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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Today marks the close of the Christmas season, but before we return to Ordinary Time, we have one more great feast to celebrate - The Baptism of the Lord. Today's feast is a perfect opportunity to consider the privileges and responsibilities we all share as Christian stewards by virtue of our own Baptism.

At the moment of our Baptism we became adopted sons and daughters of God, members of his holy, Catholic Church. Though we may not have realized it, the moment of our Baptism is also the moment we become Christian stewards, disciples of Jesus Christ, tasked with the work of following in His footsteps day by day and sharing the Gospel message with all those around us.

In our second reading from the Acts of the Apostles, St. Peter gives us a glimpse of the person of Jesus we should imitate. "He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." We must live our lives like Jesus, seeking to do good to everyone we encounter; not just those in our inner circle of family and friends, but everyone in our community since the Father loves us all and Jesus sought out everyone with His saving message.

In the Gospel passage from Matthew, we see yet another aspect of Jesus in action, this time as he humbly stands before John to be baptized by him. What humility and what willingness to unite Himself to us our Lord demonstrates by this act. We can do no less as we live out our daily lives as his disciples.

And when we do strive with all our might to live out our Baptismal call to Christian stewardship, we will experience the deep honor of knowing that our we, too, are God's "beloved" sons and daughters "with whom He is well-pleased."

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 - Carolyn Vaughan
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 - Jan 18/19

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Dossen & Claudette S
10:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

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

Children's Liturgy
Heather & Zoe

Next Hospitality Sunday
February 2

Jan 12, 2020

**The Baptism
of the Lord
Year A**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Tom Shields
#2 - Heather Tomascin
10:00 am #1 - Sue Armstrong
#2 - Marg Van Geest

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom Shields
10:00 am - Marcel Pouliot

Stewardship Counting
Mary Ann Paradis & Lisa Poort

January 12, 2019

The Baptism of the Lord - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Jan 13	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher's Day Off	
Tues	Jan 14	9:00 am For the special intentions for those who exchanged Christmas Gifts with Father Christopher	by Anita & Bernie Duggan
Wed	Jan 15	9:00 am +Patrick Duggan 10:30 am Mass at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Jan 16	9:00 am For the special intentions of Sandy Johnson 9:30 am - 10:30 am Scripture Study Group in parish hall 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm West Lincoln Loaf of Bread Dinner parish hall	by Anita & Bernie Duggan
Fri	Jan 17	9:00 am +Patrick Duggan	by Vern & Josie Dell
Sat	Jan 18	The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm +Margaret Connors	by Brenda & Peter Wilson
Sun	Jan 19	10:00 am For the special intentions of Marg & Dick Van Geest 11:30 am Baptism of Luca Balloutine 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Men's & Women's ACTS Retreats Reunion - Mississauga	Fr. Christopher Fr. Christopher

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.

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK January 18 - 25

Visit website: www.councilofchurches.ca

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 RC
February & April - Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June - St Ann's Community Church.

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.

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

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.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Jan 4/5, 2020

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 2, 832.10
Loaf of Bread Dinner \$ 30.00

Thank you for your regular Sunday stewardship, Christmas, Cathedral Appeal, Facility Maintenance, and West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme. Thank you for supporting the Offertory Envelope System through the Initial Offering. May you encounter God's providence to you in 2020.

ORDINARY TIME

Begins Monday, January 13

During Ordinary Time, the Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. The people of God offer praise by the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

On the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, God assembles the beloved people to hear the Word, to reflect upon it, to offer the living sacrifice of praise, and to receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Eucharist. God sends us fourth to proclaim this love by our words and actions.

Sunday is the original Christian Feast Day, following the tradition handed down from Apostolic times, for this way the day of the Lord's Resurrection.

Sunday, is the day of the risen Lord.

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.

Shalom, Father Christopher and Jasper.