessions with a Full Day ticket.

Tickets are \$20 per person and include dinner. An early bird rate of \$15 is available until April 5th (Easter) using code EARLYBIRD at checkout.

Spaces are limited. For full details and to register, visit stannhamilton.church/speed-dating.

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