

ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

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



Archangel St. Raphael "God is my Healer"

The angel of joy; patron of: travellers, bearers of good news and men and women seeking a good spouse.

See the Book of Tobit, especially chapter 12

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

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

Mr. Cristian Lecanda - Youth Minister

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca - Office Manager

Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| OFFICE HOURS | Mon-Fri | 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM |
| | Tues & Thurs | 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM |
| | Saturday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon |
| | Sunday | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM |
| | <i>closed on Statutory Holidays</i> | |

MASS TIMES

| | |
|-----------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 5:00 PM |
| Sunday | 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM |
| Mon - Fri | 9:00 AM |

CONFESSIONS

| | |
|----------|--|
| Saturday | 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM or by appointment |
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PRAYER BEFORE WEEKDAY MASS

8:00 AM in the Adoration Chapel
8:30 AM Rosary in the church

PERPETUAL ADORATION

We encourage you to spend some time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament in the Adoration Chapel, anytime, day or night.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS & BECOMING ROMAN CATHOLIC

- For newborns, every first and third Sunday at 1:00 PM
- For school aged children, after being catechized.
- For adults interested in becoming Roman Catholic call the office for more information.

WEDDINGS

Please contact us at least one year in advance.

MINISTRY TO AND

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please advise us if you have someone ill at home, in the hospital, or in a local nursing home so that we can minister to them.

FUNERALS

Please contact us and your choice of funeral home. For information on Catholic burial, please contact the cemetery office at 905.522.7727 or 1.800.661.5985, or visit www.TheCatholicCemeteries.ca

PARISH SCHOOLS

- Assumption High School
905.634.1835
- St. Raphael's Elementary
905.637.3810
- St. Paul's Elementary
905.632.1424

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905.681.6394

Please visit these websites: The Diocese of Hamilton HamiltonDiocese.com
Catholics Come Home www.CatholicsComeHome.org Vocations www.HamiltonDiocese.org

THIRD DAY OF THE LORD IN ADVENT
Rejoice! Our Merciful Saviour is in Our Midst



Mass Intentions

- Monday, December 14** at 9:00 a.m.
+ Paul Kosiancic
- Tuesday, December 15** at 9:00 a.m.
Souls in Purgatory
- Wednesday, December 16** at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Mary & Pat Hennessy
- Thursday, December 17** at 9:00 a.m.
+ Bill Southon; + Patrick O'Melia;
+ Msgr. Roger Formosi; + Ella Bolsem;
Ints. Charles & Angela Teilinger
- Friday, December 18** at 9:00 a.m.
+ Barbara Pustai
- Saturday, December 19** at 5:00 p.m.
+ Rosa & Vincenzo Luppino; + Tom Marr;
+ George Oravec; + Ann Macdonald;
Ints. Tessa Gonsalves
- Sunday, December 20**
9:00 a.m. Deceased Members of
Boulais-Chomyshyn Family
11:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners

ADVENT • CHRISTMAS • EPIPHANY
Today is Gaudete (Rejoice!) Sunday. Today, we hear from Zephaniah. True to his prophetic call, he had analyzed well the dangerous times in which he lived. Nevertheless, he reminded his stressed out people that **"the Lord the God is in your midst, he will rejoice over you with gladness, renew you in his love."** We anticipate the joyful good news of the birth of Jesus the Christ, because unlike the people of God before Jesus, we know that the Messiah has come. **Take heart! Rejoice! God is near!** In spite of threats, live faithfully and without anxiety! Paul too, urges us to **"Rejoice in the Lord, always!"** Today's words are addressed to people in difficult situations, in different times and places. The words are for us, too. God has already come in Jesus, but we still have expectations of something more. In the midst of that, the message to us is to stand firm and rejoice in what is now. **Rejoice in the merciful presence of Christ in our midst.**



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY
FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT
OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD TO ALL
WHO READ THIS LETTER
GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE

Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy. These words might well sum up the mystery of the Christian faith. **Mercy has become living and visible in Jesus of Nazareth**, reaching its culmination in him. The Father, "rich in mercy" (Eph 2:4),

after having revealed his name to Moses as "a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness" (Ex34:6), has never ceased to show, in various ways throughout history, his divine nature. **In the "fullness of time" (Gal 4:4), when everything had been arranged according to his plan of salvation, he sent his only Son into the world, born of the Virgin Mary,** to reveal his love for us in a definitive way. Whoever sees Jesus sees the Father (cf. Jn 14:9). Jesus of Nazareth, by his words, his actions, and **his entire person reveals the mercy of God.** The Holy Year opened on 8 December 2015, the Solemnity of the **Immaculate Conception.** This liturgical feast day recalls God's action from the very beginning of the history of mankind. After the sin of Adam and Eve, God did not wish to leave humanity alone in the throes of evil. **And so he turned his gaze to Mary, holy and immaculate in love (cf. Eph 1:4), choosing her to be the Mother of man's Redeemer.** When faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fullness of mercy. Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.

Please pray for the following:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Maureen Fisher | Molly Laporte | Barbara Kennedy |
| Isabelle Wild | Nicola Izzi | Maritza Garcia |
| Helen Plouffe | Sarah Scharer | Gonzalez |
| Martin Dawson | Vincent Stanford | Michael Dowson |
| John Scharer | Jim Singer | Milan Heck |
| Darryll Malley | Mary Berry | Madeline Ottaway |

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 afternoon.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION
 Sunday, December 6th \$6,260.00

Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

2016 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your 2016 Envelopes in the parish entrance, next to the St. Anthony Room. Forms to enroll in our Pre-Authorized Giving Plan are also available in the parish entrance or the parish office. Please contact the office if you require any assistance.

NOTICE OF UPCOMING MARRIAGE: There is a promise of marriage between *Giovanna Brunogallo and Brian Alford.* The wedding will take place on December 19th.

WELCOMED INTO THE PARISH THROUGH BAPTISM
 Bridget Victoria Lynch
 Caleb John Kelly Martin
 Grace Kylie Roy
 Olivia Ann Zacheja

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The Decoration Group invites Parishioners to bring in red or white poinsettias (or a combination of red and white) to put around the Altar in memory of a loved one. Please bring in flowers **no later than Wednesday, Dec 23rd at 5:00PM.** Flowers can be left in the parish entrance. Thank you for your generosity.

**CULTIVATING AND CARING FOR CREATION:
PAPAL TEACHING**

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore"- "Praise be to you, my Lord". The following statements are from a greenspiritv.com short video clip which you can find on YouTube. **A life- Giving Ecology for All** "A new ecological awareness is beginning to emerge which, rather than being downplayed, ought to be encouraged to develop into **concrete programmes and initiatives.**" **St. John Paul II, 1990** "In all of creation and especially in human beings, there is a kind of **epiphany of God.**" **Pope Benedict XVI, 2011** "Cultivating and caring for creation...means nurturing the world with responsibility and transforming it into a **garden, a habitable place for everyone.**" **Pope Francis, 2013**



MID-WINTER PARISH BREAKFAST:

Join your fellow parishioners on **Sunday, January 10th** after the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Masses in the Parish Centre. Come and enjoy bacon, sausages, eggs, home fries, pancakes, toast, coffee, tea. This delicious breakfast is put on by the Knights of Columbus. Tickets are \$8.00 per person, \$4 for kids 12 and under, free for kids under 5. On sale after Mass Dec 26/27 and January 2/3

THANK YOU FROM OUR YOUTH MINISTER: Another year and another great Advent Children Party. Children and families had the opportunity to enjoy different crafts and some "extra special sweets". I would like to thank Charlotte Carpenter and all the helpers for your dedication, love, commitment and true sense of community. May God bless each one of you and your families. I am very blessed to be able to work with all of you and I thank you for always being there for our youth.

NEXT YOUTH MASS: Please note that our Youth Mass for January is **Saturday, January 9th, 2016**

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS: All parish ministries and parishioners are asked to please note the following submission deadlines for bulletin announcements:

DECEMBER 19/20 BULLETIN: submissions due by Monday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. **CHRISTMAS BULLETIN:** submissions due Friday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. The Christmas bulletin will be *distributed on Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th*. Please also note that there will not be a bulletin on December 26/27.



BOOMERANG CARDS: The **last** card session of 2015 will be **Monday, December 14th** and will resume on Monday, January 4th, 2016.

ELECTRONIC BULLETIN: If you would like to receive the weekly bulletin in your inbox, send a request to bulletin@straphaels.ca. You can also 'LIKE' us on FACEBOOK! Please visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/StRaphaelsParishBurlingtonOntario

LIGHTHOUSE CATHOLIC MEDIA: Pick up an inspiring CD as a gift or stocking stuffer! CDs are located in the parish entrance next to the Religious Articles Store and cost \$5 each.

ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATION

Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24

No morning Mass

5:00 p.m. (Family Mass with dramatization),
8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day: Friday, December 25

9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Thursday, December 31

No morning Mass

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1

11:00 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 6th Annual Women's Day of Reflection '*Nurturing the Nurturer*' will be on **Saturday, February 6th** from 8:45am to 3:00pm, St. Raphael's Parish Centre. Our theme this year will be "*the Fire in my Soul*". Our keynote speaker will be *Dr. Josie Lombardi*, a wife, mother, teacher, theologian, author and a professor at St. Augustine's Seminary. Tickets are \$30 and will go on sale Jan. 16th. (\$20 for CWL members of St. Raphael)

CASH CALENDARS: Knights of Columbus Cash Calendars are available in the parish entrance on

December 12/13. All proceeds generated from the sale of these calendars go towards the many charities supported by the Knights of Columbus.

For more information visit www.kofc5073.ca. Thank you!



THANK YOU FROM SHIFRA HOMES: Shifra Homes would like to acknowledge and thank the *Canadian Million Dollar Round Table Foundation* for a generous \$5000 grant, negotiated by Stephen Pustai. We have always been so grateful for the overwhelming support of St. Raphael's Parish, especially through our Baby Bottle Campaigns which have helped numerous parishioners reach out to us. We are also extremely excited to announce that this donation will be recognized in the Burlington Post and by Mayor Goldring in December. We thank you for continuing to find our mission worthy of your support.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PENANCE CELEBRATIONS IN BURLINGTON:

St. Paul the Apostle, Tuesday December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Parish, Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m.

BLESSING AND OPENING OF THE DOOR OF MERCY

As the extra-ordinary Holy Year of Mercy begins join Bishop Crosby and parishioners from across the Diocese for the celebration of the blessing and opening of the Door of Mercy at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton on **Sunday, December 13th, at 7:00 p.m.** The celebration will begin in McNally Hall (basement of the Cathedral Basilica) and then move to the doors for the blessing and opening, and then into the Cathedral for the rest of the celebration of the Word.

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"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
 and all these things shall be added to you." --- Matthew 6:33
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