



CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS FROM THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA will be broadcast again this year. The Mass will be preceded by a Carol Service beginning at 11:30 p.m. Both the Mass and the Carol Service will be broadcast by Salt + Light Media and shared with CHCH TV. Due to COVID restrictions, all seating for Midnight Mass has already been reserved. Join us for the broadcast and share in the joy of this Christmas feast!

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church (8 December 2020), Pope Francis wrote an Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde* (“With A Father’s Heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as “*the son of Joseph*”). Pope Francis dedicated the year from December 8, 2020, to December 8, 2021, to St. Joseph. “The aim of this Apostolic Letter is to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his virtues and his zeal.”

SEMINARIAN PETER ROBINSON WILL BE ORDAINED A DEACON at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish, Stoney Creek, on Tuesday, December 15th. He benefits from the Pastoral Provision offered former Anglican clergy who wish to become Catholic. After five years of study and pastoral preparation the Congregation for Doctrine of the Faith gave the green light for his ordination. It is foreseen that he will be ordained a Priest in May, 2021. We offer prayers that his ministry in the Diocese of Hamilton will be richly blessed!

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE on December 12th, Patroness of the Americas, has been selected by the Canadian Catholic Indigenous Council to be a National Day of Prayer in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples. All are invited to join their Indigenous sisters and brothers in a special way this day through prayer and acts of solidarity. The Council published a [message](#) for our reflection.

THE CATHOLIC CEMETERIES CHRISTMAS GATHERING takes place this afternoon – virtually. In order to assure that everyone is safe, the ZOOM gathering will provide an occasion to thank our cemetery staff for a job well-done over the past year. The pandemic has placed added stress on already hard working personnel. I look forward to the opportunity to offer my profound gratitude for their important ministry – burying the dead, and caring for those who mourn!

THE ST. JOSEPH HEALTH SYSTEM BOARD OF DIRECTORS meet virtually to hold their final meeting of 2020 next week. The meeting is followed by the annual meeting of the Public Juridic Person, the Catholic Sponsor of the System. The Board has been attentive to the reports from the various health care institutions in the System, especially during this time of pandemic. We pray for the healthcare professionals who serve in our institutions – especially during these dangerous times!

THE FILIPINO SIMBANG GABI MASS will be celebrated at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Hamilton, next Thursday evening. I have been invited by Father Arpee Urquico, Parish Administrator, to preside at the Mass which is a pre-Christmas Filipino celebration. I look forward to experiencing the tradition!

THE ONE HEART ONE SOUL CAMPAIGN continues to receive donations from parishioners who want to support their Parishes and Diocese. As the second wave reaches 75% of its goal, the third wave is gearing up to begin in the New Year. Even in the middle of a pandemic, we are grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity the campaign has engendered in our Parishes.

St. Joseph, pray for us!

Ex corde, *Fr. Douglas*, OMI