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With So Much on the Line, You Can't AFFORD to Compromise



Here I am  
Lord  
send me  
Isaiah 6:8

Elia Clark

**RICE MONUMENT WORKS**

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**ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC Elementary School**

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Vision of St. Martin of Tours

To be a thriving parish community rooted in our Catholic faith, evangelizing, and welcoming all to participate in Worship and to serve our parishioners, schools and those in our community of West Lincoln.

Focus of the 5 Systems

- **Worship (Liturgy and Sacraments):** This system focuses on the parish community's encounter with God through the celebration of the liturgy and the sacraments, transforming them spiritually.
- **Evangelization (Word):** This area involves the proclamation of the Gospel and the sharing of faith with others, driven by a passion for Christ and an understanding that this passion should lead to evangelizing others.
- **Discipleship: (Commitment):** This system is about living a Christ-like way of life, cultivating personal growth in faith, and helping others to grow as faithful followers of Jesus.
- **Community (Fellowship):** This encompasses building strong relationships and a sense of belonging, where all members of the community are loved, cared for, and supported.
- **Service (Apostolate):** This system involves actively serving others and engaging in outreach and charitable works, which contributes to the growth of the Kingdom of God.

Ministry Schedule - Jan 31/Feb 1

Hospitality	Lector	Holy Communion	Children's Liturgy
5:00 pm - Priscila Mancini 10:00 am - Chuck & Elaine P	5:00 pm - Sandy Johnson 10:00 am - Sherri deWilde	5:00 pm - Tom Shields 10:00 am - Andrew Steger	10:00 am Sue Priestly

Ministry Schedule - Feb 7/8

Hospitality	Lector	Holy Communion	Children's Liturgy
5:00 pm - Sandy Johnson 10:00 am - Fatima Araujo	5:00 pm - Caroline Steger 10:00 am - Lisa Poort	5:00 pm - Nick Verrecchia 10:00 am - Caroline Steger	10:00 am Sherri deWilde

**Pastor**  
Very Rev. Fr. Christopher Gerard Gillen  
Parish Priest / Vicar Forane  
(Dean of Haldimand)

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Financial Recorder**  
Sandy Johnson  
**In Office Hours**  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am to 1:00 pm

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am  
**Weekday Masses**  
See Schedule inside of the bulletin

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
(or by appointment)

**Requesting Sacraments**  
Interview and Classes Required

**St Martin Elementary School**  
905-957-3032  
**Blessed Trinity High School**  
905-945-6708

**Cemetery Management**  
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

**Parish Organization**  
**Catholic Women's League**  
President - Sherri De Wilde  
sherridewilde@hotmail.com

**Parish Groups**  
Parish Pastoral Council  
Parish Financial Council  
Parish Events Group  
Cemetery Committee  
Responsible Faith Ministry  
Facility Maintenance  
Children's Liturgy  
ACTS Retreats Teams

Diocese of St. Catharines  
**Bishop of the Diocese**  
Most Reverend Gerard Paul Bergie, D.D.  
President of Assembly of Ontario Catholic Bishops  
Diocesan Website: [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)

St. Martin of Tours  
Catholic Faith Community  
1866 -2026



**Mission of St. Martin of Tours**  
We will follow Jesus Christ, and love all people.

166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0  
Telephone: 289-956-0221  
Email: [st.martins@cogeco.ca](mailto:st.martins@cogeco.ca)  
[www.stmartinsparish.com](http://www.stmartinsparish.com)  
E-transfer: [st.martinsdonation@gmail.com](mailto:st.martinsdonation@gmail.com)

Jan 25, 2025 & Feb 1, 2026 -Year -A  
Bi-Weekly Bulletin  
The 3rd & 4th Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

January 25 & February 1, 2026

The 3rd & 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:30 am

Mon	Jan 26	9:00 am	+Mary Pikula	by Cheryl Ecker
Tues	Jan 27		NO PUBLIC MASS - Diocesan Clergy Development Day - St. Alfred's	Fr. Christopher
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Choir Practice	
Wed	Jan 28		<i>St Thomas Aquinas</i>	
		9:00 am	+Ming Ebuenga	by Elloso & Ornate
		10:30am	- 11:45 am Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/Confessions	Fr.Christopher
Thurs	Jan 29	9:00 am	For the health & healing of Pierre Paradis	by Sherri deWilde
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Parish Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday Readings	
Fri	Jan 30	9:00 am	Intention Available	
Sat	Jan 31		<i>The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
		4:00 pm	- 4:30 pm Confessions	
		5:00 pm	For the health and wellbeing of Dave Prentice	by Maureen Flaherty
Sun	Feb 1	10:00 am	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
		10:50:am	- 11:45am Fellowship/Hospitality/Coffee Sunday	
Mon	Feb 2		NO PUBLIC MASS CELEBRATED TODAY	
Tues	Feb 3	9:00 am	Intention Available	
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Choir Practice	
Wed	Feb 4	9:00 am	Intention Available	
		10:30am	- 11:45 am Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/Confessions	Fr. Christopher
		12:00 pm	- 2:00pm Haldimand Deanery Luncheon/Meeting at St. Helen's	Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Feb 5		<i>St. Agatha</i>	
		9:00 am	Intention Available	
		9:30 am-	10:30 am Parish Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday Readings	
Fri	Feb 6		<i>St. Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>	
		9:00 am	Intention Available	
Sat	Feb 7		<i>The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
		1:00pm	- 3:00pm Diocesan Council for Development Peace Lenten Launch	Fr.Christopher
		4:00 pm	- 4:30 pm Confessions	
		5:00 pm	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Feb 8	10:00 am	+Kenneth Dunn	by Frank & Donna DeFilippis

E-TRANSFERS

These are often referred to as **e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app.

**We thank you for your ongoing Parish Stewardship.**

POPE LEO'S JANUARY INTENTIONS

For prayer with the Word of God

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

2025 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

We are deeply grateful for your generous financial support throughout 2025.

Through your stewardship, our parish is able to keep its doors open and continue the mission entrusted to us by Christ — serving God and one another in faith, hope, and love. Income Tax Receipts for 2025 will be available for pick-up in the front foyer by mid-January. We kindly ask that you pick up only your own receipt and keep it in a safe place.

May God bless you for your continued generosity and commitment to our parish community.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES 2026

Please do not use 2025 envelopes

The 2026 Envelope are available in the foyer of the church for a few more weeks. Any unclaimed box sets will be repurposed for others. As a result, many numbers will change. Please do not use old envelopes, you will not get credit for your donation if you do.

If your address, phone number or name has changed, please notify the office directly via email or phone. Take the time to print your full name and address correctly on your envelope, and ensure that your number is correct. Something like "Smith Family" is not acceptable; there may be many "Smiths" in the parish and we will not know which family your offering comes from.

If you currently do not use a box set of offertory envelopes and would like to, please notify the office as soon as possible.

Please do not fold your money in the envelopes or use tape or staples to seal the envelopes. The money counters will be very grateful. Thank you.

ENHANCE YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

THIS YEAR!

As we prepare our hearts for the sacred season of Lent, we invite you to enrich your spiritual experience with a special Lenten Journal crafted locally by our dedicated clergy and devoted laypeople. This journal offers thoughtful reflections and prayers inspired by the daily readings throughout Lent, inviting you to discover new insights and deepen your faith like never before.

Join us in this sacred time of reflection, prayer, and growth. Your journey toward Easter can be even more meaningful with the guidance of these reflections.

The Journals will be available in the foyer of the church on February 7/8 and 14/15. We kindly ask for a suggested donation of \$5, if you are able, to help cover printing costs. Please note that supplies are limited, so be sure to secure your journal early!

Let this Lenten season be a transformative journey, drawing us closer to God and to one another.

HOLY SEASON OF LENT

The Lenten season begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**, and concludes with the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 2**.

Lent is a sacred season in the Catholic Church lasting **40 days** (Sundays are not counted), commemorating the **40 days Jesus spent fasting and praying in the desert**. This holy time calls the faithful to **prayer, fasting, and almsgiving**, as we prepare our hearts for the celebration of the **Resurrection of our Lord at Easter**.

**Why Is Lent Called 40 Days?**

Although Lent spans **46 calendar days** from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday, the Church does not count Sundays as days of penance, since every Sunday is a celebration of the Resurrection. Thus, the penitential season consists of **40 days of fasting and spiritual discipline**.

Lenten observances continue through **Good Friday and Holy Saturday**, concluding at sundown on Holy Saturday, just before the Easter Vigil.

OUR ASH WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Masses with the Distribution of Ashes

- **Parish Mass** – 9:00 a.m.
- **Gethsemane Centre Mass** – 10:30 a.m.
- **St. Martin's School** – Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes, 11:30 a.m.
- **Parish Mass** – 6:30 p.m.

Stations of the Cross

**Fridays of Lent**, beginning **Friday, February 27**, at **6:00 p.m.**

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY AND RECOGNITION OF SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

All married couples, especially those celebrating significant anniversaries in 2026 are invited to attend a Mass commemorating the 2026 World Marriage Day. Bishop Bergie will preside at this special Mass on:

Sunday, February 8, 2026, at 3:00 pm, at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria (3 Lyman Street, St. Catharines).

A reception will follow Mass. Married couples celebrating their 1st, 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th, or 60th+ wedding anniversary in 2026 who would like to receive a congratulatory certificate from Bishop Bergie are invited to complete a registration form available at the parish office.