

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

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

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



Feast of the Holy Family

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
The Word-Made-Flesh Dwelt In A Manger



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

Monday, December 28 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Bill Southon

Tuesday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. John Scharer & Family

Wednesday, December 30 at 9:00 a.m.
+ John Yurincich

Thursday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.
+ Arcadio Felisco; + Msgr. Roger Formosi;
Ints. The Anthony Pillai Family; Ints. Dan Legault
Ints. Darryll Malley

Friday, January 1 at 11:00 a.m.
Intentions of Celebrant

Saturday, January 2 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Trevor O'Dowd; + Charlie Campbell

Sunday, January 3
9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners
11:00 a.m. + Aileen Maguire



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE

PASTORS: On Christmas Eve, Fr. Francis and I have been here for exactly six months. We have experienced a warm welcome from the parishioners and feel quite at home. There are many challenges and opportunities, not only to continue the mission of the Franciscan Friars and the many active organizations and individuals in the parish, but also to creatively work at the mission of the **Gospel of Joy** encouraged by Pope Francis. Together with you, we will continue to be a faithful and effective community, guided especially in 2016 by the motto of the **Jubilee Year of Mercy: "Merciful Like the Father"**. Our wish is to serve you who are the People of God, and to share in this community of faith- this wonderful parish of St. Raphael.

Our secular society now ends the Christmas festivity with Christmas Day and then begins Boxing Day sales. However, the liturgy of the Church celebrates Christmas by including the feasts of the Holy Family, Mary Mother of God, Epiphany, and the Baptism of the Lord. We continue the celebration of the **Word Made Flesh who dwells among us and who is the merciful face of the Father**, by highlighting the uniqueness of each of the feasts for 18 days, until the season concludes on January 10th.

We pray that during the new year 2016, you and your loved ones will be blessed by divine mercy, and that in the New Year our journey with all humanity will experience fewer fears and less violence because of the **outpouring of God's mercy and the good will of all**. If the community of priests and ministries of the Parish Community of St. Raphael can assist you, or you can help us, to contribute to that merciful journey, please let us know!

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Frank Wagner CSC and Fr. Francis Salasiar CSC

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS
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.

GOOD SHEPHERD GIVING TREE: A big THANK YOU to all who donated gifts to the GIVING TREE. These gifts were greatly appreciated by those who are served by The Good Shepherd, Hamilton. A special word of thanks to Marg Anslow and her helper Lorraine Evans who worked tirelessly on this project for many years. Christmas blessings to all who contributed in some way, big or small.
Rose Hughes, CWL.

NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION: We invite you to begin the New Year by spending quality time with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel.



Please pray for the following:

Maureen Fisher	Molly Laporte	Barbara Kennedy
Isabelle Wild	Nicola Izzzi	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.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 20th *please see next bulletin*
Accessibility Project **\$6,405.00**

Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

Holiday Office Hours

Saturday, December 26th - Closed
Monday, December 28th - Closed
Thursday, December 31st - 9:30 - 12:00
Friday, January 1st - Closed



The Staff of St. Raphael Parish wish you and your families a joyous Christmas and many blessings in the new year!



**CHRISTMAS - SOLEMNITY OF
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
THE WORD-MADE-FLESH DWELT IN
A MANGER**

We gather throughout the Christmas season to celebrate the Word of God who, in a desperate, irrevocable **act**

of mercy, has stooped to become a human being. After Advent's reminder that our destiny is the glorious second coming of Christ, **Christmas brings us to a stable in Bethlehem.** God does not cling to the safety of heaven: God takes shelter in the womb of young girl and sleeps in an animal's feed box. If our Advent has been fruitful, we will see in our celebrations throughout the Christmas season that the baby in the manger is the Word-Made-Flesh that we might live forever; we will see that shepherds and magi-kings come to honour the babe who is both shepherd and king. The Word-Made-Flesh dwells among us; we have seen His glory. **WE SEE THE MERCIFUL FACE OF THE FATHER**

Fr. Frank with thanks to Margaret Bick

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

THE WORD-MADE-FLESH DWELT IN A HUMAN FAMILY

The Holy Family of Jesus the Word-Made-Flesh, Mary and Joseph presents an example and call to the holiness of family life, be it the **nuclear, extended, or blended, or the communal family of Christians in the domestic Church or the whole human family.** We celebrate because we're not called to be holy card images, but real-life seekers and finders of the love for which we were created. It is the presence of the Word-Made-Flesh dwelling within the many varieties of families that enables all of us to live the blessed harmony of the Holy Family.

Fr. Frank

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY BANNER

The motto **Merciful Like the Father** (Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (Lk 6:37-38). The logo represents an image of **the Son having taken upon his shoulders the lost soul demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the**

mystery of his incarnation culminating in redemption. The logo expresses the profound way in which the **Good Shepherd touches the flesh of humanity** and does so with a love with the power to change one's life. One particular feature worthy of note is that **while the Good Shepherd, in his great mercy, takes humanity upon himself, his eyes are merged with those of man. Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ.** Every person discovers in Christ, the new Adam, one's own humanity and the future that lies ahead, contemplating, in his gaze, the love of the Father.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: During the Christmas Holidays, the Children's Liturgy will take a break and **resume the weekend of January 9/10.** Wishing all our leaders, student helpers and families a joyous Christmas and happy New Year!

REMINDER - CWL MEMBERS: Please remember to renew your membership for 2016. We ask that you place \$25.00 in the blue 2016 offertory envelope, or a plain white envelope and include your name; full address and email (if available). For those renewing their memberships or for new members, your name will be eligible for a draw of a \$30.00 restaurant gift card if we receive it before Monday, February 29th. For more information, please call Helen Sheehan @ 905-634-7481. We wish a joyous Christmas to all!

**CULTIVATING AND CARING FOR CREATION:
PAPAL TEACHING**

"LAUDATO SI', mi' Signore"- "Praise be to you, my Lord". The following statements are from a greenspirittv.com short video clip which you can find on youtube session three. **Presence of God** *"Man, being the image of God, has a true affinity with him too. On the basis of this teaching, development cannot consist only in the use, dominion over and indiscriminate possession of created things and the products of human industry".* **Saint John Paul II, 1987** *"We are losing the attitude of wonder, contemplation, listening to creation; thus we are no longer able to read what Benedict XVI calls 'the rhythm of the love story of God and man' "* **Pope Francis, 2013**

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



MID-WINTER PARISH BREAKFAST:

Join your fellow parishioners on **Sunday, January 10th** 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

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

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. Please contact the office if you require any assistance.

**** Please note that there will not be a bulletin on December 26/27. ****

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"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." --- Matthew 6:33
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