

Carmel of St. Joseph Guild



Newsletter

2026



The Carmel Guild

Our Apostolate and Service to the Nuns

The Carmelite Nuns arrived in Kitchener in the fall of 1952 at the invitation of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Joseph F. Ryan, Bishop of Hamilton. Being a community of cloistered contemplatives, His Excellency recognized the need to provide the Nuns with support to meet their personal, household, and financial requirements. And so the Carmel of St. Joseph Guild was organized, at the request of, and with the authorization of His Excellency, in the fall of 1952. Since that time, and guided by this very distinct apostolate, the Guild has dedicated themselves to supporting the Nuns and is instrumental in helping them preserve their life of prayer and service to the Church. Guild members are united in a spirit of love and fraternity and have a strong Marian devotion, inspired by the spirit of Carmel.

Drawn from our Guild members is an adult womens' General Support Group which is organized by an executive committee. We engage in various services for the Nuns and we purchase grocery, personal, and household items. We host the annual Mass in honour of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and assist at other masses and special events throughout the year, such as the Feast of St. Joseph, the Feast of St. Thérèse, and Jubilees of the Nuns. We hold quarterly meetings and we organize and host two spiritual retreats held at Carmel, which include the Rosary, Mass, spiritual talks, Adoration and Benediction, prayers with the Nuns, and time for quiet meditation and prayer in the Chapel and the beautiful landscaped grounds of Carmel. We promote awareness of the presence of the Nuns in our community and we encourage individuals to reach out to them for prayers. We promote membership in the Guild which provides members the privilege to share in the many spiritual benefits of masses and prayers offered by the Nuns for Guild members. Your membership also enables the Guild to continue our work to support their personal and household requirements.



Message From the President

Dear Friends of the Carmel of St. Joseph,

We reflect with gratitude on the many blessings received during 2025, the Jubilee Year of Hope, a year of renewal, hope, and strengthening our faith journeys through prayer, service, and experiences of renewal.

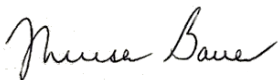
We are incredibly grateful to Mother Patricia and all the Sisters for everything they do to support the Guild, for allowing and helping us to participate in some of the spiritual graces of Carmel, and for inspiring us to follow Christ's example of prayer and sacrifice as they offer their lives for the Church and for all God's people.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to our many dedicated General Support Group members who volunteer and engage in a wide variety of services throughout the year. May we continue to give to the Lord our work, our labour, and our charity, and may our participation continue to bear fruit in our lives, the lives of our families, and those we carry in our hearts.

I would encourage you to purchase, renew, or gift a membership in the Guild so that you, your family, friends, and loved ones may also share in the many spiritual benefits of masses and prayers offered by the Sisters for Guild members. Your membership is also crucial for the Guild to continue our work in supporting their personal and household requirements. Please also consider making a donation to the Sisters' Chapel Fund. I would also like to invite adult women to consider joining our General Support Group. We warmly welcome new members who are interested in helping throughout the year at the various masses, events, celebrations, and our spiritual retreats.

As we welcome 2026, we remain incredibly blessed and grateful for the presence of the Sisters in our community, for their prayer and service to the Church, and for their unwavering prayers for us. May Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph continue to guide our work, and may God bless you for your generous and ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Theresa Bauer
President, Carmel of St. Joseph Guild

"Be servants to God and one another: follow Jesus' example, use your gifts, and serve with love, humility, commitment, and faithfulness."

Message From the Prioress

Dear Members of the Carmel Guild,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

As we start a new, exciting year for the Carmel of St. Joseph Guild, we look forward to several events in the coming months. In addition to the annual Masses in honour of St. Joseph and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, two retreat days are being planned. One will be in the spring and the other in the fall.

Our sincere thanks go to the new President, Theresa Bauer, and to the members of the Executive for accepting to serve in the various positions. We thank Anne Darby-Watchorn and Mary Fedy who served as President during the past term. We also thank those who have helped in any way, both on the Executive and at the different events held at Carmel during the past year.

We are grateful for the Christmas gifts given us by the Guild. We thank the members of the Guild for the times you have shopped for us, and also have driven sisters to appointments.

This year we welcome many new members to the Guild. Some of you are long-time friends of our community; others have recently gotten to know us. We are happy that you are now included in the spiritual benefits shared in by the members of the Guild. We hope that some of you will come out to the Guild meetings, and take part in the activities that are being planned.

We wish all of you many blessings in the coming year. We assure you of a daily remembrance in prayer. You are always welcome to ask us to pray for your special intentions.

Your sister in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Sister M. Patricia of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D.

Sister M. Patricia of the Holy Spirit, O.C.D.

Carmel Guild General Support Group Meetings

All are Welcome!

All Guild meetings are held at the Carmel of St. Joseph in the meeting room (downstairs).

We warmly invite adult women to come and learn more about the General Support Group. If you have any questions, or would like further information, please contact Theresa Bauer, President, or any member of the Executive.

Thursday, May 14, 2026

5:30 p.m. Rosary in the Chapel, followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 10, 2026

11:30 a.m. Rosary in the Chapel, followed by Mass at 12 noon and meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 8, 2026 (Annual General Meeting)

5:30 p.m. Rosary in the Chapel, followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 14, 2027

11:30 a.m. Rosary in the Chapel, followed by Mass at 12 noon and meeting at 1:00 p.m.

If you moved in the past year or changed your phone number or email address, please let us know so we can keep our records

up to date: guildmemberships@gmail.com

May God reward you!

The Carmel Guild Executive

October 2025 - October 2027

President:

Theresa Bauer: 519.574.2594

Communications Director:

Marj Simon: 519.277.2545

Vice President:

Vacant

Spiritual Directors:

Lisa Reitzel: 519.746.2579

Susan Markides: 226.339.7912

Past President:

Mary Fedy: 519.747.4801

Membership Director:

Marj Goodyear: 519.653.2207

Chaplain:

Father Michael King

519.621.2013

Treasurer:

Angela Straus: 519.699.5989

St. Ambrose Parish, Cambridge ON

Recording & Correspondence Secretary:

Mary Fedy: 519.747.4801

General Support Group

Angie Bateman

Sheila Matthews

Anita Stalzer

Donna Breen

Pat McGrinder

Branka Stefanac

Eleanor Buchanan

Sharon Meyer

Diane Strickler

Sheila D'Aguilar

Kim Moser

Anne Darby-Watchorn

Mary Dorscht

Dianne Musselman

Marg Weber

Barb Garrett

Liz O'Reilly

Anita Weiler

Joyce Hause

MaryJo OBrien

Sylvia Wilvert

Donna Kittel

Elizabeth Runstedler

Marlene Zister

JoAnn Lewis

Rawia Salman

Esther MacKinnon

Marg Smith

Spiritual Benefits of Membership

The Carmelite Nuns, located in a Monastery near St. Agatha, came to this area in 1952, and spend their lives in work and prayer for all people. Visitors and special requests for prayers are welcomed at all times. Telephone: 519-884-6700.

- Fifty Masses annually for living members.
- Memento by the Nuns after Holy Communion on Wednesday.
- Same memento for deceased members each Saturday.
- A share in the merits and indulgences of the daily rosaries and the Way of the Cross of the Nuns.
- Fifty Masses offered annually for deceased members.

In Memoriam

PRAY for our deceased members who were called home in the past year.

Marilyn Alston	Michael Hehn	Alice Preiditsch
Margaret Beckner	Joanne Hepditch	Ken Skinner
Dolores Brandon	Janet Moore	Mary Catherine Smith
Nettie Cole	John (Jack) Nolan	William Strauss
Patricia Dankowsky	Mary Oberle	Adrian Vath
Carolyn Ann Dudgeon	Patricia Partington	Wilhelmina Walraven
Madeleine Haller	Manuel Pires	

NOTE: *When a Guild member dies, the Sisters automatically place his or her name on the Perpetual Enrollment List. A Mass is offered for the repose of the soul and the Sisters continue to pray for the deceased.*

Novenas at the Carmel

March 11th - 19th
St. Joseph Novena Prayer

September 23rd - October 1st
St. Thérèse Novena Prayer

July 8th - 16th
**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Novena Prayer**

December 16th - 24th
Christmas Novena Prayer

Prayers are also available on our website

Wish to be on our Novena mailing list?

*Send your name and mailing address to the Nuns at:
novena@thecarmel.ca*

Special Events 2026 - Save the Date!

Mass in honour of St. Joseph: Thursday, March 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Mass in honour of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel: Sunday, July 12, at 2:00 p.m.

Holy Hour and Mass in honour of St. Thérèse: Thursday, October 1.
Holy Hour: 6:00 p.m. Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Spiritual Retreats at the Carmel: Saturday, May 30 and Saturday,
September 26. Details will be announced on the Carmel website and
Church bulletins. Registration is required. Spaces are limited.

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Please note that you can access information about any events  
by visiting our website at: [www.thecarmel.ca](http://www.thecarmel.ca)

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**SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR PRAYER** are welcome by the Sisters at all  
times. Please feel free to call, email or write to them.

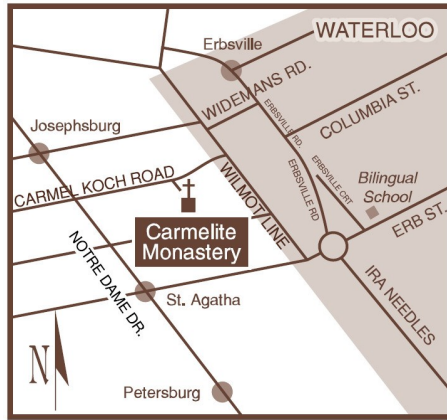
**Carmel of St. Joseph**  
1127 Carmel-Koch Rd., R.R. 1  
St. Agatha ON N0B 2L0  
519-884-6700  
[nuns@thecarmel.ca](mailto:nuns@thecarmel.ca)

# *A Day in the Life of a Carmelite Nun*

- 5:30 a.m. Rise
- 6:00 a.m. Angelus, followed by one hour of Personal Prayer
- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:20 a.m. Midmorning Prayer
- 8:00 a.m. Mass (*On Sundays: 7:45 a.m.*)  
Thanksgiving (15 minutes, followed by Breakfast)
- 9:30 a.m. Spiritual Reading
- 10:15 a.m. Work Time
- 11:45 a.m. Midday Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. Angelus followed by Dinner
- 1:00 p.m. Recreation
- 2:15 p.m. Midafternoon Prayer
- 2:30 p.m. Quiet time
- 3:00 p.m. Work time
- 4:40 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 5:00 p.m. One hour of Personal Prayer – in silence
- 6:00 p.m. Angelus followed by Supper
- 7:15 p.m. Recreation
- 8:15 p.m. Night Prayer
- GRAND SILENCE BEGINS***
- 9:30 p.m. Office of Readings
- 10:30 p.m. Retire

# Did You Know...

- Daily Mass begins at 8:00 a.m. (Sundays at 7:45 a.m.) and all are invited.
- That the Chapel is available to you if you wish to spend some quiet time in prayer. Ring the bell at the Visitor's Entrance to be admitted.
- That the Sisters have available beautiful personalized cards for Spiritual Bouquets, Enrollments & Mass Cards for all occasions. Any of these cards can be ordered by email as well: [cards@thecarmel.ca](mailto:cards@thecarmel.ca)
- That the Sisters have a small gift shop with religious articles, books and a small selection of crafts made by the Sisters for sale.
- That jams, jellies and preserves are available at the Monastery; and at a special Christmas Sale



## Acknowledgements

We would like to express our thanks to:

- Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, C.S.M.A., Bishop of Hamilton
- Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I, retired Bishop of Hamilton
- Most Reverend Wayne Lobsinger, Auxiliary Bishop of Hamilton
- Father Michael King, Guild Chaplain
- Father Mariusz Durbajlo, St. Agatha Parish, St. Agatha
- Patrick Kennedy and Kennedy's Tavern for Easter, Feast Day, and Christmas dinners for the Sisters
- Henry and LeeAnn Walser and their team, Kitchener
- Angela Straus, Theresa Bauer, and the choir
- Tim McConnell and family
- Daniel MacGregor for hosting and constructing the Carmel website

*“Your Strength will lie in silence and hope”*

*- The Carmelite Rule, cf. Isaiah 30.15 -*

**Carmel of St. Joseph**

1127 Carmel-Koch Rd. R.R. 1

St. Agatha ON N0B 2L0

[www.thecarmel.ca](http://www.thecarmel.ca)