



Saint Dominic Parish Newsletter / Bulletin
CHRISTMAS and FEAST of the HOLY FAMILY – December 2020

*God so loved the world
He sent His only Son
To redeem us.*



Christmas at Saint Dominic Parish

Prior to Ontario's shutdown, seven Christmas Masses were celebrated at Saint Dominic Parish. Beginning with a late afternoon Mass reserved for seniors and those with compromised immunity, two additional Masses were read prior to the popular midnight celebration. This was followed the next morning with three Christmas Day Masses. All attendees had reserved in advance for these Masses. Unfortunately, winter weather conditions and illness prevented many who had registered from attending.

The church was magnificent. New lighting on the cove garlands, plus artist candle lanterns, festive arrangements and poinsettias were spectacular. THANK YOU decorators!

Church Currently Closed

Effective Boxing Day, December 26, Saint Dominic Church, along with all parishes in the Hamilton Diocese, will remain closed for the duration of the current Ontario lockdown.

The Parish Office is closed until January 5 when it will be open for emergencies only.

R.C.I.A., Conquest and Challenge plus all other meetings are cancelled until further notice.

No public Masses will be celebrated at St. Dominic Church during the lockdown.

However, a St. Dominic Mass will be broadcast at 10 a.m. each Sunday as well as New Year's Day, January 1. The Mass will be broadcast from our website

<https://saintdominic.ca/>



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Congratulations Father Ranjan
19th Anniversary of Ordination

Our pastor for the last years, Fr. Ranjan D'Sa OCD was born in Mangalore – on the western coast of India, to the south of Goa – on March 1, 1973, the youngest of seven children.



The D'Sa family. Fr. Ranjan holding his nephew.

Though born in Mangalore, Fr. Ranjan's ancestry is connected to Mudubelle, in short "Belle". The rise and growth of this town and its parish is intricately connected with the D'Sa family. According to the family annals, the Great-Grandfather of Fr. Ranjan D'Sa, Alex D'Sa, after migrating to a small village opened the first provision store in the village, later a textile and tailoring shop and eventually, a bakery. This was the humble beginning of what today is a flourishing town.

For the sake of a few villagers, Alex D'sa built a small Chapel and encouraged Catholic faith amidst the strong Hindu neighborhood. Today Mudubelle has become one of the biggest parish communities in the diocese of Udupi.



Photo above - Kiremchurch

Fr. Ranjan grew up mostly in Kirem, Mangalore, where he lived with his Grandmother and did all his early studies. His Grandma, Louisa Aranha, was his hero. She was a well-educated, industrious woman who was well known and respected in this town. Most of Fr. Ranjan's fond memories of early childhood are associated with his grandma. She remains a great inspiration to him.



After completing high school, Father D'Sa joined the Carmelite monastic life in Mangalore. After almost 13 years of studying in the seminary and experiencing the monastic lifestyle, Ranjan D'Sa was ordained a priest on December 29th, 2001 in his

hometown. He holds a Master's Degree in philosophy, from Karnataka University of Dharward, one of the most acclaimed universities of India. Soon after his ordination, Fr. Ranjan taught philosophy to the young seminarians for three years. He was the first director of the Pushpashrama social work institute in Mysore, run by the Carmelites and the director of candidates who wished to join Carmelite religious life.



Before coming to Canada, Fr. D'Sa lived in New York for four years. During that time, he earned another Master's Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Fordham University. Upon arrival in Canada, he served as an Assistant Pastor in Holy Trinity Parish, North Vancouver for a year. From October 2010 until he came to Oakville, father served as a Pastor at St. Andrew the Apostle parish in London Ontario.

Fr. Ranjan belongs to a religious Order whose members take solemn vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. He states that the main charism of his Order of the Discalced Carmelites is prayer and contemplation. A lot of great saints of the church are connected to or influenced by the spirituality of Carmel. The Order has its members in almost 75 countries. The Carmelite Sisters at St. Agatha, Ontario – near Kitchener, belong to the same order of Carmelites.



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Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Brother of Rod Rafauli, Sam Rafauli who passed away Christmas Eve at Joseph Brant Hospital after an extended illness.

FOOD DONATIONS

Christmas is past, but many in our area continue to need the basic necessities due to job losses and layoffs. Please remember to share your bounty with those who are struggling to keep food on the table.

Donations of food or money will be gratefully appreciated by the Oakville Food Bank. Check out the most urgently required items at <https://oakvillefoodbank.com/needed-items/>

MARRIAGE TIP OF THE MONTH

At the heart of every person is a desire to be known and loved for who we are. We fall in love with someone and then spend extraordinary energy and time on learning about the person. Once we marry, we can forget to keep on discovering who the person we love is becoming – because each of us is always becoming. Time and circumstance constantly change and as a result, the person changes. When the one we love stays interested in who we are, we feel secure, cared-for and loved. So spend some time asking about likes and dislikes, what bothers your spouse and what brings them joy, what is the one thing they would like to do if there were no limitations, what their favourite food is – the possibilities are endless and so is the benefit to your relationship! Make your Christmas gifts this year time and attention!

The newsletter is posted weekly on our website. Please email submissions, requests and/or suggestions to: office@saintdominic.ca

SAINT DOMINIC PARISH

2415 Rebecca Street, Oakville, ON L6L 2B1

Telephone: 905 827 2373 Fax: 905 827 6055

Website www.saintdominic.ca

Pastor: Reverend Ranjan D'Sa rdsa@hamiltondiocese.com

Pastoral Associate/Youth Minister: Michael Aguiar

michael@saintdominic.ca

Deacon: Rev. Mr. Terry Murphy

Parish Accountant: Mr. Brian Thornton

Secretary: Mrs. Donna O'Donnell

Custodian: Mr. Peter Coffey

Sacristan: Mrs. Judi Kingry

Parish Office Hours: Closed until January 5th

Mass schedule: Sundays at 10:00 a.m. - streamed online at saintdominic.ca ; also Friday, Jan. 01 at 10:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 4-4:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Baptism The sacrament of Baptism is usually celebrated once monthly after the 11 a.m. Mass. Preparation is provided. Kindly contact the Parish Office at least two months before the desired date.

Sacrament of Marriage Please contact the parish office **one year** before the desired date.