

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 2021

BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

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
Bishop of Hamilton

OFFERINGS: December 18th & 19th

St. Mary's

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| Weekly Offerings | \$ 1,369.00 |
| Weekly Loose | 5.00 |
| 4 Christmas Offering | 345.00 |
| Building Maintenance | 120.00 |
| Total: | \$ 1,839.00 |

St. Martin's

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| Weekly Offerings | \$ 710.00 |
| Building Maint. | 120.00 |
| Total: | \$ 830.00 |



PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christ is born for us ... The Light from Light

Dearly beloved, we have come again to celebrate a very important event in the history of humanity – the birth of Christ. In a sermon given on this day many years ago, St. Leo the Great says, “In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown humanity”. We rejoice because unto us a child is born, God-with-us. At a time when the shroud of darkness hovers over our world on account of the pandemic, causing misunderstanding among people who used to be friends or even members of the same family, Christ, the prince of peace is our light from light, as we recite in the Creed. Stars shine brightest on darkest nights. Let us celebrate Christ's birth with hope for a better tomorrow. Like the angels who heralded his birth, let us be heralds of his light, love and peace in our world today. Celebrating my first Christmas here as your Pastor, I wish to express my robust sentiments of appreciation to everyone for your support of our parish this passing year as I look forward to more collaboration as one family in Christ Jesus in the new year. I sincerely welcome back our parishioners who have not been in Church for some time and those worshipping with us for the first time. I hope to see you worship more with us henceforth. I pray God to heal our land and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessedly prosperous new year, 2022.

- *Fr. Emmanuel Olusola*

Mass Schedule

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| December 26 (Feast The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph) | St. Martin's 9am, St. Mary's 11am |
| | No weekday Masses, Dec 28 th to 30 th |
| December 31 (Vigil, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) | St. Mary's 5pm |
| January 1 (Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God) | St. Martin's 9am St. Mary's 11am |
| January 2 (Epiphany of the Lord) | St. Martin's 9am St. Mary's 11am |