

# 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](mailto:office@straphaels.ca) Website: [www.StRaphaels.ca](http://www.StRaphaels.ca)

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



*prepare the way...*



**Monday, December 19** at 9:00 a.m.  
Ints. Fr. Scott Whitfield

**Tuesday, December 20** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Mary Oravec

**Wednesday, December 21** at 9:00 a.m.  
Ints. Sylvia & David Heald

**Thursday, December 22** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Richard McAuliffe; + Clinton Cox;  
+ Ron Chapman; + Dorothy Harber;  
Ints. David & Charlie Kelner

**Friday, December 23** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Isobel Fougere

**Saturday, December 24**  
5:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m.  
*Intentions of Celebrant*

**Sunday, December 25**  
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon  
*Intentions of Celebrant*

**FOURTH DAY OF THE LORD IN ADVENT**

**Receive Emmanuel - Mary's gift to us**

On this fourth Sunday of Advent our preoccupation in our work places, schools and families might be on Christmas parties, Christmas meal preparations, Christmas holiday vacation destinations and Christmas gifts. The liturgy does not eliminate these aspects of the Christmas celebration, but does call us to focus on **Mary's preparation for her gift to us of Emmanuel** [Jesus], her Bethlehem destination [not a vacation, but a journey to the "House of Bread"] and above all to Emmanuel- **God-is-with-Us, the King of Glory**. Like Joseph, we are called to celebrate and receive Emmanuel, Mary's gift. *Fr. Frank*

We are brought to the events that take place within nine months of Jesus' birth. We don't know the exact time that Joseph was aware of the problem, but obviously, Mary was showing. And then the angel came in the dream and told him that the child will make all things wonderful. He is the Saviour. Joseph was given the opportunity to take the Messiah into his family. Basically, Joseph was told to celebrate this unexpected birth.

*Msgr. Joe Pelligrino*



**4<sup>th</sup> Week of Advent**

*A peasant couple. She's expecting. Nothing unusual. Happens every day. But for this child the whole wide world is waiting.*

**CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY CHILDREN PAGEANTS**

Any children wishing to take part in the Christmas Eve Pageant at the 5 pm Mass, please note that rehearsals will take place Friday, Dec 16th at 5:30-8:30pm and Friday, Dec 23rd at 5:30-7:30 pm. Rehearsals for the Epiphany enactment for the 9 am and 11 am masses on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> will be Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30 pm. Please contact Charlie at 905-681-6221 or [bcarpenter2@cogeoc.ca](mailto:bcarpenter2@cogeoc.ca) with your name and contact information.



**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 Friday, December 23rd at 5:00PM**. Flowers can be left in the parish entrance. Thank you for your generosity.

**OPERA EVENING:** When I welcomed the audience for the Opera evening on December 6, I said that we were in for a thrilling musical evening. The music of the four lead singers, the chorus and the pianist of the South Ontario Lyric Opera was indeed... beautiful, entertaining and thrilling. Thanks, especially to Adrian Sacco, Renata Lazzaretto and her Mom, the young parishioners who were ushers, and the ticket sellers. This social event has contributed \$2,075 to our Accessibility Project. We hope to have a similar event in the spring. If you were unable to come this time, be sure not to miss it next time!

*Fr. Frank*

**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
Sylvia Gzik	Jim Singer	Milan Heck
Rosy Santos Perez	Catherine Gee	Helen Wepler
John O'Boyle	Elizabeth Talatala	Jane Urquhart
Frances Wentges	Maria Szkitalinski	Laith Yousif
Diane Svazas	Sr Rosalie Siegler	Irene Groves

*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**

Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> \$ 5,378.00

*Thank you for your continued support of our parish.*

**2017 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Please pick up your 2017 Envelopes in the parish entrance, next to the Religious Articles Store. Please open your box to find a letter from our Pastoral Team and Finance Council. 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.

**PLEASE HAVE ALL DONATIONS FOR 2016** submitted by Thursday, December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Thank you!



**NEXT YOUTH MASS:** Please note that our Youth Mass for January is **Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. All are welcome.



**ST. RAPHAEL EVERGREEN CORNER**

Fourth Week of Advent: **O Come, O Come Emmanuel!** Pope Francis writes; "Christian spirituality proposes

*an alternative understanding of the quality of life, and encourages a prophetic and contemplative lifestyle, one capable of **deep enjoyment free of the obsession with consumption.** We need to take up an ancient lesson, found in different religious traditions and also in the Bible. It is the conviction that 'less is more'. A constant flood of new consumer goods can baffle the heart and prevent us from cherishing each thing and each moment. To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to greater horizons of understanding and personal fulfillment. Christian spirituality proposes a growth marked by **moderation and the capacity to be happy with little.** It is a return to that simplicity which allows us to stop and **appreciate the small things,** to be grateful for the opportunities which life affords us, to be spiritually detached from what we possess, and not to succumb to sadness for what we lack. This implies avoiding the dynamic of dominion and the mere accumulation of pleasures." Laudato si #222*

**The biblical conviction that "less is more" can be lived out in many ways at Christmas!** Mass produced goods including items for children are often overly packaged in moulded plastic, card board, and more plastic! Choose gifts that are simply packaged in recyclable materials or purchase gifts made with recyclable materials. Simple gifts of homemade or organic foods or Fair Trade foods and products are also a way that we can share simple gifts with one another. Use refillable and reusable containers to package food gifts.

Remembering that **the greatest gift of Christmas is Jesus Himself,** will help us to appreciate the love of our families and friends. Spending time with our families and friends this Christmas in simple meal celebrations and activities can be enjoyable, life affirming and fun. Whatever you do this Christmas, keep it simple and remember the many gifts that God has blessed us with in our lives! *Peace and Joy to you and your family!*

**PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND: March 5 – 14, 2017**

(10 days) Under spiritual leadership of **Fr. Francis Salasiar C.S.C.** Tel Aviv, Galilee, Tiberias, Capernaum, Cana, Judea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada. Cost of \$2,349 includes air transportation from Toronto (airport tax not included), hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, all sightseeing with English speaking guide. For further details pick up a flyer and registration form or contact the parish office at 905-637-2346.

**BOTTLE DRIVE UPDATE:** The bottle drive will resume in the new year. Please keep your bottles for the drive and bring them in the weekend of January 7/8.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Also, in the new year we are looking for volunteers to take a weekend for the bottle drive collection and return bottles to the beer store. Please contact Lesley at 905-637-0373 if you can help.

**CANDY CANES FOR LIFE:** Help Halton Alive expand their educational programs and honour lives lost to abortion by donating at [www.candycanesforlife.ca](http://www.candycanesforlife.ca)

**ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATION**

Monday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRIVATE CONFESSION**

Saturday Dec. 24 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon

**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24**

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

**Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25**

8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon

**CWL KNITTING GROUP:** A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have donated yarn and knitted items. There were 422 items (knitted goods & toys) that our own SVDP were able to shop for their baskets and the remainder were delivered to THE GOOD SHEPHERD in TWO CARS. Thank you also to all the helpers who helped bag and load. You have truly helped to make someone's Christmas Merry.



**7TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF**

**REFLECTION 'Nurturing the Nurturer':**

**Saturday, February 4th, 2017** from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm in St. Raphael's Parish Centre. Our

theme this year will be "*Forgiveness a New Day*". Our keynote speaker will be Miriam Wright and we will enjoy a play by Elisa Lollino. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 14th, 2017. \$30.00 (\$20 for members of St. Raphael's C.W.L.)

**ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS:** Ladies of the CWL, please renew your membership before you fly south. You can use the blue envelope found in the offertory envelopes or a plain white envelope along with \$25 and write your name, address, telephone number and email address. Thank you and have a safe and happy winter.

**THE DAILY TV MASS** is now available Monday-Saturday anytime from anyplace. Take a moment to visit their new website at [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com) to watch the Daily TV Mass and to find out more about how to stay connected with our faith. Please feel free to call the NCBC at 1-888-383-6277 for more information.

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS:** His Excellency, the Most Reverend D. Douglas Crosby, OMI, DD Bishop of Hamilton will preside at the celebration of Christmas Midnight Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Carol service begins at 11:30 p.m. and Midnight Mass at 12:00 a.m. This year the lead broadcast partner will be Salt+Light Media with Father Thomas Rosica as commentator. CHCH TV will also broadcast Midnight Mass. We welcome Salt+Light and Father Rosica. The Carols and Mass will also be live streamed on their website [www.saltandlighttv.org](http://www.saltandlighttv.org)

**GIVE THE GIFT OF SWING:** The Burlington Knights of Columbus are presenting a tribute to Dean Martin & Ella Fitzgerald with the Toronto all-star big band! **Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2:00 MATINEE** at The Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Come and enjoy a terrific afternoon of Swing with your friends. You can reserve your "GIFT OF SWING" by calling the box office at 905-681-6000. The ticket price is only \$45.

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