

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, November 28th

9:00 a.m. Mico Poliziani +

Tuesday, November 29th

9:00 a.m. Murray Mogan +
Don Hodgson +
Mary Hallam +
Mary & Reno Colero +

Wednesday, November 30th

Saint Andrew, apostle

9:00 a.m. Nevis, Enzo & Alfred Dorigo +

Thursday, December 1st

9:00 a.m. Christian Nusca +
Margaret Koritko, Spec. Int.
Sylvia & Ed Castellano, Spec. Int.
Flavia & George Buttigieg +

Friday, December 2nd

9:00 a.m. Deceased Members & Benefactors
Franciscan Order

Saturday, December 3rd

Saint Francis Xavier, priest

9:00 a.m. Vocations
5:00 p.m. Joyce & Angelo Carlin +

Sunday, December 4th

9:00 a.m. For Our Parishioners
11:00 a.m. Audrey & Jim McConnachie +

Please pray for the following:

Monty Wallace	Bev Butler
Gallina Goreaci	Dorothy & Ken Weegar
Fernando Lopes	Lynne Thurston
Carlos Telo	Jean C.



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 20th \$ 9,942.50
Envelopes 369

We wish to thank all our faithful contributors!

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.



PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



CHILDREN'S ADVENT PARTY

All young children and grandchildren of our parish (up to grade 3) are invited to celebrate the Advent Season at St.

Raphael's **this Sunday, Nov. 27th, the first Sunday of Advent, from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** in the Parish Centre. Activities include: face painting, Advent crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, making Christmas cards, musical chairs and other fun games! *Children are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the St. Vincent de Paul food bank.*

A Children's Prayer for Advent

*At the beginning of Advent,
How dark outside! But see a star is in the sky;
Mary and Joseph are passing by.
So let's light a candle to welcome them
As they go on their way to Bethlehem.
We'll light a candle in Church each day,
We'll light one candle each week and pray.*

*Prayer while lighting the Advent candle;
O God, as light comes from this candle,
May the blessing of Jesus Christ come to us,
Warming our hearts and brightening our way.
May Christ our Saviour bring life into this world, and to us,
as we wait for his coming. Amen.*



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



CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

On Dec. 24th, 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@cogeco.ca or call 905-681-6221. All are welcome and any help gratefully accepted.



THANK YOU to all parishioners who donated to the Shifra House Baby Bottle campaign. They are still adding up your "change for change" contributions.

We hope to have a final count within the next few weeks. Also, thanks to the CWL members who gave of their time.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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). 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.



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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Women's Retreat Planning Committee

Sunday, November 27th, 12 noon, St. Francis Rm.

Charismatic Prayer Group

Monday, November 28th, 7:15 p.m., St. Francis Rm.

Men's Group

Monday, November 28th, 7:30 p.m., Hearth Rm.

GOD Squad Meeting

Wednesday, November 30th, 6:30 p.m., Parish Centre

Knitters Group

Wednesday, November 30th, 9:30 a.m., Parish Centre

Finance Council Meeting

Wednesday, November 30th, 7:00 p.m., Hearth Rm.

Decoration Group Meeting

Thursday, December 1st, 7:30 p.m., Hearth Rm.

MASSES FOR THE DECEASED

From the very beginning, the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers for them, above all, the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, purified, they may have the beatific vision of God. Indeed, St. Ambrose preached: "We have loved them during life; let us not abandon them in death, until we have conducted them by our prayers into the house of the Lord."

It remains the custom of Catholics, on the occasion of death, to request that a Mass be offered for the deceased. Although there is no cost for such a request, the usual offering made to the parish in the Hamilton Diocese is \$10. The presentation of a Mass card to the bereaved is one of the most beautiful expressions of sympathy we can offer to those who mourn. It is also a powerful expression of our faith in the Lord's promise of eternal life and a loving gift to the faithful departed. A Mass for the deceased may be requested at any time and is a fitting way to remember our brothers and sisters who have gone before us on the anniversary of their death and on other special occasions.

DIOCESAN/COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS



PARENTING TIP OF THE MONTH

Our children are healthier and happier when their emotional, physical, intellectual and social needs are looked after. Add to this list one more essential need that requires care - a child's spiritual well-being. A relationship with God is as essential to their welfare as water. Pray together, attend Mass as a family, share readings from the Bible, talk about the awe of God's creation and remind them that God is always present. His love will guide them and be a source of comfort as they grow.

Coping with the Holidays...when you have lost a loved one.

Join us for an afternoon of reflection and strategies for coping, facilitated by Christina Walton, Grief Counsellor. *Where?* The Chancery Office, 700 King St. W, Hamilton *When?* **Saturday, December 3rd** *Time?* 2:00 – 3:30 pm. The event is FREE of charge but please contact the Family Ministry Office (905) 528-7988, ext. 2249 to reserve your seat.

"A Concert of Christmas Music" presented by St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Burlington Adult Choir on **Sunday, December 4th** at 2:30 p.m. Joined by St. Andrew's Catholic Church of Oakville. Admission: free will monetary offering in support of the Good Shepherd.



Dofasco Festival of Christmas Carols

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

Monday, December 5th 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.

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 8th** 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_ckt@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.