

DIOCESE OF ST. CATHARINES

DIOCESAN UPDATE

December 11, 2020



BISHOP'S PUBLIC EVENTS

Friday, December 11	Mass, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Alfred, St. Catharines
Saturday, December 12	Virtual Advent Retreat for Catholic Women
Sunday, December 13	Mass, Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines
Monday, December 14	Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario (ACBO) Executive Committee Meeting, Virtual

FROM THE BISHOP'S DESK

- On December 8, 2020, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" (With a Father's Heart) to mark the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being named the Patron Saint of the Universal Church. He established a 'Year of St. Joseph' in order to celebrate this anniversary. The Vatican News article that I read states that in the letter the Holy Father describes this great saint as a beloved Father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows who always focuses on Mary and Jesus. This Year of St. Joseph is a gift to the Church during these difficult days. The Holy Father writes that it is his hope that, "Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," St. Joseph provides an excellent role model for us, especially for husbands and fathers. He ended his Apostolic Letter with a prayer: "**Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.**" I ask that you make this prayer known to your parishioners. The Holy Father has also granted certain indulgences to mark the year. I have included a link to an article that provides a list prayers and actions. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/fifteen-ways-to-gain-an-indulgence-in-the-year-of-st-joseph-81304>
- As we enter the final week of Advent and begin our immediate preparations for Christmas, I know that this can be a very busy time and, thanks to Covid-19, also a stressful time. It is my hope and prayer that you will be able to spend some quiet time to prayerfully ponder the significance and beauty of this feast. In doing so, you will not only deepen your relationship with our Lord, but you will also be more effective in touching the minds and hearts of others, especially those who join us for our Christmas Masses.
- I am very pleased to announce that the 89th annual broadcast of Midnight Mass from the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria will be available on Newstalk 610 CKTB at 11:30pm and at www.610ctb.com. Please make this information available to your parishioners.

- On December 8, 2020, the Apostolic Nunciature to Canada announced that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend Luigi Bonazzi, currently Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, as Apostolic Nuncio to Albania, hence concluding his mission in Canada.
- I am pleased to inform all priests that you will receive a .7% increase in salary beginning January 2021. This increase is in recognition of the recent rise in the Canadian Consumer Price Index.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- In a recent memo sent to all principals by Mr. Camillo Cipriano, Director of Education for the Niagara Catholic District School Board, he stated that a physical Mass can be celebrated by class or cohort only in the school chapel, gym, or other designated area as physical distancing requires. Under no circumstance should communion be distributed school-wide following a live-streamed or recorded Mass.
- **Bulletin Announcement:** The St. Vincent de Paul Society is asking for volunteers to help at their store on Queenston St. in St. Catharines. The society is an international lay organization founded by French university students and led by Blessed Frederic Ozanam. He was a lawyer, author and professor dedicated to the service of the poor. Through the society, his work continues today. The organization is open to those who desire to live their faith in love and service of their neighbours. The store sells a wide variety of goods and all proceeds, with the exception of the salary of the manager, are used to aid the poor and needy in our community. The work involves sorting and organizing the many donations brought to the store and thus, no experience is necessary. The store is open Monday to Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday from 10:00am to 2:00pm. Volunteers work a three hour shift, once a week. If you are interested in helping this most worthy charitable service, please contact the store manager at 905-684-2042.
- Catholic Education Week (May 2–7, 2021) Advance Kit materials can be found at: www.ocsta.on.ca.
- The Catholic Centre will be closed **December 24, 2020 - January 1, 2021**. The Catholic Centre will re-open on Tuesday, January 4, 2021.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

January 18 – 25, 2021

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity