

# 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

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Fr. Francis Salasiar, C.S.C. - Associate Pastor  
Mr. Cristian Lecanda - Youth Minister


Mrs. Rosanne Nusca - Office Manager  
Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant



*May the Blessings of this  
Holy Season be with you Always.*

**FOURTH DAY OF THE LORD IN ADVENT**  
*Believe: The Promise Of God's Mercy To Us Was Fulfilled*



**Mass Intentions** 

**Monday, December 21** at 9:00 a.m.  
 Ints. Fr. Steve Amise

**Tuesday, December 22** at 9:00 a.m.  
 + Richard McAuliffe

**Wednesday, December 23** at 9:00 a.m.  
 Ints. Isobel & Cyril Furgere

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

**Friday, December 25**  
 9:00 a.m. *Intentions of Celebrant*  
 11:00 a.m. *Intentions of Celebrant*

**Saturday, December 26** at 5:00 p.m.  
 + Ron Chapman; + Daniel Farrell;  
 + John Kevin O'Dowd; + Kevin Zelowsky;  
 Ints. Sister Connie Harkin

**Sunday, December 27**  
 9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners  
 11:00 a.m. + Marlo Vanderslot

**Please pray for the following:**

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



*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.*



**JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY**  
**FRANCIS BISHOP OF ROME SERVANT OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD**

I will **open the Holy Door on the fiftieth anniversary** of the closing of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council. The Church feels a great need to keep this event alive. With the Council, the Church entered a new phase of her history. The Council Fathers strongly perceived, as a true breath of the

Holy Spirit, **a need to talk about God to men and women of their time in a more accessible way.** The walls which for too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way. It was a new phase of the same evangelization that had existed from the beginning. It was a fresh undertaking for all Christians to bear witness to their faith with greater enthusiasm and conviction. The Church sensed a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father's love in the world. We recall the poignant words of **Saint John XXIII** when, opening the Council, he indicated the path to follow: "Now the Bride of Christ wishes to use the **medicine of mercy** rather than taking up arms of severity... The Catholic Church, as she holds high the torch of Catholic truth at this Ecumenical Council, wants to show herself a loving mother to all; patient, kind, moved by compassion and goodness toward her separated children". **Blessed Paul VI** spoke in a similar vein at the closing of the Council: "We prefer to point out how charity has been the principal religious feature of this Council... the **old story of the Good Samaritan has been the model of the spirituality of the Council...** All this rich teaching is channeled in one direction, the **service of mankind, of every condition, in every weakness and need**".



**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 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00PM.** Flowers can be left in the parish entrance. Thank you for your generosity.

**OFFERTORY COLLECTION**



Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> \$6,266.00  
 Pre-Authorized Giving Plan (Dec 15) \$3,563.00

*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. **A reminder that all donations received before year end will be included in your 2015 tax donation receipt.**

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS**

Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 - 12:00  
 Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - Closed  
 Saturday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Closed  
 Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 - 12:00  
 Monday, December 28<sup>th</sup> - Closed  
 Thursday, December 31<sup>st</sup> - 9:30 - 12:00  
 Friday, January 1<sup>st</sup> - Closed

**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.

**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 session two. **Who Is in Greatest Peril? The proper ecological balance will not be found without directly addressing the structural forms of poverty that exist throughout the world. Saint John Paul II, 1990. We are living in a time of crisis: we see this in mankind. The Human person is in danger. This is certain. The human person is in danger today. Here is the urgency of human ecology! Pope Francis, 2013**

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

**CHRISTMAS BULLETIN:** The Christmas bulletin will be distributed on *Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>*. Please also note that there will not be a bulletin on December 26/27. **FIRST BULLETIN OF 2016 (Jan 2/3):** submissions due Thursday, Dec. 24 at 9 a.m.

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



**SAVE THE DATE:** Our 6th Annual Women's Day of Reflection 'Nurturing the Nurturer' will be on **Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>** 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. 16<sup>th</sup>. (\$20 for CWL members of St. Raphael)



**MID-WINTER PARISH BREAKFAST:**

Join your fellow parishioners on **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>** 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

**BOOMERANG CARDS:** Card sessions have been suspended for the holiday season and will **resume on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**MERCY: A STUDY IN SCRIPTURE:** A Senior Adult Workshop Series. 7 Wednesday afternoons, **starting Jan. 6, 2016** 1:30- 3:30pm. Notre Dame Convent in Waterdown. By exploring the theme of Mercy in the Old Testament we hope to understand better why Pope Francis is calling us to the virtue of Mercy in our lives today. This course will be facilitated by Sister Mary Heather MacKinnon SSND & David Dayler. The cost will be \$75 includes the textbook & other resources. Please register by Dec.18. For further information please contact Monica at [mverin@hamiltondiocese.com](mailto:mverin@hamiltondiocese.com) or 905-528 7988 ext. 2238 or check the website [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

**CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS:** His Excellency, Bishop Douglas Crosby will celebrate Midnight Mass in the Cathedral Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton. The Mass is preceded by Carols from the Cathedral beginning at 11:30 p.m. on December 24th. The Carols, and the Midnight Mass, will be televised on CHCH-TV and re-broadcast at 8:00 a.m. on Christmas morning. Our thanks to CHCH-TV and the Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Hamilton for this presentation of Christmas Midnight Mass.

**HEAL YOUR HEART - Broken hearts are painful - don't get stuck in the pain of conflicting emotions.** Are you dealing with a loss in your life? (Death of spouse, child or miscarriage; divorce; job loss; loss of your home; health; a pet; culture; infertility; romantic relationship; ailing parents) There is help – you are invited to join us for a series of Group Bereavement Workshops intended to assist you in coping with the feelings associated with loss. The goal of the workshops is to provide definitive actions that will mend conflicting emotions that hold you back from enjoying life. Join us for this 6 week course being **held Wednesdays Jan. 20, 27, Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24** at St. Michael Parish, 181 Sewell Drive, Oakville. The evening session will run from 7-9 pm. For more information call ilse at 905-338-1778; to register go to [www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com) or call the Family Ministry Office at 905-528-7988 ext. 2249. Cost is \$35 and includes material.

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



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