

Mass Intentions – August 25 th – 30 th			
Date/Time	Feast Day	Intention	Requested By
Tuesday 25 th 9:00 AM	Ferial	• Int. Felicia Urbanski	•Sandy Milne
Wednesday 26 th 9:00 AM	Ferial	• +Paul & Ginny Quinn	• Marj Simon
Thursday 27 th 9:00 AM	St. Monica	• +Stephanie Martinovic	•Ciomplick Family
Friday 28 th 9:00 AM	St. Augustine	• +Ildebrando Silveira	• Maria Silveira
Saturday 29 th 5:00 PM	22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	• +Angela, Reno & Tony Ianni • Int. Maria Bagnes • Charlotte Johnson • Int. Sister Betty Lackenbauer, SSND	• Maurizio & Sharon Ianni • Gail & Ruthann Fisher •Terrianne Moulton
Sunday 30 th 9:00 AM		• For Parishioners of St. Francis	
11:00 AM		• Nancy Westman, Frank & Kathleen Pendergast	•Colin Westman & Marg Voll

Diocesan Prayer Calendar
Mon. August 24: **Rev. Lourdusamy Subramani, SMA**
Tues. August 25: **Very Michael Anderson**
Wed. August 26: **Missionary Sisters of Christ the King, M.ChR.**
Thu. August 27: **Rev. Patrick Ohl**
Fri. August 28: **Rev. Laszlo Amaszka**
Sat. August 29: **The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

What’s Happening this Week?
Monday
Senior Gentle Exercise (H) 1:15 & 2:30 pm
OEA (H) 7:00 pm
Wednesday
Sacrament of the Sick after 9:00 am Mass
Senior Gentle Exercise (H) 2:30 pm

Stewardship Report
August 15th/16th
Envelope & Loose \$3,083.00
Automatic Withdrawal \$1,338.75
Total Collection Last Week \$4,421.75
2026 Total Collection \$171,683.40

Thank you for your generosity!

To make a donation online, scan the QR code. *(note: under “Donation”, select “Other” from the drop down and enter \$0 to avoid paying donation fee).*



GARAGE SALE NEWS!

Our Parish Garage Sale is **Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm.**

Do you have any new or gently used household items to donate for our sale? Things that are very popular are books, puzzles, toys, jewelry, dishes, decorative items, bikes, working electronics etc. etc.! Your summer cleanout might be someone else’s treasure find!

Drop off times for donations:
Thursday, September 17 --- 4:00 pm-6:00 pm
Friday, September 18 --- 12:00 pm-7:00 pm
Donations can be brought to the church hall during the scheduled donation times. Thank you so much for all your generous donations! All proceeds will go to support various parish projects. Every little bit helps!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!
Volunteers are needed to take shifts to help unpack donations on donation days or to help on Garage Sale day! If you are interested in volunteering to help out at our Garage Sale fundraiser, please contact Linda Carmichael at carmichaellinda7@gmail.com or (519)-742-0656. Questions? Email: marykdiemert@yahoo.ca

Annual Christmas Bazaar Planning Meeting
There will be a BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING on **Sunday, Sept. 13 at 2:00 pm** in the church hall. If you are interested in helping to plan this year's bazaar please join us! Mark your Calendars: this year's St. Francis Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday, November 14, 2026.

Questions? Email: marykdiemert@yahoo.ca

Sunday Readings Reflection
First Reading: Is 22:19-23; Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36; Gospel: Mt. 16:13-20

If some mistook Jesus for John the Baptist, Elijah, or Jeremiah, as today’s Gospel passage indicates,

then his preaching must have borne a resemblance to theirs. John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah were tough characters. They did not hesitate to confront power with the truth and the demands of the moral law. They did not hesitate to point out that violation of the covenant brings ruin to the people. They did not shy away from moral absolutes, and from the absolute requirements of fidelity to God.

The Church presents the same teaching to the world, assured, as we also see in the Gospel, of its union with Christ in its mission not only of teaching but of transformation. Challenging every culture with which it communicates, the Church takes the initiative and storms “the gates of hell.” Gates, after all, do not run out on the battlefield to attack the enemy. Rather, gates stand still and defend the city against the enemy attacking it. To say that the gates of hell will not prevail against the Church is to say that it is the Church who is taking the offensive, and is storming the gates of hell to win ground for Jesus Christ.

All of this provides a context for understanding the fight against abortion and all the manifestations of the Culture of Death. The readings of today should help people understand not only why the Church’s pro-life teachings are faithful to Christ, consistent and unchangeable, but also why she does not shy away from asserting that her mission is to transform the culture of the death into the culture of life, and is not deterred from pursuing that mission.

September is Coming Fast! Sacraments for Students
We are excited to welcome our young people into the church through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation! Traditionally, students in grade 2 receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion, and students in Grade 7 receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. However, we invite

ALL interested young people, above these ages, to also prepare for their First Communion or Confirmation.

Confirmation will take place in the Fall of 2026! We will have an initial student and parent meeting on **Tuesday September 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St Francis of Assisi Church** to outline the preparation and dates.

Reconciliation and **First Communion** will take place in the spring of 2027. More details to follow.

If your child requires the sacrament of Baptism, please contact Lei Ann at lawade@hamiltondiocese.com.

Adults wishing to further their faith journey and become Catholic are welcome to join our RCIA (Rite Christian Initiation of Adults). Please contact the Parish Office.

St. Francis of Assisi Summer Corner – Friends of St. Francis

St. Anthony of Padua–“Hammer of Heretics”



St. Anthony of Padua was a renowned preacher, devoted disciple and miracle worker, as well as a personal friend and direct follower of St. Francis. Both worked to shape the early Franciscan movement, balancing strict evangelical poverty with active preaching across Italy and France. St. Anthony was born in 1195 in Lisbon, Portugal and was given the name of Fernando at Baptism. Fernando searched for Godly peace by fleeing the world and joining a religious order. He first joined the Canons Regular of St. Augustine, at the Augustinian Abbey of the Holy Cross in Coimbra (which at that time was the capital of Portugal), where he continued his studies and was ordained to the priesthood when he was 25 years old.

After his ordination, Fernando was placed in charge of hospitality in his abbey where, in 1219, he met five followers of St. Francis (Franciscans) on their way to Morocco to preach to the Muslims. A few months later, news arrived that his five Franciscan friends had been martyred in Morocco and having been drawn to their simple way of living, he transitioned from an Augustinian canon to a Franciscan friar in 1220. He took on a new name calling himself Anthony, after the hermit St. Anthony of the desert to whom the Franciscan hermitage was dedicated. It is important to note that Anthony did not imitate Francis, as they belonged to different **social and cultural backgrounds**, and had a different temperament and evangelical style. Yet a deep level of trust and respect existed between them. This can be seen through a **letter sent from Francis to Anthony, between 1223 and 1224**, where he authorizes, and entrusts, Anthony to teach theology and preach to the friars. Anthony felt at home in Padua and the small Franciscan community at the simple church of Santa Maria Mater Domini (later extended and transformed into the current Basilica of St. Anthony). He died in Padua in 1231. The citizens of Padua demanded that “their saint” be canonized, and on May 30, 1232, less than a year after his death, Gregory IX announced that this “Hammer of Heretics”—because of Anthony’s profound knowledge of Scripture—was now among the saints of the church.

Around Town

Catechetical Correspondence Program -Children in our parishes benefit from the Catechetical Correspondence Program each year for ongoing religious education and preparation for the Sacraments. We need volunteers to support the program! If you are willing to accompany these children in their learning journey, please reach out to the Office for Evangelization and Catechesis at catechesis@hamiltondiocese.com.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish



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LORD’S DAY MASSES

Saturday at 5:00 pm
Sunday at 9:00 am & 11:00 am



WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday – Friday at 9:00 am



KERALA ROMAN CATHOLIC MASS

Celebrated by Fr. Stephen Gilbert
Sunday at 5:30 p.m.



RECONCILIATION

Saturday from 4:00 – 4:30 pm
or by appointment.



PRAYER NETWORK

Call parish office to request prayers



FUNERALS, BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES

Please call the parish office.

— OUR PARISH TEAM —



Pastor: Fr. Stephen Gilbert
(sgilbert@hamiltondiocese.com)



Deacon: Rev. Mr. Philip Fernandez
(pfernandez@hamiltondiocese.com)



Pastoral Minister: Lei Ann Wade
(lawade@hamiltondiocese.com)



Music Ministry: Mrs. Terrianne Moulton



Admin. Assistant: Mrs. Amanda Michaels



Building Manager: Mr. Lazaro Escobar



Asst. Building Mgr.: Mr. Gary Howell



PARISH OFFICE

Monday – Friday
8:30 am – noon & 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm



“We are a Christ-centered faith community seeking to be instruments of God’s peace.”

August 23rd, 2026
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church; the gates of Hades will not prevail against it”.

-Matthew 16:18

