

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, December 26th

Saint Stephen, first martyr

9:00 a.m. Nestorio M. Aguila Jr. +

Tuesday, December 27th

Saint John, apostle and evangelist

9:00 a.m. Daniel Farrell +
Sandra Freeman +
Assumption Norhan +
Jackie Persin-Mijic, Spec. Int.

Wednesday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, martyrs

9:00 a.m. Marlo Vanderslot +
John Yurincich +

Thursday, December 29th

9:00 a.m. Nella Smedley +
Marion Dawson +
Norma Morganty +
The Landry Family, Spec. Int.

Friday, December 30th

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

9:00 a.m. Orlando & Rizalina Ramos &
Family, Spec. Int.

Saturday, December 31st

9:00 a.m. Intentions of Celebrant
5:00 p.m. Intentions of Celebrant

Sunday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Intentions of Celebrant
11:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners

Please pray for the following:

Monty Wallace	Bev Butler
Gallina Goreaci	Dorothy & Ken Weegar
Fernando Lopes	Lynne Thurston
Carlos Telo	Don Hughes



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. The Monday Evening Charismatic Prayer Group also prays for those listed above.



OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Sunday, December 18 th	\$ 8,455.93
Envelopes	377
Debt Reduction	\$ 2,107.00

We wish to thank all our faithful contributors!

ORGAN AND BELL DONATIONS

Thank you very much for your generous donations. To date we have received **\$19,575.00** to help defer the \$35,000 expense.



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Rejoice, for our God is among us.

On this feast of the Incarnation, it is good to recall that we are not so much celebrating a new birth of Christ but that He is among us now. We do gather to celebrate this feast at the church but His presence is not limited to only inside these four walls. He came to save all the people, many of whom have never entered a Church. So as we gather, pray together, listen to His Word and receive His most precious Body and Blood, we are being formed into the Body of Christ Who goes forth from these four walls to bring peace, hope, forgiveness to a world longing for Him. Remember the Gift you bring to others and be generous with His love.

*On behalf of the Pastoral Team and Staff of St. Raphael's parish community, I offer our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones during this Christmas Season. **Rejoice, for our God is among us.***

*Friar Maurice, Friar Peter, Friar Reto,
Sister Rosalie, and Cristian*



NEW YEAR'S EVE ADORATION

We invite you to begin the New Year by spending quality time with our Lord in our Adoration Chapel on New Year's Eve. There will be open access to the chapel until midnight. Everyone is welcome.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: The Parish office will be **closed** on Monday, December 26th, Sunday, January 1st and Monday, January 2nd



CHILDREN'S LITURGY PROGRAM: This program will **commence again on January 15th, 2012** at the 9 a.m. Mass.



2012 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your 2012 Envelopes in the parish entrance, next to the St. Anthony Room.

A Special Thank You: The God Squad and SENT groups would like to thank all those who participated in the Family Movie Night last week. Thank you for the food items brought for the food bank. We filled one large basket! We look forward to seeing you at future events!

CHRISTMAS



Boomerang Bridge and Euchre: Boomerang Bridge and Euchre sessions have been suspended for the holiday season. Cards will **resume on Jan 9, 2012.**

SAVE THE DATE: St. Raphael's will host their 2nd Annual **Women's Retreat** on **Saturday, February 4th, 2012.** Registration will begin in January.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CHANGES IN GESTURES AT MASS

Value of gestures: Bodily gestures are an important part of prayer because we pray not just with our lips but with our whole bodies, minds and hearts. It is also important that we remember that we act as one body of worshippers when we come to Mass and observe the gestures offered by the General Instructions for the Liturgy. We have already begun to practice many of the gestures mentioned below and we are doing quite well!

Note: If you're physically incapacitated it is permitted and encouraged to maintain an attitude of reverence with your brothers and sisters as you are able.

New gesture: during the Confiteor (first option) at the Penitential Rite (which is near the beginning of Mass) all strike their breast once at the words: *through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault.*

Reason: it is a bodily prayer that helps us acknowledge our guilt before God and our brothers and sisters in Christ.

New gesture: during the Apostles' Creed, though not mentioned on the card, all bow their heads during the words: *who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary.* **Reason:** we are showing reverence at the mention of the Incarnation of Christ.

New gesture: all stand when the priest says: pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable... **Reason:** We offer our whole selves with the gifts of bread and wine that are offered.

As usual, we kneel after the *Holy Holy* until we stand to pray the *Our Father*.

New gesture: all stand for the *Our Father* and we remain standing through the Lamb of God until returning to our respective pews after we have received the Body and Blood of Christ. **Reason:** we stand together as one body offering our prayer as an acceptable offering to God.

New gesture: approaching the altar for Communion: we make a simple head-bow only once before receiving the precious Body and Blood. **Reason:** The purpose of the bow is to observe a brief moment of personal recollection. To facilitate a smooth flow we recommend that you bow as the person in front of you receives the Eucharist.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS AT CHRIST THE KING CATHEDRAL: CHCH-TV, Hamilton, will broadcast Christmas Midnight Mass live from the Cathedral of Christ the King on December 24 starting with Carols at 11:30 p.m. The Mass will be celebrated by His Excellency, the Most Reverend, Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., D.D., Bishop of Hamilton. The Mass will be repeated on CHTV Channel 11 on Christmas Day at 8:00 a.m.



FAMILY TIP FOR DECEMBER

According to some customs, Advent is a time to reflect on the upcoming celebration of Christmas by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath and to focus each week on a different aspect of the season: hope, peace, joy and love. As a family, take some time after the events of Christmas (Mass, gift-giving, extended family gatherings and a big meal) to quietly reflect on these precious concepts in your own lives. Talk about the hope that our faith provides us in the everyday trials of life; discuss what it means to have true inner peace and our call as Catholics to reconcile our differences with those closest to us; express your joy in being part of your immediate family and tell each person what they mean to you, then remind each other of the joy that comes from being part of God's family; speak to each other of God's deep love for us, exemplified by sending his Son to die for our sins and to unite us with him in eternity, then express how you show love each day to those in your family. Christmas is a time to create moments that draw us together as family; conversations deep in meaning will certainly do just that! (From: Teresa Hartnett, Family Ministry Office, 905-528-7988 ext. 2250)



Come away for a few hours of

prayer....Praying With the Sisters of St.

Joseph: All interested women are invited to join the Sisters of St. Joseph at the Motherhouse at 574 Northcliffe Avenue, Hamilton, on **Saturday, January 14th** from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The day will include Mass, a short talk on prayer, time for reflection and prayer and lunch. Suggested contribution is \$20. Please call 905-528-0138 to register by January 8th.

HABITAT HALTON "GIFT OF HOPE"

With the holiday season upon us many people's thoughts turn to the spirit of giving. We can't think of a better way of giving than a **gift of hope** to a hardworking family in our community. Recently, Habitat Halton has acquired three condominiums which we are renovating to make available for three families in time for the holidays.

By sending in your gift today you can help provide three families with a home for the holidays. With your support, three deserving families will have a decent place to live and experience the joys and rich meaning of home. So please take a moment to call, email or visit our website at www.habitathalton.ca and make a gift today.



BIG BAND CONCERT ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012:

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a "BIG BAND CONCERT" featuring the TORONTO ALLSTAR BIG BAND at the Burlington Performing Arts Centre on Locust Street. Preferred seating can be reserved by going on-line to www.burlingtonpac.ca or by calling the box office at 905-681-6000. They are most willing to assist you in getting your preferred seats. Think of this as the ideal Christmas gift for that person who already has everything. A wonderful night out to listen to some wonderful music from the "SWING ERA".