

# 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



*Oh Come  
Let us Adore Him*



**Monday, December 26** at 9:00 a.m.  
† Concetta Zumpano

**Tuesday, December 27** at 9:00 a.m.  
† Ethel & Leslie Peiris

**Wednesday, December 28** at 9:00 a.m.  
† Jim Cox

**Thursday, December 29** at 9:00 a.m.  
Ints. Patti & Mike McConnell; Ints. Amy Sharma  
Ints. Joe Rodrigues; † Tarryn Thomson;  
† Marie Arsenault † John Ciuro

**Friday, December 30** at 9:00 a.m.  
Thanksgiving - Anthony Pillari

**Saturday, December 31** at 5:00 p.m.  
† Zeno Karcz; † Frank Sicoli; † George Lukawenko  
† Mike Lukawenko; † Martha Brauche;  
† Maria Dreesbauch; † Gunter Hartman

**Sunday, January 1**  
9:00 a.m. † Harold Naidus  
11:00 a.m. † 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.*

**2022 YEAR-END DONATIONS:** Parishioners and visitors who wish to make a year-end donation to St. Raphael parish for 2022 are encouraged to do so by **Friday, December.30** Donations received after Dec 30 at 10am will be receipted for 2023. Your understanding and timely support is appreciated.

**HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:**

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



**MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
5pm (Family Mass with dramatization),  
8pm, 10pm

**Midnight Mass, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
12am

**Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
8:30am, 10am, 12 noon

Feast of Mary Mother of God

**New Year Eve: Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
5pm

**New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**  
9am, 11am

**ST. RAPHAEL GREEN CORNER:** *Pope Francis writes: "We are speaking of an attitude of the heart, one which approaches life with serene attentiveness, which is capable of being fully present to someone without thinking of what comes next, which accepts each moment as a gift from God to be lived to the full. Jesus taught us this attitude when he invited us to contemplate the lilies of the field and the birds of the air, LS #226.*

**An Attitude of Gratitude: An attitude of the heart**

Giving thanks to God is one of the ways that we can appreciate the many gifts that we have received in our lives; the gifts of our faith and the freedom to practice our faith, our families, friends, homes, the food we eat, the clean water that we drink, and our beautiful planet Earth, our home, our only home! May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your heart and your life! Merry Christmas!

Dear Parishioners,

With this Final Green Corner Entry, we wish to thank you for reading the Green Corner during the time it has appeared in St. Raphael Parish Bulletin. We are sincerely thankful for the opportunity to have shared the message of Pope Francis with you from his *Encyclical letter Laudato si*, since 2016. We sincerely hope that *the seeds of the message grow and produce the changes that are needed.*

**The Climate Crisis is a very real threat to all humanity and all the creatures living on our Common Home.** As Pope Francis says,

**"Everything is related"!** It is our sincere hope that you and your families will continue to try to live in harmony and respect with each other and all of creation. We wish heartily, that you will continue to *"Hear the Cry of the Earth and the Cry of the Poor"*, the least of our brothers and sisters in the world who experience the greatest effects of the Climate Crisis. ***Laudato si! Praise be You My Lord! Beloved Father, your love is the foundation of our hope.*** *(Julian of Norwich)*

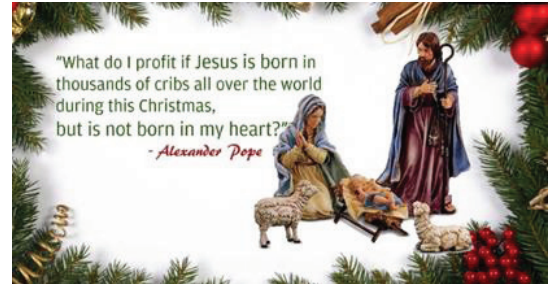
Sincerely, Cecilia Racine and Jesu Marquez

**“Christ, the Saviour is born”**

By Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the last Candle in the Advent Wreath as we complete the circle of preparation for the birth of our Saviour. As we complete the circle we now focus on the Center of the Circle where a *white candle* is ready to be lit on the Christmas day – *a symbol of Christ* – The True Light of the world. The True Light of Christ comes from the Center to the four corners of the world. So let’s put God at the center of our lives, let the Light of Christ flow into us and dispel the darkness of our lives.

This promise has been foretold by the ancient prophecy of Isaiah who gives the sign of God-with-us (Emmanuel) *“a virgin shall bear a son.”* This is what we celebrate in Jesus Christ born of Blessed Virgin Mary, who for us becomes the means of our Salvation, since it was Jesus through his life, death and resurrection *“saved the people from their sins.”* We celebrate the Birth of Jesus, because he saved us from sin and death, gave us hope of resurrection of life.



**Christmas is time to celebrate Jesus Christ.** His Birth itself is the great joy, fulfillment of the ancient prophecy, a divine promise, and a human redemption. How do we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour? *This sacred time* is not a passing event of a secular culture filling us with temporary joys shining lights on a bogus tree, or empty promises of marketing tags, or expensive gifts without true love. receiving the True Gift from God – *The Birth of Our Saviour and Our Lord.* So Lets Celebrate *Emmanuel* – God-with-us.  
O Come Divine Messiah – fill us with your **Light**, your **Joy** and your **Love**. Amen.

**December 2022 – For All families**

**Celebration of the Festival of Families**

Let us dedicate the Month of December for the Family Prayer. We thank God for all the blessings that we receive in our personal, family and community life. We celebrate our Year of the Prayer, we pray for the grace, motivation and inspiration from the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Let us make every effort to pray for our family and our community. May God bless our families, bringing healing, love, and peace. Amen.



As the part of the celebration of the Families in our parish, we would like invite all of you join in the festival of families on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Dinner tickets available Adults \$10.00 and child \$ 5:00. All are welcome to join in the celebration and thank you for supporting young parents and children.

**2023 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Please pick up your envelopes in the parish entrance, by the elevator. If you cannot locate your donation envelope box, or would like to start using donation envelopes, please contact the office.

**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).



**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**GATHERING:** Members and all women are welcome to join the Catholic Women’s League first gathering of the year on **Sunday, January 22, 2023** after the 11 am Mass in the St. Francis Room. We will toast the New Year as we build our plans and resolutions for our council. Come and join women of faith/service and social justice.

**Merry Christmas**

On behalf of the Parish Community of St Raphael, we the pastoral staff would like to wish all of you a Blessed and grace-filled Christmas Celebration. We would like to Thank each one of you who make our community a place of prayer and celebration of life and faith. May the new year bring you all the graces we need to celebrate precious life with all joy, love and peace. We thank all the ministers and volunteers who help us with your time and talents.



**May you have blessed and happy Christmas.**

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