

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

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



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 26 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Helene Robert

Tuesday, December 27 at 9:00 a.m.
+ John Yurincich

Wednesday, December 28 at 9:00 a.m.
Ints. Flavia & George Buttigieg

Thursday, December 29 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Anita Bannan; + Clinton Cox;
Ints. Joan Lawlor; Ints. Pat Ogborn

Friday, December 30 at 9:00 a.m.
+ Clinton Cox

Saturday, December 31 at 5:00 p.m.
+ Jens Friis Touberg; + Julie Mabalay
+ Mary Cruickshank; + Isabella Cali;

Sunday, January 1

9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners

11:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD THE REIGN OF GOD IN A MANGER

We gather throughout the Christmas season to celebrate the Word God. He has stooped to share our humanity in order seal the New Covenant of God's Reign. 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 then **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 humble sovereign Lord who proclaims even there the Reign of God.** 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.

Fr. Frank with thanks to Margaret Bick

Today we sing sweet carols about the Babe of Bethlehem. Although we know that this is the Second Person of the Trinity, the All Powerful One, we also know that he chose to become one of us, totally one of us, even being conceived and carried in a womb and being an infant, toddler, child, teen and young adult before revealing himself to the world at his Baptism by John the Baptist. And so, we focus on his infancy. We tell him in song to "sleep in heavenly peace." We sing of the unexpected joy. *Msgr. Joe Pelligrino*



YOUTH MASS: Please note that our Youth Mass for January is **Saturday, January 7th, 2017.** All are welcome.

EPIPHANY CHILDREN PAGEANT: Rehearsals for the Epiphany enactment for the 9 am and 11 am masses on Jan 8th will be Jan 6th, 5:30-7:30 pm. Please contact Charlie at 905-681-6221 or bcarpenter2@cogeo.ca with your name and contact information.

Please pray for the following:

Isabelle Wild	Molly Laporte	Barbara Kennedy
John Scharer	Nicola Izzi	Maritza Garcia
Mary Berry	Sarah Scharer	Gonzalez
Doug Pudsey	Vincent Stanford	Michael Dowson
Sylvia Gzik	Jim Singer	Milan Heck
Rosy Santos Perez	Catherine Gee	Helen Wepler
John O'Boyle	Elizabeth Talatala	Jane Urquhart
Frances Wentges	Maria Szkitalinski	Laith Yousif
Diane Svazas	Sr Rosalie Siegler	Irene Groves

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.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 18th *please see next bulletin*

PLEASE HAVE ALL DONATIONS FOR 2016 submitted by Thursday, December 29th, 2016 in order to have these amounts included on your 2016 tax receipt. Thank you!

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING AT ST. RAPHAEL PARISH

Please consider participating in the pre-authorized giving plan. Forms can be picked up in the parish entrance. Please contact the office if you require any assistance. The monthly collection for December was \$4,540.00.

2017 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your 2017 Envelopes in the parish entrance, next to the Religious Articles Store. *Please open your box to find a letter from our Pastoral Team and Finance Council.*



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



7TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION

'Nurturing the Nurturer': **Saturday, February 4th, 2017** from 8:45 am to 3:00 pm in St.

Raphael's Parish Centre. Our theme this year will be "*Forgiveness a New Day*". Our keynote speaker will be Miriam Wright and we will enjoy a play by Elisa Lollino. Tickets will go on sale Jan. 14th, 2017. \$30.00 (or \$20.00 for members of St. Raphael's C.W.L.)

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD: During the Christmas Holidays, the Children's Liturgy will take a break and **resume the weekend of January 14/15.** Wishing all our leaders, student helpers and families a joyous Christmas and happy New Year!

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Monday, December 26: Closed
Tuesday, December 27: Closed
December 28 – 30: 9AM – 4PM
Monday, January 2: Closed
Tuesday, January 3: Closed
January 4 – 6: 9AM – 4PM



ST. RAPHAEL EVERGREEN CORNER
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Luke 2:14 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. One expression of this attitude is when we **stop and give thanks to God before and after meals**. I ask all believers to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom. That moment of blessing, however brief, reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of **gratitude for the gifts of creation**; it acknowledges those who by their labours provide us with these goods; and it reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need. Laudato si #227*

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 practise 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! At **our Christmas meal and throughout the Christmas season** as we gather with family and friends, and as we travel out into our community, let us offer **words of appreciation and thanks to all** whom we meet. And let us remember to **thank God our Creator for the gift of Jesus** who came into the world to be God's Presence among us!
May the joy and peace of Christmas fill your heart and your life! Merry Christmas!

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND: March 5 – 14, 2017

(10 days) Under spiritual leadership of **Fr. Francis Salasiar C.S.C.** Tel Aviv, Galilee, Tiberias, Capernaum, Cana, Judea, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Masada. Cost of \$2,349 includes air transportation from Toronto (airport tax not included), hotel accommodation, breakfast and dinner daily, all sightseeing with English speaking guide. For further details pick up a flyer and registration form or contact the parish office at 905-637-2346.

BOTTLE DRIVE UPDATE: The bottle drive will resume the weekend of January 7/8. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:**

We are looking for volunteers to take a weekend for the bottle drive collection and return bottles to the beer store. Please contact Lesley at 905-637-0373 if you can help.



SHIFRA HOMES BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN -

we are proud to announce that our baby bottle drive raised \$9,845.36! We would like to thank our parishioners who supported this Catholic Women's League initiative and Stephen Pustai, a St. Raphael's parishioner, for his effort in securing \$5,000.00 through his business. Your contributions allow Shifra Homes to operate and continue to provide a safe haven for young pregnant homeless women and their babies.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE: It has been one year since Fr. Frank announced that our parish would be sponsoring a refugee family from Syria. On October 5, 2016, we welcomed Marwan, Yasmeen and Mohammad to Burlington, Canada! It has been a very busy, challenging, and rewarding time for the family and the Sponsorship Committee. They are learning to navigate the community by bus and have visited different shopping malls and parks on their own. Marwan and Yasmeen are attending daily English classes and Mohammad is settling into daycare. They are very grateful for all of the assistance they have been given. Thank you for your continued support!

PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH: At Christmas it is easy for children to get so wrapped up in what they want that they forget the reason for the season: the birth of Christ. Jesus came to offer a great sacrifice – his life so our sins could be forgiven. He taught us to look toward others; to feed the hungry, care of the sick and so much more. The greatest gift we can give our children is the ability to look outward towards what others need, as opposed to looking inward to what "I" want. When we teach our children what Christmas really represents and why we celebrate, it helps them know God loves them and to spread his love to others. (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



CHURCHES ON NEW STREET AND LAKESHORE

For the love of God compels us... (John 17: 6-26)

As are Christians all over the world, we are going to take part in the "World Week of Prayer". Save the dates for a beautiful program. **Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017** - We start at CRC - Christian Reform Christian, 3422 New St. at 6 pm. **Jan. 23 till Jan 30**, Monday to Monday (8 days) we will be alternating from church to church (3 or 4 different churches, including St. Raphael) for a short prayer service. Details will follow. Come to as many as you can. For more info, please call Wilma or Frank (905 870 0641)

THANK YOU! The funds received by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for December were \$1655. Thank you for your generosity!

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

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

GIVE THE GIFT OF SWING: The Burlington Knights of Columbus are presenting a tribute to Dean Martin & Ella Fitzgerald with the Toronto all-star big band! **Sunday, January 29, 2017, 2:00 MATINEE** at The Burlington Performing Arts Centre. Come and enjoy a terrific afternoon of Swing with your friends. You can reserve your "GIFT OF SWING" by calling the box office at 905-681-6000. The ticket price is only \$45.

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