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**THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

As our Advent preparations draw to a close and Christmas fast approaches, it is fitting that today's readings demonstrate the intensity of the Father's perfect and passionate love for each us, culminating in the gift of His own Son, Jesus Christ, on Christmas Day. In response to such an overwhelming gift, what can we do except offer our lives as gift in return, embracing a stewardship way of life with all the love and strength we have to give?

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, we find an unparalleled example of one who embraced this way of life in St. Joseph, as he obeys God's call to him through the message of an angel. We never hear St. Joseph speak, but the Scriptures tell us he was always listening, attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit for his family. It was Joseph who found the stable where the baby Jesus would be born. No doubt it was Joseph who cleaned it up and prepared it for Mary and Jesus since we know that Mary was about to give birth. Joseph protected the family, guarded them, tended to their safety, their comfort, and their well-being at the expense of his own plans and preferences. Though we do not hear any words from St. Joseph his actions clearly show that he offered himself, his whole life, as a gift to his family through his strong guidance, protection and service.

Let us imitate St. Joseph then as good stewards, giving our very lives to those around us in love and gratitude to God who has given us everything we have, especially His own Son, Jesus Christ.

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

**Ministry Schedule Dec 24/25**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tony Mous  
10:30 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich  
10:00 am - Gille Arquin

**Altar Servers**  
5:00 pm - Needed  
10:30 pm - Needed  
10:00 am - Needed

**Children's Liturgy** - None today  
**Next Hospitality Sunday** - Jan 5

**Dec 22, 2019  
The 4th  
Sunday  
of Advent  
Year A**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Lisa Poort  
#2 - Needed  
10:30 pm #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
10:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascini  
#2 - Mitch Pogoda

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tom S & Yolanda B  
10:30 pm - Dick, Sherri & Caroline  
10:00 am - Paula, Nick & Bianca

**Stewardship Counting** - None

# December 22, 2019

## The 4th Sunday of Advent - Year A

Mon	Dec 23	NO MASS TODAY - FR. CHRISTOPHER'S DAY OFF	
Tues	Dec 24	5:00 pm Christmas Eve +Harry Belmont 10:30 pm Christmas Eve +Ken Lewis	by Heather Belmont & Family by Anita & Bernie Duggan
Wed	Dec 25	10:00 am Christmas Day For the special intentions of the Dell Family For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher and St. Martins Parish Family	by Vern & Josie Dell
Thurs	Dec 26	NO MASS TODAY	
Fri	Dec 27	NO MASS TODAY	
Sat	Dec 28	<b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Dec 29	10:00 am +Michael Tomascini For the health & healing of Maria Chorley	by the Tomascini family by Pauline Lewis
Mon	Dec 30	NO MASS TODAY - FR. CHRISTOPHER'S DAY OFF	
Tues	Dec 31	5:00 pm +Bernard Bransfield	by Anita & Bernie Duggan
Wed	Jan 1	10:00 am For the special intentions of Vern & Josie Dell For the special intention of St. Martin's Parish Family	by Sandra Mactaggart
Thurs	Jan 2	9:00 am +Helen Lipiec, +Benny Klimowicz, +Tony Markiewicz	by Helen & Andy Lipiec
Fri	Jan 3	9:00 am For the special intentions of Maeve & Doug Devlin	by Martha Devlin
Sat	Jan 4	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of Norrie Franko	by Sandra Mactaggart
Sun	Jan 5	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)

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! Now is the time to play your part! **Take advantage of the tax benefits on your 2019 Income Tax Return by making a donation before December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Visit us on the web at [www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal) and consider making a donation today as we, a diocesan family, work towards achieving our goal of \$1,200,000. May God bless you!

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.

### LOOKING AHEAD TO 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

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 Donations can be given at anytime. We shall leave this collection "open". Thank you.

### 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

• Vigil 5:00 pm - Saturday, Dec 28  
• 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

### 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 PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Open - Tuesday December 24 - 9: am - 12 noon  
Closed - Thursday Dec 26  
Closed Tuesday - Dec 31  
Open - January 2 - 9: am - 12 noon

### PASTOR'S PERSONAL RETREAT

Fr. Christopher will be on retreat from January 6 through 10. Weekday Masses are NOT scheduled from Monday, January 6th, to Friday January 10. He will not be available by phone, text or email. The office will handle all messages during that week. Emergency Calls are covered. Thank you for your cooperation.

### NEXT PARISH BULLETIN JANUARY 4/ 5 2020

### Diocesan Vineyard Available At Christmas

May Your Advent journey now give way to the coming Feasts of Christmas.

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Dec 21/22, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering (70 Env)	\$ 1,880.00
Loose Collection	\$ 101.25
Late Facility Maintenance (2 Env)	\$ 10.00

Thank you for your consistent stewardship

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE - Dec 28/29

#### Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich  
10:00 am - Marcel P & George Y

#### Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.  
10:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Victoria

**Lectors** - 5:00 pm #1 - Sue Armstrong  
#2 - Mary Pikula  
10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger  
#2 - Andrew Steger

**Children's Liturgy:** Jenn E & Jenn N

**Stewardship Counting** - Antonella P & James G

**Next Hospitality Sunday - Jan 5, 2020**

### Ministry Schedule - Dec 31/Jan 1

#### Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Needed  
10:00 am - Sharon Richard

#### Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom Shields & Vern Dell  
10:00 am - Andrew Steger

**Lectors** - 5:00 pm #1 - Mary Pikula  
#2 - Needed  
10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger  
#2 - Andrew Steger

**Children's Liturgy:** None today

**Stewardship Counting** - None today

### Ministry Schedule - Jan 4/5

#### Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tony Mous & Tom Shields  
10:00 am - Mike & Mary Hornak

#### Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom Shields  
10:00 am - Vern Dell

**Lectors** - 5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Ann Staples  
#2 - Katrina Shields  
10:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda  
#2 - Tom Richardson

**Children's Liturgy:** Alisha & Andrea

**Stewardship Counting** - Beth D & Sandy J

**Next Hospitality Sunday - January 5, 2020**