

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. The Bolt Family, Spec. Int.

**Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Kevin McGlynn +  
Bishop John O'Meara, Spec. Int.  
Sylvia Castellano, Spec. Int.

**Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Saint Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church*  
9:00 a.m. Kevin Zelowsky +

**Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>**

*The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
9:00 a.m. Frank Danzi +  
Jim Hession, Spec. Int.  
Elise Desilva, Spec. Int.  
Issiac Mercurio, Spec. Int.

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. Special Intention

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. DiStefano Family, Spec. Int.  
5:00 p.m. Michael Judd, Spec. Int.

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners  
11:00 a.m. Vincenzo Luppino +

**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, November 27 <sup>th</sup>	\$ 7,417.00
Envelopes	335
Debt Reduction	\$ 1,532.00

*We wish to thank all our faithful contributors!*

**ORGAN AND BELL DONATION**

Thank you very much for your generous donations. To date we have received \$9,040.00 to help defer the \$35,000 expense.



**PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

**ADVENT MESSAGE**



At the beginning of this Church year it's a time of new beginnings: our new Roman Missal and adjustments in the words and postures we use at Mass. These changes would only be superficial if our hearts are not renewed. We encourage families, couples, and individuals to pray around the Advent wreath at your dining table. Please keep in mind our **Advent Reconciliation Service** coming up on **Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. Pray for one another as parishioners so that we can be a witness to God's presence among us in a world that longs to see Him and feel His presence.

**GOOD SHEPHERD GIVING TREE**



Once again, we are asking you to open your hearts and help those less fortunate. You have always been very generous in the past. Please take a slip from the tree, **DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT**. Make someone's Christmas special by showing you care. All gifts must be in by **December 12**. If you have any questions, call Marge at 905-639-1250. Thank you.

**ADVENT BOOKLETS:** You are encouraged to pick up an Advent booklet in the Parish Entrance. There are two booklets available: "*Breakthrough to Joy, Advent Reflections from the Writings of Thomas Merton*" and "*Our Light and Our Salvation, Advent Reflections from the works of Henri Nouwen*". A \$1 donation is suggested



**2011 CHILDREN'S ADVENT PARTY**

Thank you to all those who helped make this year's Children's Advent Party fun for all! Thank you also to everyone who brought in food items for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank.



**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT**

On Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, at the 6 p.m. Mass, we are having a little Christmas pageant. If you would like your child to participate please sign the permission form, available in the St. Anthony Room or contact Charlotte at [bcarpenter2@coqeco.ca](mailto:bcarpenter2@coqeco.ca) or call 905-681-6221. All are welcome and any help gratefully accepted.



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

**FRANCISCAN MINISTRIES CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Christmas cards are being sold at the Welcome Desk. All proceeds are in support of St. Clare Inn, where homeless women find care, shelter and an opportunity to rebuild their lives ([www.stclareinn.com](http://www.stclareinn.com)). Cost: \$2/card or \$15 for 10 cards and \$25 for 20 cards. One design – original painting by Mary Edwards depicting the Holy Family approaching St. Clare Inn.

**Boomerang Bridge and Euchre sessions** are held on **Monday afternoons at 1:00 p.m.** in the Parish Centre. Come and join us for an afternoon of fun for only a loonie.



## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

#### Charismatic Prayer Group

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 p.m., St. Francis Rm.

#### Men's Group

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., Hearth Rm.

#### Photo Directory Meeting

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:15 p.m., Hearth Rm.

#### St. Vincent de Paul Meeting

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m., St. Francis Rm.

#### GOD Squad Meeting

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Parish Centre

#### Parish Pastoral Council

Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:45 p.m., Hearth Rm.



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS:** Anyone wishing to bring in a Poinsettia plant or flowers in memory of a loved one, may do so during the week before Christmas until Thursday, Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Decoration Group will arrange these for our Christmas celebrations.

### DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



We, the Knights of Columbus, wish to thank St. Raphael's parishioners for their generosity in purchasing C.L.C. Christmas fruit cakes. As a result of your generosity \$775 will be given to this worthwhile Pro-Life Organisation. We thank you.



#### Dofasco Festival of Christmas Carols

featuring the Dofasco Male Chorus & the Dofasco Ladies Choral Ensemble on

**Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. St.

Thomas Parish, 715 Centre Rd, Waterdown. \$12 each. Call 905-689-4857 or chorus member Tom Olds at 905-637-3573 to purchase your tickets.

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



#### CWL SIGN-UP SUNDAY DECEMBER 3/4

You have probably seen these women in action in our parish, but it is time to discover who they really are. Since 1920, this organization of close to 100,000 women have been praying together, doing charitable works, marching in defence of life, and fighting for issues of concern for all Canadians. Above all, they have been holding each other's hand in the journey of life and faith. CWL members will be in the Welcoming Area of the Church after all Masses to answer your questions. **Reminder to all 106 CWL members to renew your membership - new fee = \$23.00 for 2012.** Please contact Helen at 905-634-7481 for further information.



The **St. Vincent de Paul** monthly collection will take place after all masses next weekend, **December 10/11**. For those who would like to use an envelope, they are available in the Parish Gathering area.

#### ADVENT REFLECTION FOR OUR TEEN YOUTH

**Virus Alert:** ADVENT VIRUS. Be on the alert for symptoms of inner HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND LOVE. Some signs and symptoms of THE ADVENT VIRUS:

- A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- A loss of interest in judging other people.
- A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- A loss of interest in conflict.
- A loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom)
- Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- Frequent attacks of smiling.
- An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- An increased susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

Please send this "warning" out to all your friends, this "virus" can and has affected many systems. Some systems have been completely cleaned out because of it.

**Advent Retreat at the Cathedral of Christ the King**  
The Catholic Women's League at the Cathedral of Christ the King (Hamilton) is hosting an Advent Retreat in its Auditorium on **Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm. Most Reverend Douglas D. Crosby, Bishop of Hamilton, will be our guest speaker. The topic of his talk will be **'Journeying with Mary through Advent'**. Everyone – men, women and children alike – are invited to attend. Light refreshments will follow a 'question & answer' period after the Bishop's talk. If you require further information, please contact Georgina Minnes at [cwl\\_ctk@yahoo.ca](mailto:cwl_ctk@yahoo.ca) or the parish office at 905-522-5744.

#### SIXTH ANNUAL WHITE MASS

What is a **WHITE MASS**? It is a celebration of Holy Mass where we gather to pray for Health Care Professionals, Pastoral Care Workers, Clergy, Religious Counsellors and caregivers. This annual event is sponsored by the Association of Christian Therapists. Our lives have all been touched by those in healthcare, so please join us for the sixth annual WHITE MASS which will be celebrated by Rev. Andrew Lopatniuk, chaplain of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, on **Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.** at Sacred Heart Church, 19 Viewpoint Ave., Hamilton. Everyone is welcome.

**CHRISTMAS CABBAGE ROLLS SALE:** Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish, Hamilton is having a CABBAGE ROLLS SALE **December 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>** from 10 am – 5 p.m. Homemade cabbage rolls - \$15/dozen. ADVANCE ORDERS ONLY until Dec. 6th! To order: 905-529-6674 or [cabbagerolls@slovakchurch.com](mailto:cabbagerolls@slovakchurch.com).

**20th Annual Christmas Concert for Children in Need: Three Cantors in Concert, Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30 p.m. at The Parish Church of St Luke, 1371 Elgin Street, Burlington. These three Anglican priests blend their voices to bring us the sounds of the season and to benefit the children in need in our community and beyond. Tickets \$20 by calling 905-681-6097 or at Different Drummer Book Store