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**PLACE THE LORD ABOVE ALL ELSE**

Today's readings provide clear and inspiring reminders of the most fundamental aspect of our identity — that of servants of our most high and holy God, His modern-day disciples and stewards.

John the Baptist recognized the holiness of Jesus and the response due to Him when he encountered Christ in person on the day they met at the Jordan River. His response, which we read in our Gospel passage from St. John was, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world... He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'"

What a powerful description of our Lord and the place He should rightfully have in each of our lives. He is truly our Savior, the only one who can free us from our sinfulness. We are utterly and completely dependent on His power, love and mercy. Therefore He truly does "rank ahead" of us; he deserves to be first, above all other priorities and plans in our lives. Let us examine our daily lives and encourage our children to do the same.

Does the way I spend my time reflect that God comes first? Do prayer and weekly Mass, regular confession and time with my family "rank ahead" of everything else on my calendar? Do I use my talents, skills and energy to serve my family, parish and community in thanksgiving and recognition that God's kingdom ranks ahead of any other goals or ambitions? Do I spend my money and use my material possessions so as to glorify God?

Challenge questions, to be sure. But questions worthy of our high calling as Christian stewards offered a glorious mission in service of our Lord and His kingdom. What will our response be?

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

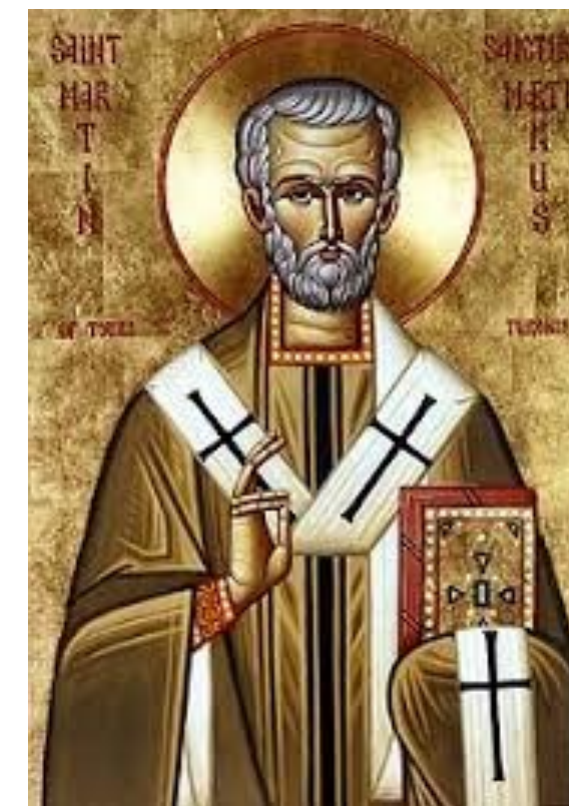
**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Carolyn Vaughan  
Knights of Columbus  
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan  
koc.16421@gmail.com

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

**Ministry Schedule - Jan 25/26**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tony Mous & Tom Shields  
10:00 am - Julie & Anthony N

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Jenn N & Maryanne

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
February 2

**Jan 19, 2020  
The 2nd Sunday  
in Ordinary  
Time  
Year A**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Youth Reader  
#2 - Youth Reader  
10:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda  
#2 - Caroline Steger

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Yolanda Baldasaro  
10:00 am - Sherri deWilde

**Stewardship Counting**  
James Gunn & Halina Gryzbek

# January 19, 2019

## The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Jan 20	NO PARISH MASS TODAY. WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm Diocesan Council for Development & Peace St. Catharines Father Christopher	
Tues	Jan 21	9:00 am For the special intentions of the Lupien Family	by Martha Devlin
Wed	Jan 22	9:00 am For the special intentions of Joe & Mary Cartaginense & Family 10:30 am Mass at Gethsemane Centre	by Cathy & Frank Cartaginense Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Jan 23	9:00 am For the special intentions of Pat McFarlane 9:30 am - 10:30 am Scripture Study Group in parish hall 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm West Lincoln Loaf of Bread Dinner in parish hall	by Martha Devlin
Fri	Jan 24	9:00 am For the special intentions of Marnie Kervin +Mary Fedorik	by Martha Devlin by Mary & John Mojeski
Sat	Jan 25	<b>The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 5:00 pm Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Youth Group Activity in parish hall	
Sun	Jan 26	10:00 am For the special intentions of Cathy & Frank Cartaginense For the health and healing of Kevin Muldoon	by Martha Devlin by Bob & Joan Hignett

### CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

#### CONTINUES IN 2020

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

We have an opportunity to play a part in restoring, revitalizing, renewing, and rejuvenating our Cathedral. We ask that you prayerfully consider donating to this worthwhile project for the life of our diocese. Whether it be a one-time donation by cheque or on-line ("Canada Helps"), a monthly pledge over 18 months or even a gift of stocks, each and every one of us can assist in ensuring that our Cathedral will be a place of beauty and worship for years to come.

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

### PARISH EVENTS GROUP

St. Martin's Parish Events Group are inviting you to the Annual Pasta Dinner on Saturday February 15.

**Doors** open at 6:00 pm. **Dinner** at 6:30 pm

**Tickets:** Adults - \$20 Children 12 and under - \$10

Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses starting January 25 until February 9. Everyone is invited for an enjoyable evening and a delicious Italian Dinner.

### HALL SOUND SYSTEM

The TV and speakers are fully operational. A microphone has been purchased for the parish hall. It will be available for use by the various groups within our parish and for funerals.

In order to keep track of the microphone, a sign out and sign in sheet must be used. The sign out/in sheet will be kept in the office. If you need the microphone outside office hours, come to the office prior to the event and sign out the microphone and return it to the office the next time the office is open. (The previous microphone was taken and not returned).

### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2020

#### Host Churches

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

### 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 24-25 - St. Joseph Grimsby 905-945-2661

Feb 7-8 - Our Lady 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.

### SEPARATED & DIVORCED

#### HEALING MINISTRY

The Diocesan Separated & Divorced Healing Ministry Support Group meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (except holidays) from 7 - 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.

For our pamphlet or information call:

905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154

or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

### WINTER 2020 SCHEDULE

January 27 - *Identifying Losses*

February 10 - *Making Good Decisions*

February 24 - *Healing Journey*

### 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](mailto:ceeniagara@gmail.com)

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Jan 11/12, 2020

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 2,178.55

Loaf of Bread Donations \$ 40.00

*Thank you for stewardship.*

### PARISH OUT-REACH IN 2020

Diocesan Special Collections and annual Summer Mission are set by our diocese. These special envelopes are contained in the stewardship box and are also included with the bulletin prior to the collection. In Lent, we support Development and Peace through the Share Lent Collection and Community Care with our Lenten Food Drive.

Our Cathedral Appeal continues in 2020. We are currently supporting and hosting the West Lincoln Loaf of Bread Dinner and will do so again for the month of March. *There will be no other appeals or out-reach within these scheduled appeals.* Parish Organizations are free to engage in their own out-reach among their members.

Thank you for your financial solidarity.

### 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. Gethsemane Centre has Eucharistic Devotion each Wednesday after the 10:30 am Mass until 6:00pm. You are welcome to attend.

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18-25

**"They Showed Us Unusual Kindness"**

(Acts 28:2)

This universal week of prayer encourages Christians of all denominations to meet, to participate in various liturgical and other community activities, and to pray together that all may be one, as Christ desires. The themes and materials for this year's worldwide prayer were prepared by the Christian Churches of Malta and Gozo. One of the resources available is a very thoughtful eight-day Bible study guide. The eight daily themes are: Reconciliation, Enlightenment, Hope, Trust, Strength, Hospitality, Conversion, and Generosity. This PDF file is available at:

<https://www.weekofprayer.ca/2020-wpcu-resources>  
or by emailing [mprindiville@golden.net](mailto:mprindiville@golden.net).