

We welcome you and invite you to share in the spiritual and social activities of your parish.

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St Andrew Roman Catholic Church

MASSES

Saturday Vigil 5:00pm

Sunday 8:15am, 9:30am, 11:30am

Weekday Masses: Tues & Thurs: 12:05 pm

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 am

RECONCILIATION

Saturday

4:10 pm – 4:45 pm

Pastoral Visiting Ministry

Frances Mantle; 905 844 3303

office@standrewoakville.com

Music Ministry

Stephen Hegedus, Music Director

Sarah Zbogor, Director, Children's Choir

Angela Kim, Organist

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

For those interested in the Catholic Faith please
contact Iah Jung – ijung@hamiltondiocese.com

PASTORAL STAFF

Father Joseph Akanbi ~ Pastor

Father Michael Uso-Ereyi ~ Associate Pastor

Rev. Mr. Richard Tan ~ Deacon

Iah Jung ~ Parish Life Co-ordinator

Baptisms

Please contact the office

Sacrament of Marriage

Call the Parish Office 9 to 12 months in advance

Catholic Funeral Rites

When death occurs in the family, please contact
the parish office and we will assist you in making
the liturgical arrangements

Office Hours

Frances Mantle, Office Administrator

Monday - Office closed

Tuesday - Thursday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm;

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm; Friday 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026

From Darkness to Light

Christians gather all over the world to celebrate the mother of days, *"the First of Days."* The immediate celebration of Easter began in the dark of night with the vigil. In the Bible, night is often associated with evil, darkness and evil. During the celebration, night persisted until the darkness was pierced by the light of the Easter candle, which is symbolic of Jesus rising from the dead; the true Morning Star that never sets. The night turned out to be a night of victory, it is a night of liberation, a night of freedom and healing, it is a night of rebirth and the crest of the history of our redemption. With that night came the dawn of a new life ushered in by the resurrection of Christ. The night is over the Day has come!

At the Vigil, the journey along the Sacred Scripture begins with narratives from the Old Covenant. We listened to the accounts on the creation of man and woman, the trial of Abraham our father in faith, and the liberation of the Hebrews from Egypt, land of slavery. These stories, form a history, that shows a God who, loves, gives, guides, forgives and redeems. The Exultet beautifully rendered, captures the significance of these stories perfectly.

The Resurrection Changes Everything

It is the Resurrection of Christ that changed the course of time, and everything for humanity. The Resurrection story changed the story of the world. Without the resurrection, the death of Jesus would have been the greatest failure in history: *"Destroy this temple, and on the third day, I will raise it up. But he was talking about the temple which was his body"*, John 2:18-19, tells us. Without Resurrection, the Beatitudes would have been a litany of empty promises: *Blessed are the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of Heaven; Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God; ... Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven* (Matt. 5:1-12). All these sayings and promises are meaningful, only in the context of the Resurrection.

The Visit to Anoint

Foremost account of the Resurrection of the Lord, is the story of the three women who journeyed to the tomb, *at the dawn, on the day after the Sabbath-* Mary Magdalene, Mary Mother of James, and Salome, these women had gone to the tomb to anoint the body of the Lord with oil (Jn. 19:25-27). They went to the tomb to perform an act of compassion, a traditional act of affection and love, for a dear departed one, just as we would. They had followed Jesus, they had listened to his words, they had felt understood, and they had accompanied him to the very end, to Calvary, and to the moment when he was taken down from the Cross. However, the move to go anoint his remains immediately suggests something, **the women**

were not expecting, that Jesus was going to rise again, or at least not that day.

More importantly though is the fact that not one among the apostles made a move to the tomb of their Master. The reason for this inaction may be because after the death of Christ, the apostles had scattered (Matt. 26:31), their faith had been shaken, their hope gone, and life was without meaning. However, the news of the Resurrection by the women, who are now witnesses to this event, incredible as it was, came to the apostles as a ray of light in the darkest moment of their lives- they must have been so overcome, so dazed to believe. Or perhaps, their guilt-ridden consciences from betraying and deserting him would have dulled their minds to believe. God proved his love for us on the Cross, when Christ hung, bled and died. But, in the Resurrection, he shows his power over death.

The Resurrection is the Substance

The Resurrection therefore, is our faith, the Resurrection is our hope, the Resurrection is our life. As St. Paul summarizes in 1 Cor. 15:14-17, *"If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ could not have been raised, and if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is without substance, and so is your faith...."*

Without the Resurrection, those who have fallen asleep in Christ are utterly lost. If our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are of all people, the most unfortunate". The wonder of the creation story, the hope of the exodus from slavery, the consolation of the prophets have taught us that our God is indeed, the God of life.

When we celebrate Easter, we are celebrating the fact, that man in Christ rose again. That He is a "Living Person" for us, and that his life is experienced and revealed in many various ways in our own lives.

As we renew our baptismal promises, we pray that the light of the Risen Christ will illumine our hearts, the church and our world. So that as witnesses to the Resurrection, we may find our hope and consolation in Jesus Christ.

Home Through the Sacraments

The Sacraments draw their power from the entire Paschal Mystery- the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ. They are not merely signs, but *efficacious actions of the Risen Christ working in and through the Church*. When Sacraments are celebrated, the saving event of Calvary is made present, applying the fruits of salvation today in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through them, believers "touch" the wounds of the Risen Lord and receive life-giving grace that flowed from His victory over them.

Our congratulations and welcome to our 9 newest Catholics who were fully welcomed home to our catholic faith at the Vigil.

Welcome home **Johanna, Magnus, Tarun, Rita, Lauren, Jeremy, Jasper, Esteban and Stefanie.**

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

The young people of our Parish in grades 2 and 8 from St. Luke's and St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Schools and those in the Public and Private School are seriously warming up to receive the grace of the Sacraments this month of April. The First group had their preparatory retreat facilitated by Office of Catechesis of the Hamilton Diocese; the other three groups will follow subsequently. And it will all tie up nicely on the Saturday April, 18 when His Excellency, Bishop Joseph Dabrowski will Confirm **54** of our children. Please, remember our young people in your prayers.

Calling all St. Andrew's Bakers and Crafters CWL BAKE SALE May 2nd and 3rd

St. Andrew's CWL invite all bakers in our parish to Bake, Bake, Bake their favourite NUT FREE sweet treats (i.e. cookies, muffins, squares, tarts or cakes, pies or loaves) for this year's bake sale. CRAFTERS are welcome as well. Please drop off your goodies and or crafts to the Parish Centre on Friday May 1st between 2pm and 6pm or on Saturday, May 2nd between 9am until 2pm. All proceeds will go to our Charitable Organizations. These include Canada Food for Children, Shifra house, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, Camp Brebeuf, St. Vincent de Paul and Halton Alive.

SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARD - Sponsored by the Parish and the CWL

The Parish in conjunction with the Catholic Women's League (CWL) offers \$300 awards to two Parish youth, male or female, in their high school graduating year, who give witness to the core values of

- Faith,
- Service to community (church, school, home), and
- Commitment to Social Justice through helping the vulnerable.

Applicants are asked to write a 500-word essay explaining how these values are important in their lives. Interested youth should submit their letters by **May 1, 2026** to the Parish Office.

DID YOU KNOW... 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. To learn more about the Catechetical Correspondence Program, please visit: <https://bit.ly/DOHCCC>

WORLD YOUTH DAY SEOUL 2027 The young people of the world have begun their preparations to meet with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV at the 41st International Celebration of World Youth Day, Seoul, South Korea. To learn more about this pilgrimage of faith, visit: <https://wydseoul.org/en>. Join us in praying for all young people discerning their participation from our Diocese.

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.

PARENTING TIP Easter is a special season for the Church, where we remember Jesus' suffering, but rejoice in his resurrection and the hope it brings to each one of us. When we read simple versions of the Easter story, we offer children a beautiful understanding of what Easter is all about. They will see the Paschal candle at the Church, which is lit at the Easter Vigil Mass, so explain that it represents the light and hope Christ brought to the world. Remind them that Easter eggs (even when chocolate!) are meant to represent new life, just as the resurrection brings new life to all. All of this will help them to understand the liturgical celebrations you attend together and to know how much God loves them.

We have copies of the Holy Bible for sale in the office. They can be purchased during office hours for \$20. We also have the 2026 Sunday missal available in the office for \$10.

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