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STAY AWAKE

Wisdom is a central theme in our readings today. It is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, key to living the stewardship way of life in our complex world. As Christian stewards, we should rely on this gift and ask the Holy Spirit to increase it within us.

Jesus teaches the importance of wisdom in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of ten virgins awaiting the arrival of the bridegroom who will welcome them in to the wedding feast. Five of the virgins were foolish and five were wise. The foolish virgins failed to bring oil along with their lamps when they went to meet the bridegroom. The wise ones, however, had prepared and brought sufficient oil to keep their lamps lit when the bridegroom came. The foolish virgins, caught off guard, ran off to buy more oil, but they were too late. The door to the wedding feast was locked to them. Jesus cautions, "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The stewardship way of life - with its daily and weekly commitments to giving God the best of our Time, Talents and Treasure - is the "oil" that we keep with us at all times. When we have this plan in place and we rely deeply on the Holy Spirit to guide us through the twists and turns of each day, we are free, we are ready to answer the Bridegroom when He calls us. We live in wisdom.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen
 Diocesan Social Justice Office Rep.
 Member of Ontario Bishops' Social Affairs Commission.
 Spiritual Chaplain to Diocesan D&P
 Spiritual Director to Acts Retreat Ministry Men & Women.
 Intern to Mental Health/ Addiction Counselling Hamilton.

Sunday Masses
 Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am
 Sunday 11:30 am Family Mass

Weekday Masses
 See Schedule on the inside of the bulletin

In Office Hours
 Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
 Sandy Johnson

Financial Recorder
 Tracy Piggott

Reconciliation/Confessions
 Saturday 4:pm - 4:30 pm
 Or by appointment

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 - Pierre Paradis
 koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
 Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@gmail.com

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

November 22, 2020 - Year A
The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ - King of the Universe

November 22, 2020

The Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Nov 23	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Bob Hignett	by Joan Hignett
Tues	Nov 24	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Luigi Carmardi	by Rosa Carmardi
Wed	Nov 25	9:00 am	NO PARISH MORNING MASS	
		10:00 am	- 11:00 am Diocesan Anniversary Mass (62yrs) at the Cathedral	Father Christopher
Thurs	Nov 26	9:00 am	For St. Martin's parish family in thanksgiving for their love & prayers of healing	by Martha Devlin
Fri	Nov 27	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Jen & her unborn baby	by Martha Devlin
		7:30 pm	- 9:30 pm Praise and Worship Gethsemane Centre Wellandport - Register if attending	
Sat	Nov 28	10:00 am	Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation	
Sat	Nov 28	5:00 pm	The 1st Sunday of Advent +Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis
Sun	Nov 29	10:00 am	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
		11:30 am	Family Mass . Intention Available	

ONLINE EUCHARIST

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am. Visit the diocesan website for viewing:

www.saintcd.com or on YouTube

St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.

Follow on Face Book or their website:

Stjosephgrimsby.ca

Vision TV: Sun - 8:00 am

Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

Salt + Light: Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm

Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,

3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

yesTV: Sun - 10:30 am

Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

Internet : www.dailytvmass.com

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

PASTORAL HOME VISITS

Father Christopher will continue to visit parishioners for Confession, Holy Communion Service and 'Anointing of the Sick if needed. Kindly call the office if you would like a pastoral visit. Masks and physical distancing enforced. Please call the parish office to schedule a pastoral visit. Thank you.

E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **Interac e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app. To transfer funds to St. Martin Parish e-Transfer to:

st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

Please do not enter a security question and answer. You will be informed that your transfer to "The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation" has been completed

This is a first for us, so bear with us as we begin this new way of accepting tithe/stewardship/donations. We thank you for your patience and generosity during this pandemic.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Religious Christmas Cards are available this year through the Knights of Columbus.

If interested please call Ron Roscovich at:
905-386-0648

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE IN NOVEMBER

Due to Covid -19 our Book of Remembrance will not be displayed in public view. It will be placed on the altar. Several Masses throughout November will be celebrated for All Souls. We thank you for offering your loved ones to our prayers and Eucharist.

COVID-19 AND PARISH STEWARDSHIP

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all of us. We appeal to your generosity as we need the weekly stewardship of one and all, to maintain our financial commitments. A special thank you to those who send in their weekly/monthly stewardship. Also, to those who have begun with E-Transfers. We encourage others to be regular with their presence and stewardship.

CONFIRMATION 2020

Under strict Covid-19 protocols the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Saturday, November 28, at 10:00 am. Confirmation candidates and parents only will take part in the celebration. Sponsors are required but will not be allowed to attend.

Thursday, November 26, at 7:00pm there will be a rehearsal. Candidates and parents MUST attend. A letter to the candidates and parents will be sent next week. Thank you.

LIVE STREAM / NEW WI-FI FOR CHURCH

New technology has now been purchased, yet we are having difficulties in using it. We have options for **live recording** and **pre-recording** once the challenges are resolved. Father Christopher has personally paid for all the necessary updates and equipment.

CATHEDRAL APPEAL UPDATE

The Feast Day of St. Catherine of Alexandria, of the patroness of our Diocese of St. Catharines is once again upon us. This Wednesday, November 25th the clergy from our diocese will gather with Bishop Bergie in our beautifully renovated Cathedral, and the faithful of our diocese virtually, as we begin a year of giving thanks: for the original church – now in its 175th year; for our Cathedral and its magnificent transformation; and for all those who made this project and renovation possible. It is your generosity over these past 18 months that has made this undertaking a glorious reality. Most of all, we give thanks to our loving God. Visit us at www.saintcd.com/appeal and consider making a donation for the continued care and preservation of our Cathedral, the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. May God bless you.

BEING A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST

is ranked among the four most difficult "professions" in the world.

This is because a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST must be at the same time:

- preacher • example • advisor • former
- planner • minister • visionary • director
- mentor • friend • nanny • reconciler
- marriage counselor • youth counselor
- leader trainer • Bible teacher • psychologist
- intercessor, etc., etc., etc.

Besides being:

- church porter • corporate administrator
- engineer • bricklayer
- event promoter • first to arrive and last to leave ...

And yet, all ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIESTS face constant criticism such as:

- "the mass doesn't fill me" - "the homily is too long"
- "just think about money" - "endless fund raising"
- "in addition to many others ..."

One of the most difficult things in a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST'S life is knowing that the people for whom they give their life will betray them.

The ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST is usually the most lonely person in the community: you can even see a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST is always surrounded by people, but rarely by people interested in their problems, needs or even in their life, let alone in the demands that the communities themselves place on them.

IF you have a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST or PRIESTS as friends, take care of them, protect them, pray for them, understand their vision, support them, but above all love them, don't forget the promise of Jesus Himself.

"And I will give you shepherds after my heart, who will feed you with knowledge and intelligence." (Jeremiah 3:15).

"Therefore, take care of them because they personally watch over your souls, since they will be accountable for them" (Hebrews 13,17).

Let us honour with our prayers the lives of all those men of God who have sacrificed so many things, including some of their own needs and that of their families to fulfill God's call.

Value the time a ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST dedicates to you.

Unknown author

REGISTRATION FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King, and the conclusion of our liturgical year A. Advent is on the horizon - and our new liturgical year B. Advent calls us to be alert, ready. We begin early plans and preparation as we invite you to register for the Christmas Masses. Christmas is a time where a lot of our families and friends join us to celebrate the birth of Christ. That is a joyful and happiest occasion for each of us to get together to worship the gift of Love that God shares with us. Given the situation of COVID-19, we need to limit the numbers and we need to plan for the masses. We want to try to give as many chances for the people and your registration will greatly help in our planning.

Even though it is a pandemic, let us not forget that we need God in our lives and only God can lead us and guide us and give us the strength to face any situations. The church will be disinfected after every Mass. Strict protocols are in place to assure your safety.

The pandemic has caused financial difficulty for a lot of families, young people at colleges or universities, some struggling with terminal illness, seniors and municipal and provincial businesses. The church is not an exception. I invite all those who can do a little more to support our parish. Currently, less than half of our members have supported us throughout the pandemic. Let's act together for a just recovery that includes all. Thank you for your generosity and solidarity.

There will not be an official collection to avoid the interaction between people but we invite you to leave your offering in the basket at the foyer. I hope you will show your generosity as we celebrate the love of God being shared with you and your family.

If there is a need, more Masses will be added. Therefore, we must receive early registration from you by December 10, 2020.

Here is our proposed schedule.

- Christmas Eve December 24.
 - Vigil Mass 5: 00 pm.
 - Anticipated Midnight Mass 10:30 pm
- Christmas Day December 25.
 - 10:00 am.
 - 11:30 am

Parish Office: Phone: (289) 956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
Website: <http://www.stmartinsparish.com>

You can either call or email the parish office indicating your choice of Mass. Please include your full name and phone number and the number of those attending in your household. Registration will close for a Mass if and when maximum capacity is reached. We regret that we will not be able to accommodate anyone coming to Christmas Mass without a reservation.

Please remember that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in place and people who are at high-risk for severe illness from Covid-19 are encouraged to stay safer at home and participate in Mass remotely. We will be live streaming ALL of our Christmas Masses on Facebook.

Please note: There is no certainty that we will have public Masses at Christmas. For the time being we ask you to continue to register for Christmas Masses. We will continue to monitor the situation and consult with public health officials and our diocesan office to determine the course of action for the weekends ahead.

This has been a difficult year for sure ... there is no debating that. We've all had to make adjustments in our lives, many of which began with real pain but led to positive changes. Remember: We're in this together. God be with you, and within you.

In Christ, Christopher +
Parish Priest

ADVENT: A PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

As each year draws to a close, and Christmas fast approaches, we tend to focus on what is obvious – putting up our decorations, trimming our tree, shopping for friends and family. And before you know it, time has escaped us.

Suddenly it's Christmas Eve night and all the wonders that come with it – reflecting on Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the angels singing, the shepherds in the field, the wise men beginning their descent from the east, all culminating in "Silent Night, Holy Night." But wait! Are we even prepared for Christmas? Prepared for all of the beauty and wonder of Christmas? Truly prepared?

Before the coming of our Lord, is the season of Advent. A time of preparation. The world tells us that Christmas is about filling our homes with bright lights and greenery, attending office parties, singing carols, listening to Handel's "Messiah" or the latest pop star's new Christmas album. The world encourages us to shop, shop and shop!

But should we not also be more intentional (and joyful) when practicing and experiencing the season of Advent? The coming of our Lord!

How to Prepare for Christmas, through Advent

And what should we be doing to prepare for the coming of our Lord? The obvious things are:

- Meditate on our Lord's impending birth
- Give to those in need
- Feed the hungry
- Clothe the homeless
- Be kind to others
- Be satisfied with what we have (gratitude)

What ways can we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus – in our own homes? How about patience – toward those nearest you? Be more willing to listen, less eager to criticize? Give of your time and your person and not necessarily your money.

We can also practice more patience with those outside of our homes – especially in stores or driving on the road (Christmas shopping traffic!). We can be more giving and patient toward those in the workplace. Maybe we can be less prideful and more humble.

How about being more temperate with our sweet tooth (or teeth, for that matter)? Advent challenges us to understand the Christmas season in the contexts of the coming of Christ. Advent also offers us a powerful alternative to the commercialization of Christmas.

A reason to exclaim "Merry Christmas!" instead of a bland and politically correct "Happy Holidays."

A Season for Giving

I'm sure you've heard it before; Christmas is a season for giving. Then make it so. Give to those in need. I'm sure you've heard that Christmas is a time for feasting. Then make it so. Help to feed those around you who can't afford to do so. I'm sure you've heard that Christmas is a season of joy, hope and peace. Then make it so. Grow in these virtues by putting them into practice with friends, family, neighbors and strangers. And most importantly, with the whole reason there is Christmas.

Advent is the story of a wondrous moment when God entered our world to make things right. It is the greatest story ever told and it changes everything—including the way we celebrate Christmas. And the next time someone asks you, "Are you ready for Christmas?" you can honestly say, "I'm not but I'm trying to be with the help of the season of Advent."

Nativity Scene

The church nativity scene is proper for Christmas and not Advent. Once again others have requested that it be displayed. This seems to be an annual request. I've once again readdressed the issue with the individuals. It truly is disappointing since I was expecting a different narrative given the pandemic. We are all struggling to maintain our resilience and hope as we look forward to Advent and the coming Christmas season. Hopefully, our Advent season will prepare us for the coming feasts of Christmas and the display of the nativity scene. I might add to diffuse disappointment - the wise men (or three kings) will be added on the feast of Epiphany on 6th January, as is liturgically proper to the feast.

We must be careful not to speak of "should" and "shouldn't" and "right" and "wrong" because there is no right and wrong. The liturgy has rubrics. The GIRM and other Church documents specify what may and may not be on the altar, said, sung, or otherwise used in the Mass and other liturgies. There is no right and wrong when it comes to nativity scenes. Let's not state our opinions on how we prefer to do things as if they were rubrics of the Church or the personal wishes of others.

I pray for us as a "Faith Community" that we continue our faith journey towards Advent, Christmas and the Kingdom of God. As we journey towards our celebration of the Lord's Birth, let us pray for one another, for all our families, that we be renewed in our commitment to be good stewards of HOPE in this current pandemic. May Mary, who rejoiced at the coming birth of Her Son, pray for us that we may truly be His disciples.

In Christ, Christopher + Parish Priest.