



St. Agnes Catholic Parish

Pastor: Rev. Fr. Jeff Bergsma

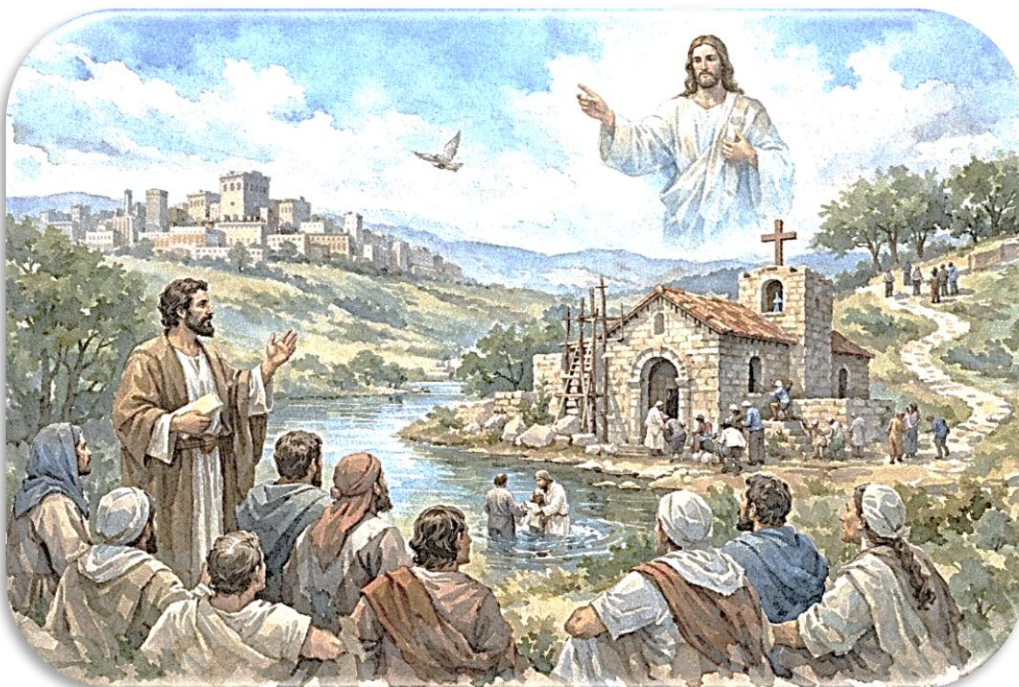
Permanent Deacon: Rev. Mr. Ed MacIntosh

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Deb MacIntosh

Bookkeeper: Mrs. Kathy Bader

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



Focus: God has made us a chosen race and a royal priesthood. In him we find our deepest identity.

The second reading from the First Letter of Peter provides a beautiful and yet challenging description of who we are as Christians. We are, by virtue of baptism, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, and a people set apart to give praise to God. Taken together, these statements remind us what a grace and privilege it is to be chosen, but they also reassure us of how God sees us and how we ought to see ourselves and others. Everything we do must reflect this holy and royal status.

PARISH NEWS & EVENTS



We are happy to say that our accessible door is now functioning and located on the side nearest the lift and the closest accessible parking spaces!

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL MEETING : May 4th, 7pm in the Conference Room.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: May 5th, 7pm in the Conference Room.

MONTHLY MEN'S SOCIAL HOUR: Please come join us on Monday June 8 at 1:00 pm in the conference room for our last monthly men's social hour before our summer break. In addition to coffee, Timbits and lively conversation, we will have a presentation on **CANADIAN ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS** to prepare everyone for their summer driving tours! We will resume our social hour again in September. Please call John Vogan at 226-978-4013 for more information.

CURSILLO RETREAT WEEKENDS: Women's June 4-7, 2026; Men's Fall date TBD
Are you feeling spiritually dry and you want to reconnect with God? Is life making you feel overwhelmed? Maybe it's time to set aside time to do some soul searching! Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning 'short course'. It is a lay ecclesial movement sanctioned by the Vatican that started in the roman catholic church in Spain over 70 years ago and has spread all over the world. The 3-day weekend is simply a short course in Christian living led by clergy and lay leaders. Cursillo is more than a weekend experience but an active community of support, friendship, fellowship and spiritual growth. Many participants attribute their experience with a profound kindling or rekindling of their faith. For more information on upcoming weekends contact Marg Weber 416-427-7102 or marg.weber@sympatico.ca

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL July 31 – August 9, 2027

Meet the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV at the 41st International Celebration of World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea. Visit: <https://wydseoul.org/en> for info. Bishop Dabrowski is sending a delegation of young adults (aged 18-35) to World Youth Day in the summer of 2027. The Diocesan Pastoral Offices welcome you to attend a **virtual information night on Thursday, April 23 @ 7:30pm**. Register here: bit.ly/WYDInfoNight

Dear St. Agnes Community,

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the prayers, kindness, and support you have offered during my recovery. Your concern has been a true source of strength and comfort.

I'm grateful to share that healing continues slowly but steadily. The concussion symptoms have begun to ease, and the fractured tailbone is improving as well. While progress takes time, each step forward is encouraging.

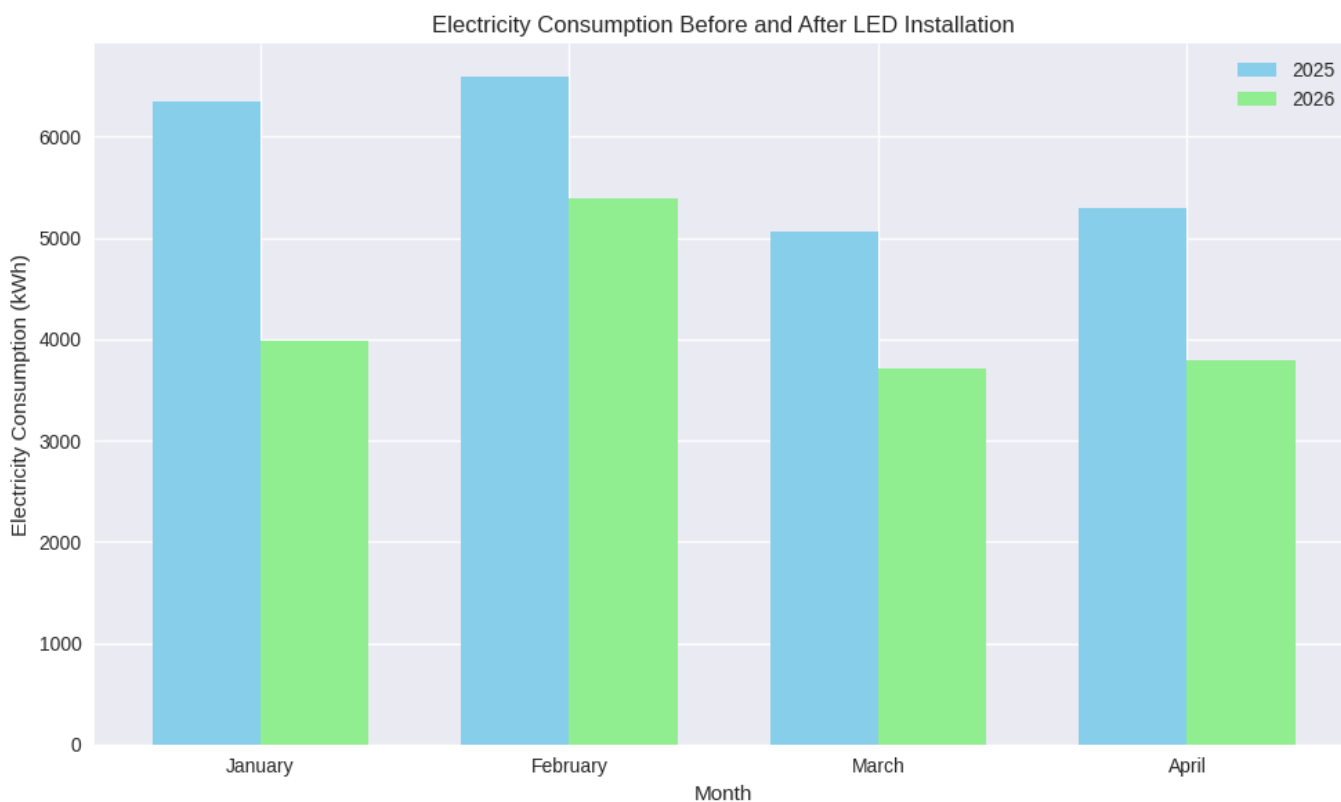
For now, I will continue to join Mass from the back pew, wearing sunglasses and earplugs as I manage light and sound sensitivity. Being present with you, even in this modified way, means so much to me.

Thank you again for your prayers and compassion. Please know how deeply I appreciate the St. Agnes community.



With gratitude, Deacon Ed.

OUR NEW LED LIGHTING IS ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE! Comparing our electricity use from early 2025 to early 2026, we're seeing a significant drop in consumption each month, even with the addition of a new community worshipping with us. On the other hand, because rates have increased, our costs are similar.





Mother's Day Tea

Hosted by the CWL

May 9 • After the 9am Mass
9:30am – 11:00am • Parish Hall

Join us first for Mass at 9am,
then enjoy fellowship and
a tasty selection of teas and treats!





NOMINATION FORM for 2026-2027 PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council is composed of registered parishioners of St. Agnes Parish. **Five seats** need to be filled and the Parish Council asks you, the Parishioners, to nominate people to sit on the council for these positions:

RECORDING SECRETARY: A parishioner who can take meeting minutes and prepare computerized meeting documents.

HOSPITALITY CO-CHAIR: An organizer who can reach out to parishioners and encourage their involvement in parish activities. The hospitality co-chair is not the person expected to carry out these events, but to form contacts, help plan the events, and encourage others to take part in or lead these activities.

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: A parishioner who is comfortable with technology and various social media and web platforms. They coordinate and help maintain the Parish website and social media presence. They help maintain the relationships with related service vendors.

MEMBERS AT LARGE: Parishioners who are willing to be an objective voice of the general assembly of parishioners. They should be willing to engage other parishioners to get their opinions and feelings about parish life.

Nominations will be accepted until 8PM on May 17th, 2026.

The term for new members is 2 years. *And yes, you may nominate yourself!*

Eligibility: any baptized Roman Catholic, and **registered** member of St. Agnes Parish who is sixteen years of age or older is eligible for election to the Council

Faithfulness: committed to the St. Agnes Parish community by their faithful presence, honesty, and humility.

Maturity: able to work effectively with others, to listen, be open to new ideas, and possess the time and willingness to serve (approximately 8 meetings per year)

Leadership: able to look ahead and to lead in quiet ways through actions and communication of ideas to the Pastor and the Council.

Please consider being a member of the Parish Council!

If you have been nominated by a parishioner, it is because someone sees in you a special gift of faithfulness, maturity and leadership. Please don't hesitate to share your gifts with all of us! Remember, God doesn't call the qualified...He qualifies the called!

Questions? Contact the Nominating Committee, Council Chair Chris Kleisath via parishcouncil4480@gmail.com, or call the Parish Office at 519-885-4480.



ST. AGNES PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM

I Nominate _____

to serve as a member of the Parish Council of St. Agnes Parish, representing (please choose one)

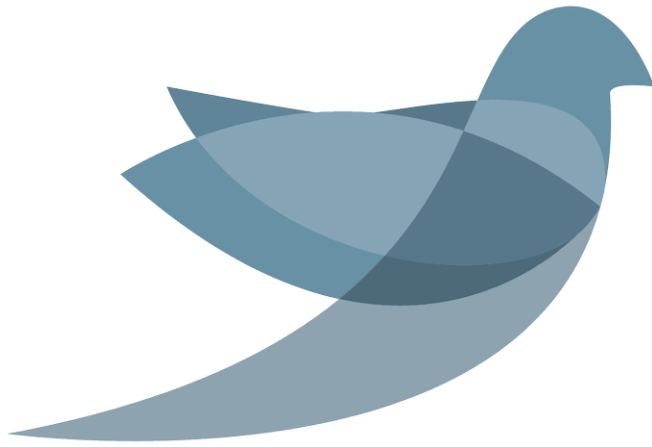
- RECORDING SECRETARY
- HOSPITALITY CO-CHAIR
- COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR
- MEMBER-AT-LARGE (2 required)

Their contact information if you know it: _____

Your name and contact information: _____

Thank you for participating in this nomination and for your interest in supporting the work of the Parish Council. You may **bring** this nomination form to the Parish office, **drop** it in the collection basket, **mail** it to 75 Bluevale St. N., Waterloo, N2J 3R7, or **email** it to parishcouncil4480@gmail.com .

Deadline for nominations: May 17th, 2026 at 8pm.



CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

MAY 3–8, 2026

Message for Catholic
Education Week from
Bishop Joseph
Dabrowski, CSMA

Message in
English
(PDF)

Message in
French
(PDF)

Dear Students, Teachers, Parents, and Friends of
Catholic Education,

It is a joy for me, as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Hamilton, to greet you during Catholic Education Week. I look forward to meeting many of you in our schools and parishes in the months ahead. This year's theme is ***"Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness."*** These words remind us that life is a journey. Each day we learn, grow, and discover how God calls us to live with faith, courage, and trust in His plan for us...

Catholic Education Week begins on Sunday, May 3, 2026. This year's Catholic Education theme is, *"Pilgrims of Hope: On the Path to Holiness."* The Catholic schools in our parish will engage in a series of events to celebrate the ongoing gift of publicly funded Catholic education. You are invited to learn about the various celebrations that are happening in your children's school, and are welcome to attend, if possible. Publicly funded Catholic education has existed in Ontario since 1841, and its graduates have served Ontario and Canada very well. The current generation of students in our publicly funded Catholic schools will serve with the same spirit and generosity as their previous generations.

THE NATIONAL WEEK FOR FAMILY AND LIFE Sunday, May 10 to Sunday May 17, 2026, with the theme “I am with you always.” (Matthew 28:20) Families are encouraged to take time during this week to celebrate their families, express gratitude, offer forgiveness, and/or share meaningful moments with loved ones across generations. This week is an opportunity to uphold the value of life and to live out our calling to love one another within our homes, communities, and the world. Resources can be found on the Hamilton Diocesan website. Watch the video celebrating the week as a family here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCWllROedhl>

YOUTH MINISTRY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM We are currently accepting enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program, which begins in September 2026. Join us as we explore the practical strategies for youth ministry and the accompaniment of young people in our diocesan community. To review a full course list and for more information, please visit:

www.hamiltondioceselearns.com.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TRAINING DAY Many of our parishes are blessed to have teens and young adults involved in the preparation and leadership of Vacation Bible School experiences. The Office for Youth Ministry and the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis warmly welcome all VBS coordinators and youth leaders to a day of formation and training on Saturday, May 9th, 2026.

For more information, and to register please visit: <http://bit.ly/419nh7w>. For all other questions regarding VBS, reach out to us at:

youthministry@hamiltondiocese.com.

FRASSATI LEADERSHIP PROGRAM Calling all those entering Grade 10 in September 2026! Are you looking to grow in your faith? Do you want to explore what it means to be a Catholic leader? **The Frassati Leadership Program** may be for you. Join other Grade 10 Catholic leaders as we reflect on the foundations of Catholic leadership and foster opportunities for you to grow in your own faith and leadership skills. For more information and to register please visit: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/office/pastoral-offices/youth-ministry/frassati/>.

Help Not Harm

We invite the Catholic community to respectfully contact their local Member of Parliament (MP), requesting their support of a Private Members' Bill (C-218, **The Right to Recover Act – an act to amend the Criminal code – Medical Assistance in Dying**) currently before the Parliament of Canada.

What is Bill C-218? Bill C-218 amends the Criminal Code to make it illegal to provide Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) to individuals whose sole underlying condition is a mental illness. It recognizes the importance of Canadians to recover from mental illness and ensures help can be offered, not harm.

WHY IT MATTERS:

- **Every life is precious.** As Catholics, we believe in the sanctity of every human life, from the moment of conception to natural death.
- **A desire to die can be a symptom of illness.** Suicidal thoughts are frequently part of mental illness itself, raising serious concerns about whether consent can ever be truly free and informed.
- **Mental illness is often treatable.** Many mental health conditions improve over time with proper care, therapy, medication, and support. Recovery remains possible, even after long periods of suffering.
- **Gaps in mental health care remain unresolved.** Long wait times, limited access to psychiatrists, and uneven mental health services mean some may seek to end their life due to system failure, not medical necessity.
- **There is an increased risk to vulnerable Canadians.** Individuals navigating mental health challenges are more likely to experience poverty, trauma, isolation, disability, or lack of access to care—factors that may pressure individuals toward assisted suicide.

BACKGROUND ON BILL C-218

What is a Private Members' Bill?

A Private Members' Bill is a piece of legislation introduced in Parliament by a Member of Parliament (MP) or Senator who is not a Cabinet Minister, Parliamentary Secretary, or Speaker. These bills allow individual legislators to propose new laws, or amend existing ones, typically focusing on public policy issues. Bill C-218 has been introduced by the Conservative Party of Canada Member of Parliament for Cloverdale-Langley City, British Columbia, Tamara Jansen.

To pass, this legislation will require support from more than one political party. We believe that many MPs are uncomfortable with the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada and in particular, the possibility that MAiD will be offered for those whose primary underlying condition is mental illness. We are asking MPs to vote their conscience, regardless of party affiliation.

The difference in passing this Private Members' Bill could be just a few votes in the House of Commons. It is critical that constituents contact their Member of Parliament asking them to support Bill C-218. If the legislation does not pass, as of March 17, 2027, new laws will take effect to allow MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness.

TAKE ACTION AT HelpNotHarmCanada.ca TODAY!

The Bill is scheduled for second reading in early April 2026 with a vote on the legislation expected by mid-April 2026. Please visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today where you can send an e-mail directly to your local Member of Parliament in less than 3 minutes. If the legislation does not pass, as of March 17, 2027, new laws will take effect to allow MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness.

Chances are, you know someone suffering from mental illness. In any given year, 1 in 5 Canadians experience a mental illness. It may be a relative, friend or colleague. As Catholics and Canadians, we have a responsibility to offer care, hope and protection NOT death for those close to us and those most vulnerable who are suffering.

Visit HelpNotHarmCanada.ca today and ask your MP to support Bill C-218.



SCAN ME



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

April 27, 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Peace be with you!

“In him was life, and the life was the light of all people” (John 1:4)

As we journey through this Easter season, we are reminded in a profound way that the life revealed in Jesus Christ—through His death on the cross and His resurrection—is a light that no darkness can overcome. In this light, we bear witness to the sanctity of every human life, a cornerstone of our Catholic faith, especially in our care for those who are most vulnerable.

I stand together with Cardinal Leo, Archbishop of Toronto, in my deep concern with the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada. In his recent letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney, he noted that, “euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person.” I join him and many Canadians who are troubled by the expansion and development of MAiD, especially in its impact on vulnerable individuals who may seek assisted death during moments of suffering, isolation or hopelessness.

In response to these concerns, legislation currently before parliament—Bill C-218, the Right to Recover Act—seeks to restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. This moment invites careful reflection on how we, as a society, are called to care for those who are suffering; not by expediting death, but by providing compassionate accompaniment and hope.

The Archdiocese of Toronto has launched a national initiative entitled “Help Not Harm” to raise awareness about these important issues and to encourage respectful engagement with Members of Parliament. Through this campaign, you are able to contact your Member of Parliament in support of Bill C-218 through the HelpNotHarmCanada.ca website. I encourage you to participate in this initiative in the spirit of charity, and concern for the common good.

We must continue to build a society that chooses life, accompanies those most in need, and reflects the compassion of Christ.

Entrusting you to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Life, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† *Joseph Dabrowski*, CSMA

Most Rev. Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA
Bishop of Hamilton



Communication to all Members of Parliament in the Archdiocese of Toronto

20 April 2026

Dear Member of Parliament,

Be assured of my prayers for you and your family, mindful of the many sacrifices made to serve your constituents and our country. As Archbishop of Toronto, I serve as the spiritual leader for close to two million Catholics in the Archdiocese of Toronto, an area that includes your constituency.

I am deeply concerned about the rapid expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Canada. As you likely know, our Catholic faith opposes the taking of any human life, and it is tragic that MAiD has expanded at an alarming pace since legislation was passed in 2016. Many Canadians are increasingly uneasy about the speed and scope of these developments, particularly the inevitable harmful effects on vulnerable individuals who may feel pressured to seek assisted death — whether subtle or overt — during moments of profound suffering, isolation or despair.

A society is rightly judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. There is growing anxiety that the normalization and expansion of assisted suicide risks undermining a culture of compassion, weakening funding for palliative support, and diminishing the collective commitment to accompany those who are suffering. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person. As a civilized and caring country, we are called to protect those experiencing mental illness, not hasten death.

Currently before Parliament is Private Members' Bill C-218 – *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying)* – which would restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. As you consider this legislation, I respectfully urge you to vote according to your conscience. This bill raises profound questions of moral and ethical principles that transcend party lines and touch on deeply held convictions regarding the sanctity of life.

I also encourage you to advocate for policies that prioritize investments in palliative care, mental health supports, and resources for individuals who are increasingly marginalized or isolated, particularly seniors and Canadians living with disabilities, rather than efforts to further expand access to assisted suicide. I ask you to choose life and not death; to vote in favour of Bill C-218 and to help build a civilization that cares for those suffering and does not eliminate them, but instead surrounds them with dignity, compassion, and love.

I reiterate my prayers for you and all who serve in public office, that your decisions may be guided by wisdom, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the common good.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto



The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Sent via e-mail

20 April 2026

Dear Prime Minister,

I am mindful of the many sacrifices made to lead our country. Know of my prayers for you and your family. As the Archbishop of Toronto, providing spiritual leadership for close to two million Catholics, I write to you keenly aware of our collective obligation to safeguard the dignity of every human life and to serve the common good.

As you know, our Catholic faith opposes the taking of any human life and it is with great disappointment and anguish that we have seen our country expand Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) at a rapid and alarming rate since legislation was passed in 2016, despite the commitments made and the safeguards promised. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are indeed contrary to the dignity of the human person.

You are certainly aware that many Canadians are increasingly troubled by the speed and scope of these developments, and by the inevitable harmful effects on vulnerable individuals who may feel pressure – whether subtle or overt – during moments of profound suffering, isolation, or despair, to seek assisted death.

A society is rightly judged by how it cares for its most vulnerable members. There is growing anxiety that the normalization and expansion of assisted suicide risks undermining a culture of compassion, weakening investments in palliative support, and diminishing the collective commitment to accompany those suffering.

Before Parliament at present is a Private Members' Bill, C-218 – An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Medical Assistance in Dying) that would restrict the expansion of MAiD for those whose sole underlying condition is mental illness. As Parliament considers Bill C-218, I respectfully urge you to allow a free vote among Members of Parliament within the Liberal Party of Canada. This legislation raises profound questions of conscience that transcend partisan alignment and touch on deeply held moral, ethical, and spiritual convictions. I ask you to choose life and not death; to help build a civilization that cares for those suffering and does not eliminate them, but instead surrounds them with dignity, compassion, and love.

I would also urge you and the Minister of Justice to consider measures that restrict any further expansion of assisted suicide in our country and instead prioritize investments in palliative care, mental health support and resources for those who are increasingly marginalized and isolated, especially seniors and Canadians living with disabilities.

I remain available to speak with you directly on this or any other matter in the days ahead and reiterate my prayers for you and for all who serve in public office. May you be guided by wisdom, courage, and a steadfast commitment to the common good.

Yours Sincerely,

Frank Cardinal Leo
Metropolitan Archbishop of Toronto

cc. Hon. Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice, Attorney General of Canada



ROSARIES AVAILABLE!

Did you know that our Canadian Rosary Brigade doesn't just make rosaries, but they also



- **collect preloved rosaries**
- **rebuild & repair rosaries**

An offering of new and remade rosaries will be available on Pentecost weekend for free-will donations -

May 23/24 after all Masses.

Your donations are used to replenish supplies to make and repair more for missions, schools and parishioners.



Consider donating your old, broken or unused rosary to the Canadian Rosary Brigade. Drop them in the basket or at the office.

Vacation Bible School 2026!

Questions? email: vbs.stagnes@gmail.com

Up, Up & Away in the Assorted Saints hot air balloon! Take flight with your copilots, Juan Diego, Brigid of Ireland, Martin de Porres, Nicholas of Myra, and Kateri Tekakwitha on a five-day adventure! At an altitude of 1500 feet float over land and sea. Let the wind propel you and DISCOVER the timeless virtues of faith, hope, and love at each DESTINATION!



Click [HERE](#) to register!

WHEN? Mon-Fri., July 6-10, 9am – 12:15pm.

AGE? Going into SK to going into grade 6 (born 2015 to 2021)

COST? \$35 per camper, with subsidies available

Youth Volunteers – registration is full; direct further inquiries to vbs.stagnes@gmail.com

Adult volunteers are always needed!

There are various roles to fill, including:

- Planning and preparation
- Helping guide younger campers
- Helping run a center (arts and crafts, music, faith, sports, and games)

There are roles to suit any comfort level and to make use of each one's unique gifts! Please email vbs.stagnes@gmail.com

Mass Schedule

Mondays – **no Mass**

Holy Hour: Thursdays at **6pm**

Reconciliation: Saturdays at **9:30 – 10am; 3:30 – 4:15pm;** or by appointment

MASS TIMES and INTENTIONS for May 3 – May 10			
SUNDAY	9am	Pro Populo	
	11am	Fr. Joonbin Lim	Corinne, Tara & Marilyn
	7pm	†Pauline Craig	The Family
TUESDAY	9am	Carleen VanDam & Family Marilyn & Family	
WEDNESDAY	9am	Diego Ferreira Errol Ferreira	
THURSDAY	7pm	†Teresa Das	Agnes Das
		Fr. Jeff & All Priests & Seminarians	Friends of the Pallottines
		Fr. Joonbin Lim & Fr. Aleks	Sylvia
FRIDAY	7pm		
SATURDAY	9am	Rita & Roger Boudreau & Family	Moser Family
	5pm	†Waclaw Zajaczkowski	The Family
SUNDAY	9am	†Anna Maria Dinh	Nguyen Family
	11am	†Louisa & Machada	Marg Brito
	7pm	Pro Populo	

Thank you for supporting St. Agnes Parish!

PREFERRED METHOD: CONSIDER MAKING YOUR OFFERING THROUGH CANADA HELPS: This option allows you to make a secure donation directly to St. Agnes Parish on this webpage 119110450RR0101-st-agnes-parish | [CharityProfile](#) | [Donate Online](#)



**CANADA
HELPS
QR CODE**



tiptap

E-transfers can be made to St. Agnes Parish at any time at stagneswaterloo@hamiltondiocese.com
Please put your **first AND last name** in the memo line or we cannot create a tax receipt.

If you are e-transferring for another purpose [i.e., mass stipend or spaghetti dinner, for example] please include that in your message on your e-transfer. Otherwise, your funds are deposited directly into general offertory.

Contact Us:



Office Phone: 519-885-4480

Email: office@saintagnescatholicchurch.org

75 Bluevale Street North Waterloo, ON N2J 3R7

Office Hours: Tues. – Fri.: 9am – 4:30pm

Website: <https://saintagnescatholicchurch.org/>

***SSVP Food Assistance:** 519-504-8399