

ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

FAMILIES 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. Francis Salasiar C.S.C. - Pastor

Fr. Roshan D'Souza C.S.C. - Associate Pastor

Anna-Marie Grimminck - Office Manager

Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD



Monday, December 25

8:30 a.m. For Our Parishioners
10:00 a.m. + Delio Iacobelli
12:00 p.m. Ints. Jim & Mary Regan

Tuesday, December 26 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Richard McAuliffe

Wednesday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Ron Chapman

Thursday, December 28 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Sylvia Gzik; + Marion Aquilon; + Marlo Vanderslot
+ Piera Casano; + Vivian Crocco

Friday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Paul Alley

Saturday, December 30 at 5:00 p.m.
Ints. Frank Barich; Ints. Usika Dyosoro
+ Jim Weber; + Dennis Fisher;
+ Mary-Ann Vanderkooy; + Elizabeth Colin;

Sunday, December 31
9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners
11:00 a.m. + Halina Tymochko
5:00 p.m. + Mrs. Etherington

Please pray for the following:

John Scharer	Molly Laporte	Barbara Kennedy
Mary Berry	Nicola Izzi	Maritza Garcia
Doug Pudsey	Sarah Scharer	Gonzalez
Rosy Santos Perez	Vincent Stanford	Michael Dowson
John O'Boyle	Jim Singer	Milan Heck
Frances Wentges	Elizabeth Talatala	Helen Wepler
Peggy Evans	Helen Sheehan	Jane Urquhart
Jill Ascah	Shelly Sterling	Laith Yousif
Lee Olds	Asia Rae Landry	Michael Colameco
Stephen Pustai	Noah Landry	Maria Szkitalinski
Michael Smart		

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.

Monday is **Christmas Day**. The first celebration of The **Nativity of the Lord** is the **Mass at Midnight**. The first reading is from **Isaiah**: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This powerful reading deserves a slow contemplation. The Gospel is from **Luke**: the journey to Bethlehem, the birth, the angels announce the birth to the shepherds. The second celebration of **The Nativity of the Lord** is the **Mass at Dawn**. The Gospel is from **Luke**: the shepherds visit the newborn child. "And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." The third celebration of **The Nativity of the Lord** is the **Mass during the Day**. Here the Gospel is from the beginning of **John's Gospel**: "And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."

"Taken from the "Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer" on the Creighton University's **Online Ministries** web site:
<http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
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ST. RAPHAEL GREEN CORNER

Pope Francis continues to write: "...To be serenely present to each reality, however small it may be, opens us to much

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**

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!

<https://newdream.org/resources/tips-15-tips-for-commercial-free-fun-filled-family-holidays>

Merry Christmas

On behalf of Fr. Roshan and myself I want to wish you and your family and friends a joyful and Merry Christmas. As you enjoy the beauty of this season and celebrate the gift of our Savior may He fill you with Joy and surround you with Love. Our Prayerful wishes to you all. We are so glad that you are able to join us to celebrate the birth of Christ. *Fr. Francis*



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 17th *please see next bulletin*
Thank you for your continued support!

IN OUR PARISH

FAMILY SKATING PARTY: Mark your calendars St. Raphael Parish is hosting a **free family skating** event at



The Pond (845 Harrington Court, Unit #8 Burlington Ontario L7N 3P3) on **Saturday December 30th from 10 am to 12 pm.**

Father Francis and Father Roshan invite you, your family and your friends out to enjoy a morning skate.

YEAR-END DONATIONS: Parishioners and visitors who wish to make a year-end donation to St. Raphael Parish for 2017 should do so **on or before Sunday 31st, 2017 by 11 am; donations received by this date will be receipted for 2017. Donations received after Dec 31st, 11 am will be receipted for 2018.** As a registered charitable organization, the parish must comply with these CRA guidelines. Your understanding and your timely support is appreciated.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION: Please note our next session is on **January 10th, 2018.**

2018 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your 2018 envelopes in the parish entrance, by the elevator. 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.

ALTAR SERVERS: The Altar Server Ministry is in need of new servers for 2018. Registration forms are now available online or at the parish office. Servers choose their preferred mass time and are asked to assist at special celebrations and masses throughout the year. Students entering Grade 4 and up are welcome to register to volunteer with this ministry. New servers will have an opportunity to be trained and shadow serve before officially starting. Please consider assisting at the Table of the Lord as this is an important and rewarding ministry. For further information please visit the parish website or contact Gabriela at gabriella.starcevic@gmail.com

GIFTS OF SECURITIES: Donating stocks or mutual fund shares is one of the smartest ways to support the Church while realizing significant tax savings. When you give a gift of shares to a registered charity, there are no capital gains taxes applied to the fully realized amount of the gift. In this way, the Church receives the full value of the securities, you receive a tax receipt for the full value of the gift, and you pay no capital gains tax on any increase in the price of those donated securities. For more information about making a gift of securities or to download a Share Transfer Form, visit www.hamiltondiocese.com/stewardship-and-development/securities or contact Francis Doyle by email at fdoyle@hamiltondiocese.com or by phone 905-528-7988 ext. 2235. All calls are confidential.

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS: PHOTO DIRECTORY



In preparation and to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our parish in 2018 we are planning to have a parish pictorial directory published to help us all get to know one another by name and strengthen our faith community. We invite everyone to participate to make this photo directory as complete as possible! IPC Canada offers this service free to our parish by making the portraits available to all the participants. Everyone will receive a free copy of the parish photo directory and one free 8x10 for participating! So, please sign up after weekend masses to take your family photos starting in January.

ST. RAPHAEL'S 2ND ANNUAL CHILLI CHALLENGE



On **January 20th 2018**, who will have the best chilli this year? Enter your chilli to win. There will be a 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize awarded. If you do not want to enter a chilli come out and be a judge and taste them all. Buns, butter and salad will be served with your chilli dinner. Tickets are **\$10 for adults and \$25 for a family**. Please **bring your own beer, wine, and pop** to this event. Please sign up to enter your chilli at the table where the tickets are being sold. Everything will be explained there. For further questions please call Renata at 905-637-2457 or email galwayrenata@gmail.com. Tables seat eight so please ask family & friends.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: would like to thank you for your support over the past year and wish blessings to you and your family. "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year."

THANK YOU! The funds received by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for December were \$4100. Thank you for your generosity! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the SVDP.



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, December 25th: Closed
Tuesday, December 26th: Closed
December 27th – 29th: 9AM – 4PM
Monday, January 1st: Closed
Tuesday January 2nd: Closed
January 3rd – 5th: 9AM – 4 PM

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

Dear Friends,

We settle in for another Christmas season. Christmas is always a blessing, a time for giving thanks – especially for the Father's gift to us: Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us – even though many struggle at this time of year.

A good friend, a brother Priest, and a member of the Religious community to which I belong, Father Chris Rushton, is being cared for at Emmanuel Hospice in Hamilton, one of the many Good Shepherd ministries. It means, simply, that he is in the process of dying. (I am glad that "The Good Shepherd" is caring for him!)

Father Chris is a remarkable person. He accepts the inevitable with great faith and serenity, and he expresses profound gratitude for every act of kindness he receives – a visit, a gift, a service, a chat, and he is always looking for ways to "give back". He is an inspiration to those who experience both his joy and the enthusiasm he brings to each day.

His is the example that might guide us: gratitude for each day – the fundamental gift – the gift of life. Aware of such a great blessing, we find ways to "give back" – precisely by the decisions we make each day to respond generously to those whose needs may be greater than our own.

A word of affirmation is an easy way to do that. It does not cost two cents – but for the recipient it can be solid gold, a life-saver: "Someone thinks I am worth it!" A word of affirmation can be the boost needed for the day – or for a lifetime.

This Christmas affirm someone – anyone – a child, a sibling, a friend, a neighbour! Watch how it affects them. You have done something that will have a ripple effect touching many! It is truly a gift that keeps on giving!

Merry Christmas! May your faith be deepened during this Christmas season!

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton
/cd

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