

ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

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Served by the Holy Cross Fathers

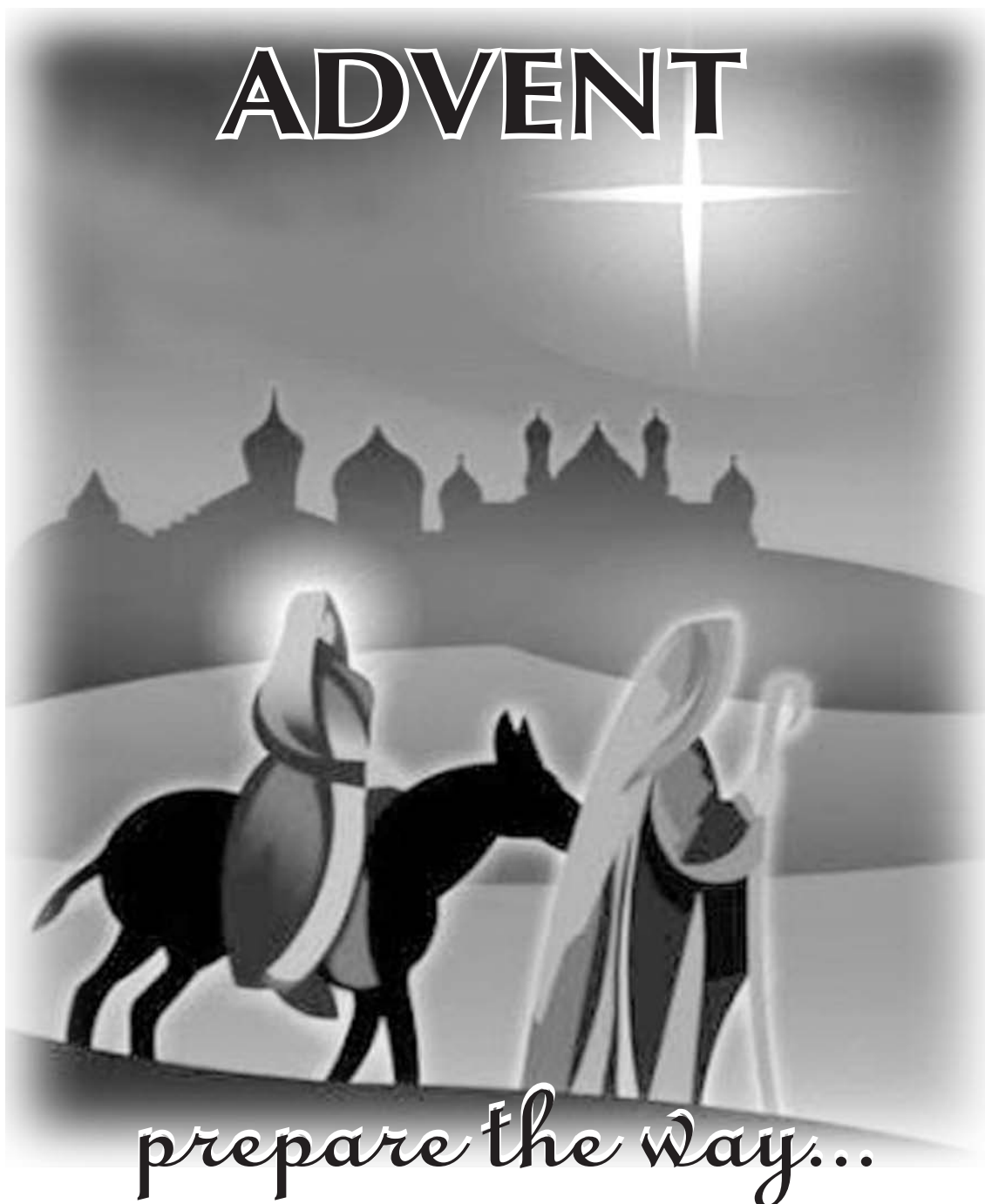
Fr. Wilson Andrade C.S.C. - Pastor

Fr. Emmanuel Ralte C.S.C. - Associate Pastor

Catherine Osborne - Office Administrator

Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant

ADVENT



prepare the way...



Monday, December 19 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Frank Sicoli

Tuesday, December 20 at 9:00 a.m.
† Tina Kloosterman

Wednesday, December 21 at 9:00 a.m.
† Mary Germann
10:00 a.m. *St. Raphael School Mass*

Thursday, December 22 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. John Alexander; Ints. Charlie & David Kelner
† Frank & Ida Fioravanti; † Julie Camalleri
† Lilly & Billy Thomson
10:30am *St Paul School Mass*

Friday, December 23 at 9:00 a.m.
† Norman Masse

Saturday, December 24
5:00 p.m. † John Yurincich
8:00 p.m. † Maria Luz Furtado
10:00 p.m. Thanksgiving for Zosita Manigque

12:00 midnight † Mary Germann

Sunday, December 25
8:30 a.m. † Roberto Moniz
10:00 a.m. † Joe & Betty Nedelko
12:00 Noon For Our Parishioners

Please pray for:

Jeannine Bannan	Christopher Ryan
Lee Olds	Tom Olds
Rolando Mabalay	Vincent Stanford
Jean Damiani	Archie Damiani

Names on this list will remain for a period of four weeks to allow space for other names. Please phone the parish office before Tuesday morning to have a name added.

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we read in Matthew's Gospel about Joseph and his decision to divorce the pregnant Mary. An angel comes to Joseph: "Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her."

Used with permission. From the Creighton University Website: onlineministries.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/Prayer/

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 11

Sunday Envelopes (118)	\$5,305
Loose	\$91

Thank you for your generous support



ST. RAPHAEL GREEN CORNER: *Pope 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!



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The decoration group invites parishioners to bring in fresh flowers for Christmas to decorate our church. If you would like to remember a loved one, feel free to include a small card with their name on it. Please bring plants/flowers to the back of the church no later than **Friday, Dec. 23rd, before 12 noon** for the decoration group to place around the church for Christmas. Thank-you for your generosity.

CHRISTMAS EVE YOUTH PAGEANT: Please note that any children who have signed up to participate in this year's Christmas Eve Youth Mass (at 5 pm on Dec 24th) must attend the rehearsals this **Sunday, Dec 18** after the 11am mass. For more information, please contact Charlie @905-681-6221 or bcarpenter2@cogeco.ca

ADVENT PENANCE CELEBRATIONWednesday, December 21st at 7 pm**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS****Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24th**5pm (Family Mass with dramatization),
8pm, 10pm**Midnight Mass, Sunday, December 25th**

12am

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25th

8:30am, 10am, 12 noon

Feast of Mary Mother of God**New Year Eve: Saturday, December 31st**

5pm

New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1st

9am, 11am

**MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH** - As we

move toward the end of the year, take some time as a couple to reflect on your last twelve months together. Ask yourselves what you did well and what you might do better, both for each other and for your marriage. Check in to see if you spent enough time together, if you remembered to compliment each other, showed gratitude for the gifts your spouse brings to your life and whether you felt joy more often than not. If your relationship needs strengthening, commit to finding the help you need to make it strong; if you feel good after your assessment, celebrate your love and thank God for his never-ending support. From: Family Ministry Office.

STAMP PROJECT: In the past, St. Raphael Parish has supported the Development and Peace Stamp Project. The Stamp Project is a way that Development and Peace can raise funds to support their ongoing Social Justice work. A shipment of stamps collected before the Development and Peace Office was closed due to the pandemic, was recently sent from our parish. We will begin again supporting the Stamp Project, and the Social Justice Committee is asking parishioners to save their cancelled stamps from Christmas Cards and any other mail. We will notify you at the end of January as to how we will collect the stamps from you!

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and support of Development and Peace and their work in the world!
Cecilia Racine and Lorene Dicorpo

COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: Any time is a good time to invite family, friends, and neighbours to attend Mass. Especially so during the beautiful Christmas season. What better gift can we give a loved one who is away from the Church than a warm invitation to *Come Home for Christmas*? Whether they have been away for a short time or a long time, we want all Catholics to know that they are warmly welcomed back to our Parish community. Please consider extending this invitation to loved ones, neighbours, and colleagues – for more information, visit:

<http://hamiltondiocese.com>.

MASTERING YOUR MONEY: A FINANCIAL WELLNESS PRESENTATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

- Financial worries are the top source of stress for all Canadians, ranking above work concerns, health worries and even relationship struggles. The need for financial literacy has never been more pressing. Join us for this special zoom session on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 from 7-8:30 p.m., presented by Mr. Fred Masters, President & Founder of Masters Money Management Inc., and the author of the critically-acclaimed new book 'Lessons on Mastering Money'. He has delivered dozens of financial literacy presentations and is a sought-after media commentator on financial literacy. This is a free virtual event, but you must register at hamiltondiocese.com under Upcoming events, or call 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, to receive the Zoom link.

USHERS NEEDED AT SATURDAY EVENING MASS:

Our Usher Ministry is looking for volunteers for our Saturday evening 5pm mass. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please contact George O'Brien at (905) 335-0412.

ReSTART: MOVING FORWARD – This is a new and updated 10 week program offering support to anyone seeking to heal and move forward after divorce or separation. The program runs from Tuesdays, March 21st to May 23rd. The sessions take place from 7-9 pm at the Chancery Office at 700 King St. West in person, or you are welcome to join our zoom classroom. Cost is \$25 for materials, but no one is turned away. Registration is required so please call Sarah at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249, e-mail:

familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or register on line at [ReSTART Program: Support for Separated and Divorced - Diocese of Hamilton \(hamiltondiocese.com\)](http://hamiltondiocese.com).

NEW SUNDAY MISSALS: If you would like your own copy of the 2022-2023 Sunday Missal, please pick one up in the church lobby after Mass (suggested donation \$5).

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:**

Dec. 24 th until Dec. 28 th	CLOSED
Thursday, Dec. 29 th	9 am – 4 pm
Friday, Dec. 30 th	9 am – 4 pm
Dec. 31 st to Jan. 2 nd	CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan. 3 rd	9 am – 4 pm
normal hours resume	

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