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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

As our celebration of Christmas continues, today we observe the great feast of The Epiphany of the Lord. The word "epiphany" comes from Greek and means manifestation or appearance. The stewardship way of life is one in which we live in grateful response to God's countless manifestations in our lives.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, has much to teach us about stewardship, through the actions of the magi.

As good stewards, the magi were watching for manifestations of God's presence in their lives. "We have seen the star at its rising," they say. Good stewards are keenly aware of the "star" of God's presence and His gifts in their lives. It is this awareness that fills them with gratitude and the desire to both worship God and share His gifts with others.

The magi, upon seeing the manifestation of God's presence in their lives, "were overjoyed." Good stewards, who live with the awareness of God's presence and gifts to them, simply can't help but be filled with joy. Not necessarily the fleeting and superficial kind of joy the world promises through wealth or power, but rather the deep, unalterable joy only God can give

Finally, the magi were so filled with awe upon encountering the newborn Jesus, they prostrated themselves before him and "opened their treasures and offered him gifts." This is precisely why good stewards generously share their material gifts — as a loving act of worship to an extravagantly loving God.

Let us rejoice in God's manifestations in our lives and be watchful for the new ways He is calling us to share ourselves and our gifts in gratitude to our King in the year ahead.

thecatholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am

Office hours
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Sandy Johnson

Financial Recorder
Tracy Piggott

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Sylvana Oliver
905-715-5779
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group
Parish Financial Council
Responsible Faith Ministry
ACTS Retreat Teams

Ministry Schedule - Jan 11/12

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich
10:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H.

Altar Servers
5:00pm -
10:00 am -

Children's Liturgy
Michelle & Rose

Next Hospitality Sunday
February 2

Diocese of St. Catharines
Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

**St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0

Telephone: 289-956-0221

Email: parish.st.martins@gmail.com
www.stmartinsparish.com

**Jan 5, 2020
The Epiphany
of the Lord
Year A**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger
10:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
#2 - Mary Pikula

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Yolanda Baldasaro
10:00 am - Dick Van Geest

Stewardship Counting
Antonella Presta & Elaine Parry

January 5, 2019

The Epiphany of the Lord - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Jan 6	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher on Personal Retreat	
Tues	Jan 7	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher on Personal Retreat	
Wed	Jan 8	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher on Personal Retreat	
Thurs	Jan 9	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher on Personal Retreat	
Fri	Jan 10	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher on Personal Retreat	
Sat	Jan 11	The 2nd Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm +Angelina Medeiros	by Melo & Mikhail Families
Sun	Jan 12	10:00 am In thanksgiving of our Military Family & Gary, Tracey and Glenn Duggan and Kyle Zapora Pro Populo Dei - Mass of the People.	by Anita & Bernie Duggan

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL CONTINUES IN 2020

www.saintcd.com/appeal

The St. Catharines Journal wrote in November 1846: "The Church of St. Catharines is the most beautiful...in all Canada, and we might go farther. It is designed in the old Irish ecclesiastical style – elegantly decorated within, the arches springing gracefully from handsome pilasters which run up the side walls, one between each window". This church is now known as the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, and the restoration of this beautiful masterpiece in downtown St. Catharines continues!

Visit www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.

PARISH UPDATE ON CATHEDRAL APPEAL

Thirty parishioners, Father Christopher and the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League have donated in 2019 - **\$10, 256.00** to our Cathedral Appeal. Thank you for your financial support. We continue to encourage many others to support our Cathedral Appeal in 2020.

SACRAMENTS IN 2020

First Reconciliation - March 10, 7:00 pm
First Holy Communion Group 1 - May 3, 1:00 pm
First Holy Communion Group 2 - May 17, 1:00 pm
Teachers and Parents' Meetings - TBD

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

Host Churches

January & March - St. Martin of Tours
February & April - Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June - St Ann's Community Church.

A special collection for donations to the Loaf of Bread Programme will be taken up on December 21/22. Special Donations can be given at anytime. We shall leave this collection "open". Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass offered for someone, contact the parish office. We will help you with the dates and times which are available. Cards are then given to you so that you can give them to whomever you choose so that they may also participate in the Mass. The stipend or offering given (\$10) signifies the sacrificial nature of giving something of yourself, to associate more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the Eucharist.

PASTOR'S PERSONAL RETREAT

Fr. Christopher will be on retreat from January 6 through 10.

Weekday Masses are NOT scheduled from Monday, January 6th, to Friday January 10th. He will not be available by phone, text or email. The office will handle all messages during that week. Emergency Calls are covered. Thank you for your cooperation.

EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION -- AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF EASTER

Know, dear brothers and sisters, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God's mercy we announce to you also the joy of his Resurrection, who is our Saviour.

- ♦ On the 26th day of February will fall Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the fast of the most sacred season of Lent.
- ♦ On the 12th day of April you will celebrate with joy Easter Day, the Paschal feast of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ♦ On the 24th day of May will be the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ♦ On the 31st day of May, the feast of Pentecost. On the 14th day of June, the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.
- ♦ On the 29th day of November, the First Sunday of the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom is honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION WEEKENDS 2020

Jan 17-18 - St. Kevin Welland 905-735-5885
Jan 24-25 - St. Joseph Grimsby 905-945-2661
Feb 7-8 - O.L.of Scapular Niagara Falls
905-358-7611
Mar 7-8 - St. Patrick Niagara Falls 905-354-7451
May 1-2 - Cathedral St. Catharines 905-684-3964
For more information, contact the parishes above.
Please register at least six months prior.

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS 2020

Apr 25-26 or Nov 7-8 - St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Catharines 905-684-5603

For registration and info, e-mail:
ceeniagara@gmail.com

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 21/22, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 3,968.00
Loaf of Bread Dinner \$ 1,141.85

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 24/25, 2019

Christmas Offering \$ 4,152.35
Cathedral Appeal \$ 500.00
Loaf of Bread Dinner \$ 55.00

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 28/29, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 3,881.25
Cathedral Appeal \$ 25.00

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 31, 2019/Jan 1, 2020

New Year's Offering \$ 3,160.00
Loaf of Bread Dinner \$ 10.00

Thank you for your regular Sunday stewardship, Christmas, Cathedral Appeal, and West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme. May you encounter God's providence to you in 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS

Most Reverend Wayne Kirkpatrick

His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed the Most Reverend Wayne Kirkpatrick, currently Auxiliary Bishop of Toronto, as Bishop of Antigonish (Nova Scotia). We wish him God's blessing as he prepares for his Installation in February.

MONTHLY EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

Moves to the First Friday of the month beginning in February after the 9:00 am morning Mass. The second Sunday of the month has had poor attendance. Hopefully, we can revive this catholic devotion in 2020.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To all those who took the time to send and exchange Christmas cards, Christmas gifts, flowers, foods of all kinds, and chocolates; and even dog biscuits. I've been deeply touched by your remembrance and generosity. I will offer a special Mass in January for your intentions. I pray that God reveals Himself kindly to you as we embrace together this new year of 2020. God Bless.

Father Christopher and Jasper.