



December 25th, 2021

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ



BISHOP OF HAMILTON

Christmas 2021

My dear friends,

*“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:
those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shone!” Is. 9.2*

The fact that we are now dealing with the Omicron variant of the pernicious COVID-19 virus is discouraging indeed. We have worked so hard to do what we can to “manage” the pandemic protocols, but the daily bad news of increased infections, after we thought we were getting ahead of things, makes it difficult to remain positive.

The scripture passages given to us by the Church in the daily readings during the Christmas season remind us over and over again that we are a people of HOPE – darkness does not overwhelm us. The powerful recounting of the Christmas story lifts us up out of darkness, sadness, and sorrow, and reminds us that God has given us a Saviour who is Christ the Lord. This announcement gladdens us and reassures us that the Lord is with us – especially in the darkest of nights. It is the blessing of Christmas!

*May the God of infinite goodness,
who by the Incarnation of his Son has driven darkness from the world
and by that glorious Birth has illumined this most holy night,
drive far from you the darkness of death
and illumine your hearts with the light of life!*

(From the solemn blessing of Midnight Mass)

Merry Christmas! Enjoy the season.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI
(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton.

/cd

***Let us offer our prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving to
God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
for walking with his people in this difficult year that is ending,
and let us place in his powerful hands some of the Highlights of 2021 in our Parish:***

The lockdown at the beginning of the year gave pace to the Compassionate Care Ministry. It was born by suggestions and with the support of the Diocese, with the purpose of helping people understand that Jesus is truly present to them here and now, walking the path of discipleship along with them. Let's pray for the group of parishioners who stepped forward to bring Jesus to those brothers and sisters who need support.

Our parish was present to the Mexican Workers since they arrived. One of them, Jose Antonio, passed away and some parishioners were part of a successful fund-raising effort to help his family. We continued to support the workers with meals every few weeks, with the help of One Heart One Soul funds from the Diocese, and the cooperation of some other churches in Saugeen Shores.

The continued success of the One Heart One Soul Campaign has allowed us to upgrade and enhance the technology in St. Joseph Church, with sights on live-streaming, which is to start soon.

A dispensation from the Vatican came to the People of God, due to the dangers of the Pandemic. Still, cautiously, St. Joseph Parish offered two weekend Masses with limited capacity, but a pre-recorded Mass was available on our website.

We welcomed 24 new members of the Body of Christ, baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

31 Grade 2 & 3 students received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion during the month of September.

20 students Grade 7 & 8 were confirmed in their faith on September 30th & October 1st.

A huge thank you goes to our Liturgical Volunteers, greeters, ushers, lectors and cleaners who make it possible to have a live Mass on the weekends, and on Wednesdays. Gratefulness is extended to the Webmaster Volunteer who keeps the website updated.

We all were touched this year by Sister Death. Here in the area, Fr. Chris celebrated 3 private funerals at the church, 4 at the funeral homes, and one at the graveside. Many are still waiting for better times to be able to celebrate the life of their loved ones with family and friends.

Our data system shows 573 families registered, with 1487 members. Please help us keep our system updated, by informing the parish office when you move away, or any other change in your family.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the First Mass at St. Joseph Church, our Pastoral Council brought the initiative of a Time Capsule, which will soon be sealed, with the hope that future generations will see the seeds we sowed for the Kingdom.

***As we look forward in hope for a new year, we wish you all a
"Merry Christmas and a Blessed 2022"***



SAINT JOSEPH PARISH

920 Wellington Street
 Port Elgin, Ontario N0H 2C3
 519-832-2202 - Website: www.stjospar.com

New Email Address:

stjosephportelgin@hamiltondiocese.com

Visit our Facebook page facebook.com/St-Josephs Parish



St. Patrick Church

Location: 36 Albert St. S.
 (Highway 21), Southampton, ON

St. Joseph Church

Location: 920 Wellington St.,
 Port Elgin, ON

<p><u>Parish Staff</u> Pastor: Rev. Fr. Christopher Tracey Administrator: Rosalie Scarlett Secretary/Receptionist: Gloria Villamil</p> <p><u>Parish Office Hours:</u> Tuesday to Friday 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM</p>	<p>WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday – 5:00 PM Sunday – 9:00 AM <i>* During Pandemic, only priest and lector visible in recorded Mass.</i></p> <p>WEEKDAY MASS: Wednesdays – 9:30 AM – .</p>
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Mass Intentions Christmas Time

Request by Email at stjosephportelgin@hamiltondiocese.com, regular mail, phone 519-832-2202, Sunday collection or rectory letter box. Please provide your name, name(s) for Intentions (identify living or deceased), and if a Mass card is required. Please enclose cash or cheque in an envelope. Cost is \$10 per intention.

[Date: + Deceased or * Intention / Clergy, Hamilton Diocese]

Feast of the Holy Family 26-Dec-21	Sun	*	Parish & Pandemic Front-Line Workers	Feast of the Holy Family
27-Dec-21	Mon	*	Pastor's Intentions	Very Rev. Msgr. Murray Kroetsch
28-Dec-21	Tue	+	Argia Brunato	Rev. Francisco Cruz
29-Dec-21	Wed	*	Jerry Murray & Family	Sisters of St. Anne (s.s.a.)
30-Dec-21	Thu	+	John Kischuck	Rev. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.
31-Dec-21	Fri	*	People of the Parish	Rev. Melvin Pinto, O.C.D.
1-Jan-22	Sat	*	Joe & Mairead Keely	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God
Epiphany of the Lord 2-Jan-22	Sun	*	Parish & Pandemic Front-Line Workers	The Epiphany of the Lord
3-Jan-22	Mon	*	Pastor's Intentions	Most Rev. Douglas Crosby, O.M.I.
4-Jan-22	Tue		No Mass Scheduled	Rev. Vivek Trindade
5-Jan-22	Wed		No Mass Scheduled	Diocesan Priests
6-Jan-22	Thu		No Mass Scheduled	Rev. Murray McDermott, C.R.
7-Jan-22	Fri		No Mass Scheduled	Rev. Stanley Zaryczny, C.R.
8-Jan-22	Sat	*	Brenda Murray	Rev. Raphael Ma, C.R.
Baptism of the Lord 9-Jan-22	Sun	*	Parish & Pandemic Front-Line Workers	The Baptism of the Lord