

ST RAPHAEL PARISH COMMUNITY

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Served by the Holy Cross Fathers

Fr. Wilson Andrade C.S.C. - Pastor


Fr. Emmanuel Ralte C.S.C. - Associate Pastor

Catherine Osborne - Office Administrator

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.*

Mass Intentions 

(† = Deceased Intention; No Marking = Intentions of...;
Thx = Thanksgiving; Hlg = Healing)

Mon. Jan 6, 9am	† Prof. Liam Kirwan
Tue. Jan 7, 5pm	Jane McMahon
Wed. Jan 8, 9am	Thx. Harm & Myrla Dewyk
Thu. Jan 9, 9am	Huguette Galante
† Clinton Cox	† Dion Alampi
† Phillip Catalano	† Bertha Fonseca
Fri Jan 10, 9am	† Giovanni Marcantonio
Sat Jan 11, 5pm	Zenaida D. Salzar
John Alexander	Hlg. Darcy, Joe, Marie Nolan & Lee Olds
† Flora Pascucci	† Jessifiel Nituda
Sun. Jan 12, 9am	For Our Parishioners
Sun. Jan 12, 11am	† Rosa Coimbra

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

December 22, 2024

Envelopes (130) \$5,982
Loose \$929

Thank you for your generous support

2025 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Please pick up your box of 2025 donation envelopes in the parish lobby. Please note, to reduce waste many envelope numbers have changed for the coming year. Please do not begin using the 2025 envelopes the new year and **please do not use any envelopes from previous years for your donations.** For assistance, please contact the office.

FESTIVAL OF FAMILIES DINNER & DANCE: On **December 31**, on the eve of the feast of Mary the Mother of God, we invite you for a Family Dinner and Dance to celebrate our faith in our Christian Family. Mass at 5pm followed by a Dinner and Dance in the Parish Centre at 6:30pm. Tickets, \$40 per adult, \$20 per child, are available at the back of the church after the weekend masses.

PARISH REGISTRATION: If you haven't yet registered in our parish, or need to update your information, please pick up and complete a registration form in the parish lobby.

RENOVATION FUND COLLECTION: We would like to encourage everyone to support our Renovation Funds, please use the yellow envelopes to donate towards the HVAC funds

2025 - A JUBILEE YEAR: In 2025 the universal Church will celebrate a **Jubilee Year** – a year of renewal in faith. The theme of the year established by Pope Francis is "*Pilgrims of Hope.*" Pope Francis has asked that the preparation for the Jubilee be marked in a particular way by rediscovering the teachings of Vatican II, in particular the four Constitutions, and by prayer. A five-part video series has been developed for use in the Diocese of Hamilton to explore the history and the four main documents of Vatican II. All resources and study guides are available free for digital use here: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/vatican-ii/>

SEEKING ADDITIONAL HOME EUCHARIST MINISTERS: Are you looking for a meaningful way to serve our parish community? We are currently in need of compassionate volunteers to join our team of Home Eucharist Ministers.

Role: Home Eucharist Minister

Purpose: To bring the Holy Eucharist to those who are homebound, ill, or unable to attend Mass.

Requirements:

- A deep commitment to the Eucharist and the teachings of the Catholic Church
- A caring and compassionate heart
- Completion of a brief training session

Responsibilities:

- Visiting parishioners in their homes or care facilities
- Offering prayer and the Eucharist to those in need
- Being a comforting presence and a link to our parish community

Training Provided: Yes

If you feel called to this vital ministry or would like more information, please contact John Fauteux at 905.635.2586 or tjfauteux@me.com

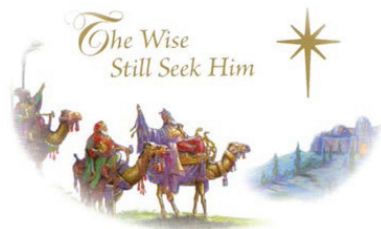
Your service can make a profound difference in the lives of our homebound parishioners. **Join us in this beautiful ministry of compassion and faith.** Thank you and God bless!

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING: Thank you for your generous support of our parish community. Please consider making your regular contributions to support the ongoing expenses for the Church and the many Ministries, through automatic bank withdrawal. Please find Pre-Authorized Giving Plan Forms in the parish lobby. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the parish office. If you are already enrolled in our Pre-authorized Giving Plan, and would like to increase your donations please fill out a new form and check off the change to monthly donation box.

NEW MISSALS: are available to pick up at the entrance. The suggested donation is \$5:00. Thank you for your support.

“We are God’s Family”

Reflections by Rev. Wilson Andrade, CSC



Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The term epiphany comes from the Greek term *epiphaneia*, which means “*manifestation*,

striking appearance.” For us it is to say that God manifested or appeared in Jesus Christ. This feast is powerfully symbolized in the ‘*arrival of the three wise men who offered gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.*’ That is to proclaim the child born to Mary in Bethlehem is the ‘*long awaited Messiah and King.*’

We know and experience creation, especially our surrounding nature, as an Epiphany of God. Creation reveals God’s presence. Great mystics of our times have said that the *world is charged with God* (Gerard Hopkins) and saw *creation as the Divine milieu* (Teilhard de Chardin). We realize that we are created *in the image and likeness of God*, so we reveal God’s presence. We belong to God and we are an *epiphaneia* – a *striking image* of God. In the Scriptures, especially, St. John often refers to each one of us as God’s Children. We belong to God and truly the family of God. Do we live like God’s Children? That question each one of us has to answer before God. So, let’s live as the children of God, accepting everyone as our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

Today, God becoming one like us in Jesus Christ helps us to deepen our awareness of God’s presence. As Christ fully revealed God’s presence, we, baptized Christians, *are called to reveal and proclaim the presence of Christ to all.* May the feast of the Epiphany deepen our awareness of God’s presence in this world. We may become God’s instruments of love, peace and joy to everyone in this world. *O’ Come Let us adore Christ our Lord.*

In the Huron Christmas Song: **T’was in the Moon of Wintertime** (written in 1642 by Jean de Brebeuf) the Magi are portrayed as “Chiefs from afar” who bring Jesus “fox and beaver pelts.” What gifts are you bringing to honor Jesus, Our Lord?



PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS: Please join this small group every Friday, after the 9am Mass, in the St. Anthony Room. We pray the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet for the intentions of our priests and vocations to the priesthood. For more information contact Sylvia at 905-632-4862.

RESTART: Refresh, Renew, Revive Friday Night Support Group Struggling after divorce or separation? Join us for learning, support and fun on Friday evenings. Held the 2nd & 3rd Fridays of each month, these get-togethers offer continual support and insights for people as they journey through the divorce/separation process and beyond. Join in-person (700 King St. West, Hamilton), or by ZOOM. Register before each session: <https://sites.google.com/view/hamilton-restart/home>, or contact Sarah at familyministry@hamiltondiocese.com, or 905-528-7988 ext. 2249.

THE REEL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL: is excited to release our dates for the 2025 season. Our films this year focus on hope and the personal stories that give voice to those that often go unheard. Themes include women’s empowerment, refugees, youth, Indigenous justice, and environmental care. We start the season on **January 23, 2025**, with *She Rises Up*, a revealing look at the power of women’s economic participation. The film follows radically different women from Sri Lanka, Peru, and Senegal who are fighting to build businesses, create job opportunities for women, and contribute to the reduction of poverty in their communities. Film Director, Maureen Castle Tusty and Executive Producer James Tusty will join us as guest speakers. In 2008, they founded Sky Films Inc. to produce documentary films that inform, uplift, and inspire. The Reel Justice Film Festival is a partnership between the Bishop Farrell Library & Archives and Development and Peace. Film screenings are shown online, once a month from January to May. You can view our full film lineup at: <https://hamiltondiocese.com/reel-justice-film-festival/> We hope you can join us!

STRUGGLING MARRIAGE? FIND HOPE WITH RETROUVAILLE Does your marriage feel like it is more trouble than joy? Does it feel stagnant or disconnected? Is it causing you constant stress? The solution is Retrouvaille – a program designed to help couples restore their marriage and rebuild a loving relationship. This practical program, where sharing is not required except between the couple themselves, is designed to improve communication, build stronger marriages, and help couples reconnect. It has proven positive results for struggling couples, including those who may be considering separation or divorce. For more information call 905-664-5212 or email 1013r@helpourmarriage.org.

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*SOURCE: RMR-B MLS DATA CUMULATIVE FOR YEARS 2005 TO 2017 FOR PENDING & CLOSED PROPERTIES OLD. **FOR ROYAL LEPAGE CANADA 2010-2015 ***FOR ROYAL LEPAGE CANADA 2013-2015

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