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**THE 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Good news, Christian stewards - we are gaining ground on our Advent mountain climb and it is time to take a moment to rejoice in the Good News that our Savior will come again in triumph one day. Today's readings on this Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday are filled with reminders of God's final victory over suffering and injustice, and encouragement to remain steadfast in our mission to live as faith-filled disciples.

Such a day almost seems too good to be true, especially when we look around at the dire circumstances we face in our world at present. But by faith we know this day is coming. Lest we grow weary as we await the glorious day of Christ's return, St. James, in our second reading, offers wise counsel. "Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord... Make your hearts firm... Do not complain, brothers and sisters, about one another, that you may not be judged."

This is excellent advice for us Christian stewards as we face the challenges of everyday life in our broken world, especially in the hectic days that precede Christmas, when stress can make us and those around us less than our best selves. St. James reminds us that we can choose our response to both the great strains and the minor annoyances of life.

In other words, we can be good stewards of our attitude, "making our hearts firm" by practicing patience with others and refusing to give in to the temptation to complain.

We can choose to see and rejoice in God's presence with us, no matter the circumstances surrounding us.

reflections @catholicsteward.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 - Dec 21/22**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tom Shields  
10:00 am - Gille Arquin & Pat Wirth

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Deanne & Zoe

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
January 5

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  
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Telephone: 289-956-0221  
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca  
www.stmartinsparish.com

**Dec 15, 2019  
The 3rd  
Sunday of  
Advent  
Year A**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
10:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson  
#2 - Marg Van Geest

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.  
10:00 am - Nick, Paula & Bianca

**Stewardship Counting**  
Adam Grqybek & Elaine Parry

# December 15, 2019

## The 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year A

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 16	NO MASS TODAY - FR. CHRISTOPHER'S DAY OFF	
Tues	Dec 17	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Antonio Pais by daughter Fatima Araujo
Wed	Dec 18	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Maple Soft Tech by Rose Koshy
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Centre Mass, Adoration, Confessions Father Christopher
		11:15 am	School Confessions Father Christopher
Thurs	Dec 19	9:00 am	+For God's blessings upon Elilza & Luies Carlvillo by Fatima Araujo
		10:00 am	-1:00 pm School Confession at St. Mark's School Father Christopher
Fri	Dec 20	9:00 am	+ Ken Lewis by the Melo family
Sat	Dec 21	<b>The 4th Sunday of Advent</b>	
		5:00 pm	+Gena Vani by Mike & Mary Hornak
			For God's blessings upon Maria & Arnaldo Silvetre by Maria Pais
			+John Filice by Corrie Filice & Family
Sun	Dec 22	10:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family

#### CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

[www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal)

It has now been six months since we launched our Cathedral Appeal, and as of October 31, 2019, our appeal has raised \$594,304.46 in cash donations and \$119,052.67 in pledges. This brings our **total raised to \$713,357.13** or 59% of our \$1,200,000 goal.

#### **THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY!**

Thinking of a special gift in memory of a loved one? Consider making a donation for a hand-painted ceiling medallion for \$1,500. Your name and the name of your loved one will forever be in the Cathedral on our wall of donors. Call the Cathedral at 905-684-3964 for more information. And be sure to visit us on the web at:

[www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal)

or pick up a brochure and pledge form in your church today to play your part in this amazing restoration project. May God bless you!

#### STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES FOR 2020

Your Box Sets are made available at the front foyer. Please do not use until the new year 2020. Thank you for your registration and for using Offertory Envelopes.

#### CHRISTMAS GIVING IN THE SEASON OF GIVING

**At Community Care of West Niagara, we know that community involves everyone.**

Community Care of West Niagara is a registered charitable non-profit organization that serves families, individuals, seniors, adults, youths and children of Lincoln and surrounding communities of Niagara.

We are an organization with values based in compassion, integrity and respect for all walks of life. Our mission is to bridge the gap to self-sufficiency by supporting our community members experiencing poverty.

Community Care is here to support people and families that have experienced financial difficulties due to job loss, illness or other hardships. Through our generous donations, community investors and selfless volunteers, people in need can come to Community Care and obtain food, clothing and emergency assistance.

Consider a Christmas donation to Community Care. Thank you for your solidarity and out-reach to those in most need. God bless You!

Visit their website at:

<https://www.communitycarewn.ca/site/home>

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec 24,

- 5:00 pm - Family Mass
- 10:30 pm - Anticipated Midnight Mass
- 10:00 am - Christmas Day, Dec 25

#### HOLY FAMILY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

- 5:00 pm - Saturday, Dec 28, Vigil Mass
- 10:00 am - Sunday, Dec 29

#### NEW YEAR'S / SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 5:00 pm - Tuesday, Dec 31, Vigil Mass
- 10:00 am - Wednesday, Jan 1, Mass

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Wednesday Dec 18 - Advent School Confessions begin at 11:15 am
- Sunday, Dec 15 - Christmas Visit of Santa for young children, following Mass in the parish hall.
- Dec 15 - Rental of Parish Hall for a private function 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Wednesday Dec 18 - KOC Meeting

#### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

The West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme will offer a fully home cooked meal and social every Thursday beginning January 9, to June 25, 2020 inclusive from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Please pass this invitation along to anyone whom you feel would benefit from this programme.

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 Envelope with today's bulletin. Donations can be given at anytime. We shall leave this collection "open".**

**Thank you.**

If there are any interested individuals who would be interested in serving and cleaning up after, please contact Josie Dell at: [vermandjosie@gmail.com](mailto:vermandjosie@gmail.com) or call 905-346-1830.

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 7/8, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering (72 Env)	\$ 1,843.00
Loose Collection	\$ 489.90
Late Facility Maintenance (8 Env)	\$ 280.00
Baptism	\$ 50.00

*Thank you for your consistent stewardship*

#### "WHAT'S ON" AT GETHSEMANE MINISTRIES 84008 Wellandport Rd.

The Night Vigil is every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:00 pm Sat to 6:00 am Sun, and includes praise and worship, silent adoration, Divine Mercy, Rosary, and Holy Mass.

The weekly Prayer Meeting is every Wednesday (7:30- 9:00 pm) and includes praying the Rosary, praise and worship, sharing the Word of God, and fellowship.

From Monday, Dec. 30 (7:00 am) to Tuesday, Dec. 31 (11:00 p.m.), the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for anyone to visit during the 40 Hours of Adoration. There will be a New Year's Eve celebration for those who would like to bring in the New Year with the Lord. The evening begins with dinner at 8:00 pm, followed by Holy Mass, adoration, and fellowship.

For more information about these events, call 905-386-1111 or [www.gethsemeministries.com](http://www.gethsemeministries.com)

#### GLORY AND PRAISE WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Rosary, Praise & Worship,  
Word of God Prayers for Healing, Fellowship.  
Every Wednesday from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Come join us this Wed Dec 4.

**"For Where Two Or Three Are Gathered in My Name, I Am There Among Them"**

Matthew 19:20

**VENUE:** Gethsemane Centre  
84008 Wellandport Road. Wellandport  
905-386-1111

[info@gethsemaneministries.com](mailto:info@gethsemaneministries.com)  
[www.gethsemaneministries.com](http://www.gethsemaneministries.com)