

ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

TOGETHER IN GOD'S REIGN

4072 New Street (corner of New St. and Longmoor Dr.) Burlington, ON L7L 1S9
Tel: 905.637.2346 Email: office@straphaels.ca Website: www.StRaphaels.ca

Served by the Holy Cross Fathers

Fr. Frank Wagner, C.S.C. - Pastor

Fr. Francis Salasiar, C.S.C. - Associate Pastor

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca - Office Manager

Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant



Rejoice!!!

For the Lord is truly Risen!

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
THE MERCIFUL SERVANT OF GOD REIGNS



Monday, April 24 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Erin Fisher

Tuesday, April 25 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Rose Marasco

Wednesday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m.
+ John & Enis Goncalves

Thursday, April 27 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Sylvia Gzik; + Barry Axani;
+ Joseph Baff; + Barbara Fox

Friday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Diane Svazas

Saturday, April 29 at 5:00 p.m.
Deceased Members of McCarthy Family;
+ Marcel Laurin; + Marilyn Grennan
+ Carol Baff; + Erin Fisher

Sunday, April 30
9:00 a.m. + Paul Alley
11:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners

Please pray for the following:

Isabelle Wild	Molly Laporte	Barbara Kennedy
John Scharer	Nicola Izzi	Maritza Garcia
Mary Berry	Sarah Scharer	Gonzalez
Doug Pudsey	Vincent Stanford	Michael Dowson
Rosy Santos Perez	Jim Singer	Milan Heck
John O'Boyle	Catherine Gee	Helen Wepler
Frances Wentges	Elizabeth Talatala	Jane Urquhart
Diane Svazas	Maria Szkitalinski	Laith Yousif
Peggy Evans	Irene Groves	Michael Colameco
Sr. Rosalie Siegler	Rose Hughes	Jill Ascah
Jack Harber		

If you would like a loved one prayed for by the parish and included in the weekend Prayers of the Faithful, please call the Parish Office by Tuesday a.m.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Good Friday \$ 3,635.00
Easter Sunday, April 16th \$ 14,475.00

Thank you for your continued support!



THANK YOU for your support to the 2017 SHARE LENT campaign!

Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks everyone who donated to Share Lent. Thanks to your generosity, **\$7,210.00**

has been collected in our parish. This sum will go towards meeting the needs of our sisters and brothers in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. If you have not had a chance to make a donation, **there is still time to place your Share Lent envelope in the Offertory** (until April 30) or to make a donation directly at devp.org/give. Thank you for continuing to pray for all those who are working to build a world of peace and justice.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
[Second Sunday of Eastertide]

THE MERCIFUL SERVANT OF GOD REIGNS

Jesus Christ, the **Victorious Servant of God**, pours out the mercy of our Merciful God, like the gentle rain upon the earth. On this day He invites us to touch the wounded ones of our time, just as He asked Thomas to touch His sacred wounds. His wounds are signs of His Divine Mercy. May we continue **servicing in God's Reign** knowing that Jesus Christ the Merciful Servant of God empowers us to be the instruments of God's mercy in His Reign. *Alleluia!*

EASTER FLOWERS Among the many wonderful services which parishioners provide for the parish is the donation of flowers for our important liturgical celebrations. **THANKS** to all those who donated flowers to add to the elegant liturgical décor of our worship space.

PASSOVER SEDER SUPPER AND HOLY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER The food and the fellowship that we shared at these two events was plentiful and very tasty. The fellowship was a blessing. Thanks to all who shared and participated in these Holy Week gatherings.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS One of the highlights of the Holy Week prayer was the dramatization of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday evening. Congratulations to the parishioners who played and prayed the parts of the people involved in the passion of Jesus; to the readers who guided the meditations; to Orlando Tesolin who skillfully directed the presentation.

LITURGIES OF HOLY WEEK We wish to thank the many parishioners who were involved in helping the whole parish community worship and pray during these sacred liturgies: musicians, sacristans, decorators, altar servers, readers, communion ministers, ushers and hospitality ministers, children's liturgy team, maintenance and office staff. This is a good **sign and foretaste of Servicing in God's Reign!** *Fr. Frank and Fr. Francis.*

GARDENING SEASON has arrived with the great Spring weather. **We need volunteers** to help maintain the flower gardens which surround our buildings. Please contact Fr. Frank to offer your service for this pleasant [with some perspiration] task. Many hands will help us to take care of the beautiful plants which God's good Earth and human cooperation provide.



POLLINATOR GARDENS & BIODIVERSITY:

Join a discussion with master gardener, *Sean James*, on **Tuesday, April 25th** at 7 p.m. in the Parish Centre, sponsored by St Raphael Parish Social Justice and Care Of Creation Committee.

No Charge (Bring a non-perishable food for the St. Vincent de Paul food box)

2017 BIBLE CAMP: July 10 – 14, 2017. Registration forms are available in the parish entrance, at the schools and on our parish website: www.straphaels.ca



ST. RAPHAEL GREEN CORNER

As we continue celebrating the Easter Season, cultivate a relationship with creation and interact in deeper harmony with all created order. Pope Francis writes: *As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a "grateful contemplation of God's world" (Laudato Si', 214) which "allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us" (ibid., 85). As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires "simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness" and "makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world"* (ibid., 230-31). (Message of Pope Francis for the Celebration of World Day of Prayer for the care of Creation 2016)

Are you planning to do some Spring Cleaning this month? Remember that clean reusable clothing and reusable household articles can be donated to re-use centres in our community that benefit those who are unable to purchase new clothing or household materials. Keep in mind organizations such as: St Vincent De Paul, Hamilton: www.ssvphamiltonont.ca, Canadian Food for Children: www.canadianfoodforchildren.net, Goodwill: www.goodwilldonate.ca. If there are items in your garage or basement that your family has outgrown or no longer uses, plan to give them a second chance or a new life by donating them to a service that can give them to people in our community who are in need! **Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful, to others and the Earth!**

VASE SALE: The Decoration Committee is having a Vase and Pot sale on **April 29/30** after all Masses. Tables will be out in the front foyer with goods for sale. Proceeds will go towards future decoration purchases. Please stop by!

SPRING PLANT SALE: Once again we are hosting the elevator fundraiser offering **high quality, organic plants and planters** at the same price as last year. Order forms are available in the parish entrance and the parish office. Please return completed form by April 23rd. Delivery will be on Saturday, May 6th - *rain or shine*.

Volunteers needed: We are also looking for volunteers on May 6th to help unload and fill orders. If you are able to help please contact Sally at 905 639-9516.



CARD PARTY - the Catholic Women's League annual fundraiser this year will be for the Accessibility project. Date: **Thursday, May 4th** @ 7:00 p.m. in the parish center. Come and enjoy an evening of playing bridge or euchre. Make up a foursome with your family and friends. There will be fabulous desserts and refreshments; many door prizes and a 50/50 draw. Tickets are only \$15. Call Helen Sheehan @ 905-634-7481 or email at thesheehanes@gmail.com

BOTTLE DRIVE UPDATE: Thank you to everyone who has donated their empties to support this fundraiser! To date we have raised \$2,158! Thank you also to our volunteers who collect and return the empties every week. Please continue to place your clean, empty liquor and beer bottles in the designated bins in support of our Accessibility Project.

VISIONING PROCESS: Thanks to all who responded to the **survey about our Mission and Vision Statements**. Some of the comments have been incorporated already into the statements. Many of the practical suggestions about the **five value areas** of the Vision Statement will undoubtedly find their way into the articulation of goals and objectives for our parish planning. The work of the participants in the Visioning Day April 22nd and the Pastoral Council will be to shape those suggestions and brainstorm others into a three to five-year plan for **reasonable and practical action**. The Reign of God is the power of divine love which the Son of God Jesus Christ incarnates and proclaims. It is the Mission of Jesus. Our Parish Mission and Vision Statements and our Action Plan will guide us to fulfill effectively and faithfully the **Church's mission as a sign, instrument and foretaste of the Reign of God**.



OPERA AT ST. RAPHAEL: Presented by the **Southern Ontario Lyric Opera Company**. Join us for an evening of operatic arias & sacred music on **Friday, April 28th at 7:00 pm**. Tickets are \$30. Available at the doors, in the Parish Office (905-637-2346), or galwayrenata@gmail.com. *All proceeds go towards the Accessibility Project.*

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE: It has been close to seven months since Marwan, Yasmeen and Mohamed arrived in Canada. Marwan and Yasmeen continue to attend English classes and Marwan has recently started a new job in Hamilton. Mohamed continues to enjoy his time with other children in daycare. *Thank you for your continued prayers and support for this family.*

ST. RAPHAEL RELIGIOUS BOOKSTORE: One of the ministry treasures of St. Raphael parish is our religious gift store, managed by our generous volunteers, Lee Fiamelli and Angie Lappin. Their long-time ministry as a service to the parish is much appreciated. There are many lovely items available, especially for this First Communion time in the parish. Also available are several beautifully illustrated and white leather bound Family Bibles which have just recently been added to the inventory. Stop and shop prayerfully.

ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD: Deacon Kevin D'Souza will be ordained to the priesthood on May 6th, 2017 at 11 a.m. by Bishop Crosby, at Christ the King Cathedral in Hamilton. He will say his First Solemn Mass on May 7th at 11 a.m. at St. Gabriel's Church, Burlington. He would like to invite you all for this special occasion.

GRIEF RELIEF – Wednesday Evenings – May 3 to June 7. Has someone you cared about died? "Who can I talk to who will understand what I am going through?" is a frequently asked question. We are offering Grief Relief, a support group that helps people understand grief and provides opportunities to share with others facing similar challenges. Facilitated by Dr. Wendy Hoffman, this program takes place **at Holy Rosary Church**, 287 Plains Rd. E. Burlington. All are welcome. Call Mary Edmondstone 905-634-7441 or email: mary.edmondstone@cogeco.net to register.

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