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THE 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this Second Sunday of Advent, our second reading from St. Paul's letter to the Romans encourages us to focus our Advent preparations in this way: "Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God." And how does Christ welcome us? With unconditional love.

This is the essence of Christian hospitality, a vital aspect of stewardship living. Fully embraced, it has the power to transform our lives and the lives of those who experience it through us.

The practice of Christian hospitality is also a way for us stewards to answer the call of John the Baptist, in our Gospel passage from Matthew. His words apply just as much to us today as they did to the people awaiting the Savior's arrival. John says, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" And he recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." There is a definite connection between repentance and effective hospitality.

How can we make repentance a regular part of our everyday lives? We can make an "examination of conscience" a daily part of our prayers, thanking God for the times we said "yes" to Him, and asking forgiveness for the times we chose our own will. We can, and should, go to Confession this Advent. We can reach out to a family member or friend where there is distance or discord and make peace.

As we "straighten the paths" of our own hearts and minds, we become more hospitable people, better stewards of God's grace and mercy, far more open and ready to invite others into our lives, homes, and parish. This is preparation fitting for our merciful Savior.

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

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: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Dec 14/15

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony M
10:00 am - Julie & Anthony N.

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

Children's Liturgy
Mary Anne & Heather

Next Hospitality Sunday
January 5

**Dec 8, 2019
The 2nd Sunday
of Advent
Year A**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Kelly And Staples
#2 - Mitch Pogoda
10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
10:00 am - Vern, Dick & Marcel

Stewardship Counting
Beth Davis & Sandy Johnson

December 8, 2019

The 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 9	NO MASS TODAY - FR. CHRISTOPHER'S DAY OFF	
Tues	Dec 10	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Cathy & Frank Cartaginese by Pauline Lewis
Wed	Dec 11	9:00 am	+Cathy Eberhard by Josie & Vern Dell
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Centre Mass, Adoration, Confessions Father Christopher
		11:15 am	School Advent Confessions Father Christopher
		7:00 pm	CWL Meeting
Thurs	Dec 12	9:00 am	+Kathy Finlay by Marg Van Geest
		11:00 am	-1:00 pm Partners in Education Annual Meeting St. Catharines Father Christopher
Fri	Dec 13	9:00 am	+ Asterio & Leonar Melo by the Melo family
		10:30 am	School Advent Mass Father Christopher
Sat	Dec 14	The 3rd Sunday of Advent	
		5:00 pm	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family
Sun	Dec 15	10:00 am	For God's blessings & special intentions of Anita Duggan by Joan & Bob Hignett

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

www.saintcd.com/appeal

Cathedral Appeal Did you know that the main window of our cathedral reflects the gospel account of the Crucifixion? Mary, the Mother of our Lord, stands at the left of the cross in a prayerful position, while at the foot of the cross kneels Mary of Magdala. Never been to our cathedral? Consider joining us for our Diocesan Anniversary Celebration on Monday, November 25 at 5:30 p.m. to see this and the wonderful progress that has been made on our cathedral restoration project. Assist us financially towards achieving our goal of \$1.2 million.

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

Christmas Day, Dec 25,

- 10:00 am

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 11 & 18 - Advent School Confessions begin at 11:15 am
- Wednesday, Dec 11 - CWL Meeting 7:00pm
- Thursday, Dec 12 - Partners in Catholic Education Annual General Meeting at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Friday, Dec 13 - Advent School Mass at 10:30 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

LIVING FAITH DEVOTIONALS

Since the Hendrik's have retired from donating the Living Faith Devotionals to every parish in the Diocese of St. Catharines, St. Martin's Catholic Women's League has picked up this practice by donating 75 devotionals to our parish. They ask that you take only 1 copy per family. These devotional booklets will begin in January 2020. You can pick yours up near the end of December.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Nov 30/Dec 1, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering (61 Env)	\$ 1,632.00
Loose Collection	\$ 56.20
Facility Maintenance (36Env)	\$ 644.00
Loose	\$ 70.40

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

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
www.gethsemaneministries.com