

# ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

4072 New Street (corner of New St. and Longmoor Dr.) Burlington, ON L7L 1S9  
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Fr. Frank Wagner, C.S.C. - Pastor

Fr. Francis Salasiar, C.S.C. - Associate Pastor

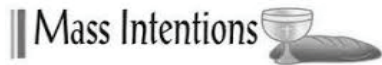
Mr. Cristian Lecanda - Youth Minister

Mrs. Rosanne Nusca - Office Manager

Ms. Maureen Lawlor - Office Assistant



*Father, You revealed Your Son to the nations  
by the guidance of a star. Lead us to  
Your Glory in Heaven by the Light of Faith.*



**Monday, January 4** at 9:00 a.m.  
Ints. Claire Starr

**Tuesday, January 5** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Bill Southon

**Wednesday, January 6** at 9:00 a.m.  
Ints. Victor Liskauskas

**Thursday, January 7** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Stanley Musial; + Marilyn Grob;  
Ints. Lisa Gaspar; Ints. Mike Tepsich;  
Ints. Myrla & Harm Dewyk

**Friday, January 8** at 9:00 a.m.  
+ Tom Nicholas

**Saturday, January 9** at 5:00 p.m.  
+ Johanna Charlebois; + Anthony Rodrigues;  
+ Ronald LaFontaine; + Lenore Franceschini;  
Ints. Darryll Malley

**Sunday, January 10**  
9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners  
11:00 a.m. + Ruth Donley


**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
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, Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 6,478.00
	Christmas Eve	\$11,755.00
	Christmas Day	\$ 7,435.00
	Sunday, Dec. 27 <sup>th</sup> (including Debt Reduction)	\$ 7,107.00

*Thank you for your continued support of our parish.*

**THANK YOU TO MINISTRIES**

Peace and Joy of new born Christ, who is the face of the merciful Father to you all. On behalf of the pastoral team, we would like to thank all the volunteers who spent a lot of time in making this season of Christmas, a joyful celebration. Thanks to all the Readers, Altar servers, Extra- ordinary Ministers of Communion, all the Choirs, Decorating Committee, Ushers, Hospitality Ministers, and Offertory Counters. A special thanks to all the children and their co-coordinators who took part in the dramatization of the gospel for the Christmas Eve Eucharistic celebration. Each of your contribution has helped all of us to experience the joy of Christ's birth and made it a meaningful celebration for our community. We are indeed a vibrant and joyful community. Let us continue to share this joy with one another.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
THE WORD-MADE-FLESH DWELLS IN  
THE WHOLE WORLD**

A thing or an event in which a god is revealed is called an epiphany. Our Bible tells epiphany stories: it is the great story of God's **quest to be known by the whole world**. God is constantly trying to break through to us, to overcome our limitations **so that everyone can know God**. Those who recognize God in the events of their lives can be called wise, like the gift-bearing men in the gospel. These wise men have read the signs well. With their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, they recognize the child as a king, over whose life the shadow of death is looming. **Those who read God's signs and understand are sent to be epiphanies for all the nations and peoples of the world**. Perhaps this is the only real gift we have to give. *Fr. Frank with thanks to Margaret Bick*

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD  
THE WORD-MADE-FLESH DWELT IN MARY'S WOMB**


In the fullness of time, scripture says, the Word of God became human and dwelt among us: the Word-Made-Flesh: earth was forever joined to heaven. God does not cling to the safety of heaven: **God takes shelter in the womb of young girl**. The child of Bethlehem is the **son of Mary** and the son of God. Mary is presented as a **treasure chest**. She bore within her womb the living Word of God, the bringer of God's salvation. She **ponders in her heart** words spoken of him. There is much naming today. An angel names him: Jesus, "God saves." Mary is named the **mother of God**. God's name is upon us; we are called **God's people**. The Spirit within us cries out, "Father! Father!" We are **God's children**. Because we are children, we are **heirs** – heirs to the treasure of salvation. God has been gracious to us. God has given us peace beyond understanding. Truly God has blessed us. *Fr. Frank with thanks to Margaret Bick*



**THE JUBILEE OF MERCY BANNER**

The scene is captured within the so called **mandorla (the shape of an almond)**, a figure quite important in early and medieval iconography, for it calls to mind the **two natures of Christ, divine and human**. The **three concentric ovals**, with colors progressively lighter as we move outward, suggest the **movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death**. Conversely, the depth of the darker color suggests the impenetrability of the love of the Father who forgives all.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GIFTS**

*Thank You!*  In this season of Joy where we celebrate the coming of Christ, the gift of God to us, we want to thank all of you, for the gift of your presence, as you joined your brothers and sisters in all the celebrations. As God is so generous in sending his own son as a gift to us, a lot of people shared their talents and gifts with our pastoral team. *Thank you for all your gifts to the pastoral team*. Your generosity, appreciation and thoughtfulness means a lot. *Thank you*.

**ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE:** Our collection as of December 27<sup>th</sup> is **\$32,640.00** towards our goal of \$425,000.

**ACCESSIBILITY FUNDRAISER SUGGESTIONS**

As you know by now we will be raising funds for our accessibility project. In order to include all the parishioners in this worthwhile project we would like your ideas as to how we could meet our goal. If you have any interesting and innovating ideas as to how we can raise these funds please call or email the fundraising committee at 905-634-0733, Marlene Cox or [mjc1@sympatico.ca](mailto:mjc1@sympatico.ca)  
Thanking you for your feedback.

**REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP:** As announced at Christmas, St. Raphael Parish will be sponsoring a refugee family in the new year. Our first step in the process is to raise funds to support the family that we will be welcoming and supporting. **To date we have collected \$16,420.00.** Thank you for your very generous donations. We are well on our way to our goal of \$30,000.



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** We will resume our program on **Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>.**



**LADIES COFFEE MORNING:** All ladies are welcome to gather on **Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>,** for coffee and fellowship following the 9 a.m. Mass in the St. Francis Room.



**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)



**ALL MEN ARE INVITED: CATHOLIC MEN FRATERNAL NIGHT** hosted by the Knights' of Columbus at St Raphael Parish. Reason: To Introduce the new pastor and associate

pastor. Date: **Monday January 25, 2016 in the parish centre.** Time: 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Snacks: Pizza, subs, chips with drinks (beer, coffee, pop and water)



**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 on January 2/3

**REMINDER TO CONFIRMATION STUDENTS**

The Rite of Commitment will take place on **Sunday, January 10.** Students of St. Raphael School are asked to attend the 9 a.m. Mass and Students of St. Paul School and the Parish Program are asked to attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

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

**REMINDER:** ST RAPHAEL PARISH, BURLINGTON IS ON FACEBOOK. Be sure to 'LIKE' our page and become a part of St. Raphael's on-line community!



The **St. Vincent de Paul monthly collection** will take place after all masses the week-end of **January 9/10.** For those who would like to use an envelope, they are available in the Parish Gathering area.

**FRIENDSHIP SOUPS:** I would like to take a moment to thank everyone that purchased the Friendship Soup to help out the Youth Ministry and the Bible Camp. Cost to make the soup was \$452.93. \$950.00 was raised (95 jars @ \$10.00 each) minus cost of \$452.93 gives a profit of \$497.07 for the Youth Ministry. Thank you so much!  
*Renata*

**BOOMERANG CARDS:** Card sessions will **resume on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.** Come and join us for an afternoon of fun for only a toonie.

**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)

**HEAL YOUR HEART -** 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.



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