



BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS APRIL 2024

MINISTERS OF THE WORD Saturday, April 13, 2024, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Waterdown, ON. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Participants may register using the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION Saturday, April 20, 2024, St. John the Baptist Parish, Guelph, ON. 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Participants may register using the Diocese of Hamilton website under Upcoming Events/Workshops.

YOUNG ADULTS NIGHT Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to celebrate the Easter Season by attending an evening of Adoration, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), social with food (7:30pm-8:00pm), praise night with vocations testimony (8:00pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on **Saturday, April 6th** at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate (28 Norfolk Street, Guelph). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. The next Young Adults Night will take place at **May 4th at the Holy Rosary Church** (287 Plains Road East, Burlington, Ontario). For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL APRIL 25th Join us from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. for the screening of **Bigger Than Us**. The film follows youth activist Melati Wijsen as she travels the world to meet other young activists like herself, striving to make the world a better place. Guest speaker Peter Mahfouz from Caritas Lebanon will speak to his work supporting youth initiatives in Lebanon and the strength of young people in supporting their communities. **The screening and discussion will be hosted online via Zoom. Register at: <https://reeljustice.hamiltondiocese.com/>** A partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace, the Reel Justice Film Festival shines a spotlight on issues of social, political, and economic injustices.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION THROUGH VLCFF The Diocese of Hamilton is proud to partner with Dayton University's Virtual Learning Community for Adult Faith Formation (VLCFF) to offer certificate programs for ministry and enrichment for adult faith formation. We are currently taking enrollment for the Youth Ministry Certification Program and the Catechist Formation Program for the Diocese of Hamilton, which begins in September 2024. Three & five week e-seminars are also available at a discounted rate for all adults in the Diocese looking to further their learning. For more information about our programs, and how to register, visit us at www.hamiltondioceselearns.com

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WORKSHOP 2024 The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis invites all parish ministers, youth ministry leaders to join in our annual Vacation Bible School workshop in preparation for summer children's ministry. New to VBS? Looking to learn more about recruiting youth volunteers? Want a peek at new VBS kits available this year? Come and join us for this informative virtual workshop on **April 10, 2024** from 7:00-8:30pm. Registration is available on the Diocesan website: <https://bit.ly/DoHVBS2024>

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION WORKSHOPS 2024 The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is happy to offer a new Confirmation Preparation Program for the Diocese of Hamilton. We invite all those involved in Sacramental Preparation to take part in this new formation workshop in the early spring with dates available in multiple locations of the Diocese. To learn more about these offerings, register here: <https://bit.ly/ConfirmationPrep2024>

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY The Office of Youth Ministry has invited the Development and Peace Youth programming team to share information about initiatives that parishes can implement with young people. Join us on **April 9th** on Zoom to learn about their programs and opportunities for young people. Registration and additional information is available on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/dandpyouth>

STEP/BLENDED FAMILY: SMART STEPS FOR BUILDING FAMILY Are you a parent or stepparent adjusting to blended family life? Smart Steps offers practical insights and suggestions on how to make the relationships work well for all. The next session will be held at the Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate in Guelph, 28 Norfolk Street. TIME: 9:15AM - 3:30PM. PRICE: \$50 per person (includes lunch). DATE: **Saturday, April 20, 2024**. Register on line at hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events. For more information, contact the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

RESTART: MOVING FORWARD Our 10 week program offers education and support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The sessions will take place on **Mondays from April 7th to June 17th** from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join our zoom classroom. Cost is \$35 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or register on line at hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events. For more information call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

THE DIOCESAN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS - Are you celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60+ Wedding Anniversary in the year 2024? If you are, you are cordially invited to join couples from across the Diocese of Hamilton for a Wedding Anniversary Mass on **Sunday, May 26, 2024**, at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King in Hamilton at 1:30 pm. (Space allows room for Anniversary couples only - those married 60 years or more may bring one guest if you require assistance). Registration is available on line at hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming Events.

NEW TO YOUTH MINISTRY NETWORKING EVENT The Office of Youth Ministry is hosting a networking evening for those adult leaders who are new to parish youth ministry. Join us on **June 6th** at St. Benedict Parish in Milton for an evening of conversation and fellowship. Registration and additional information available on the Diocesan website: <https://tinyurl.com/ymnetwork>

VOCATIONS RECOGNITION DINNER 2024 The Serra Club of Hamilton invites you to gather on **Wednesday, May 15, 2024** at Liuna Station to celebrate the service of our Priests, Religious Brothers and Sisters, Consecrated Virgins Living in the World and Permanent Deacons. Tickets: \$90pp. Contact: serrahamilton1965@gmail.com for more details.

DIOCESAN CHOIR The Diocesan Choir leads and supports the assembly's song at major Diocesan liturgies such as the Chrism Mass and Ordinations and is looking for new members. Should you wish more information, please contact Mrs. Sharon Fazari, Choir Director, at sfazari@hamiltondiocese.com.

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THE PASTORAL PARISH IN THE MODERN WORLD The Office for Evangelization and Catechesis is happy to offer a three-workshop series this spring entitled, *The Pastoral Parish in the Modern World*. This new handbook created by David Wells and Bill Huebsch provides a comprehensive outline of the new vocabulary of pastoral ministry, and how to enact it in your local setting. This workshop series is designed for anyone who is working or volunteering in parish life including pastoral teams, parish councils, and youth ministry leaders. Registration is still open for our last session taking place on **Saturday, April 13, 2024**. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/pastoralparish>

LECTURES IN CATHOLIC EXPERIENCE: ST JEROME'S UNIVERSITY St. Jerome's University, Waterloo hosts a series of public lectures each year on a variety of important and prevalent topics within Catholic life. On **Monday, April 15**, Brother Guy Consolmagno, SJ will be speaking on the topic of science and truth. For more information on the Lectures in Catholic Experience and to explore recordings of previous lectures, you are invited to explore the St. Jerome's Website: <https://www.sju.ca/LCE>

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH Parents are the most influential people in their children's lives. Even in the teen years, when peers become so important, parents are still influencing their children in almost every way. As their role model, it is important to ask yourself if what your children are seeing and hearing from you is how you would like them to act and speak. Do you speak kindly to family, friends and strangers? Do you limit the amount of time you engage on your phone and/or tablet/computer? Do you show them that you rely on God through prayer, attending Mass and talking about times God has helped you through? Your children are watching you to know how to act and behave, so look inward at how you act and speak and be sure you are the person you want your child to become.

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH When we marry, we gain a spouse and his or her family. It is essential that we agree to ensure that we, as a couple, have the most important connection and that we remain united as a family unit when stresses with extended family arise. This means coming to agreement with each other on items such as how to celebrate holidays and traditions, the raising of children and other areas that directly impact us as a couple, even when family wants to have input. Our families can provide wonderful support to our marriage, but we must remember that the essential relationship is between our spouse and ourselves.

THE FINE ART OF BEING HAPPILY MARRIED - In his poem, The Art of Marriage, Wilfred A. Peterson writes, "A good marriage must be created" and creating something requires time and attention. We invite you to take the time, with your spouse, to find new and creative ways to increase your connection with each other, to discover fresh techniques for being in relationship and to deepen the love you already share. Join us on **Saturday, June 1st from 9:30 – 3:00 pm** at Catherine of Siena Parish in Hamilton. Cost is \$50 per couple and includes lunch. To register on the website go to hamiltondiocese.com and look under Upcoming Events, or contact Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

RESTART: REFRESH, RENEW, REVIVE FRIDAY NIGHT SUPPORT GROUP – Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on Friday evenings. Held the **2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month**, these get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. Register before each session here: <https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home>, or contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or call her at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. We look forward to seeing you!

SEPARATED / DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP WATERLOO Life changes are never easy. After a separation or divorce, you may be feeling isolated or need of support and healing to adjust to your new life? Come together with others to realize there is a 'second act'. Join us on the **3rd Tuesday of every month** - 7:30-8:30 pm – April 16, May 21, June 18. Feel free to come early and join our Parish in prayer - 7:00pm Mass. We will meet in the Parish Centre (basement) at 7:30pm. To register: Phone 519-884-9311, or Email: parish@stmichaelw.ca