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**WHAT SHALL WE DO?**

The question, "What shall we do?" found in this week's Gospel reading arose from John the Baptist's exhortation to "bring forth fruits in keeping with repentance." We must keep in mind that John prepared people to receive Jesus as Lord and Christ. During Advent we also anticipate the arrival of Jesus, hoping that he will be birthed afresh in our hearts and lives, bringing a new awareness of the hope of salvation.

It is interesting that John relates repentance first with action rather than simply having deep feelings of regret. The Dictionary supports this position by listing as the first definition of repentance, "to turn from sin and dedicate oneself to the amendment of one's life." It is only when we look at the second definition that we encounter feelings of "regret and contrition," and "change of one's mind." Obviously, both aspects of repentance are important, however John's use of repentance emphasizes action and a change of behavior, and not simply inner feelings which can easily be forgotten once we arise from our knees.

Many might question whether this imperative to change our sinful behavior is really "good news." Perhaps one would be justified to think this way, had John's message stopped there, but it didn't. John also foretold the impending appearance of another messenger from God who was to be more important and powerful than himself, who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now that is good news! The Holy Spirit, who is a gift to us from the Father and the Son, is an integral part of the good news of Jesus' first advent. The Holy Spirit is the means to the end; release from captivity to sin and to rebirth into a life with God. He is the indwelling power for changing our inclinations, enabling us to break old habits of sin and replace them with new habits of righteousness. This space is too small to even begin to reiterate all the grace and gifts that come with his presence, but suffice it to say that they are manifold.

As Christians we too often forget this aspect of the Good News which Jesus brought. He has imparted to us the Holy Spirit. This constant companion and intercessor helps us to experience real incarnational life in Christ. This Third Week of Advent should remind us of this message of hope and gift of enablement. Additionally, it should renew us in his love, and prepare us to open our hearts wholly to him. Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese  
 Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
 Pastor  
 Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.  
 Diocesan Social Justice Rep

Sunday Masses  
 Saturday 5:00 pm  
 Sunday 10:00 am  
 Weekday Masses  
 Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am  
 Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 This Sunday at 2:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confessions  
 Sat 4:00—4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism  
 Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage  
 Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick  
 Please call the office

Secretary  
 Sandy Johnson  
 Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Bookkeeper  
 Tracy Piggott

St Martin School  
 Phone 905-957-3032

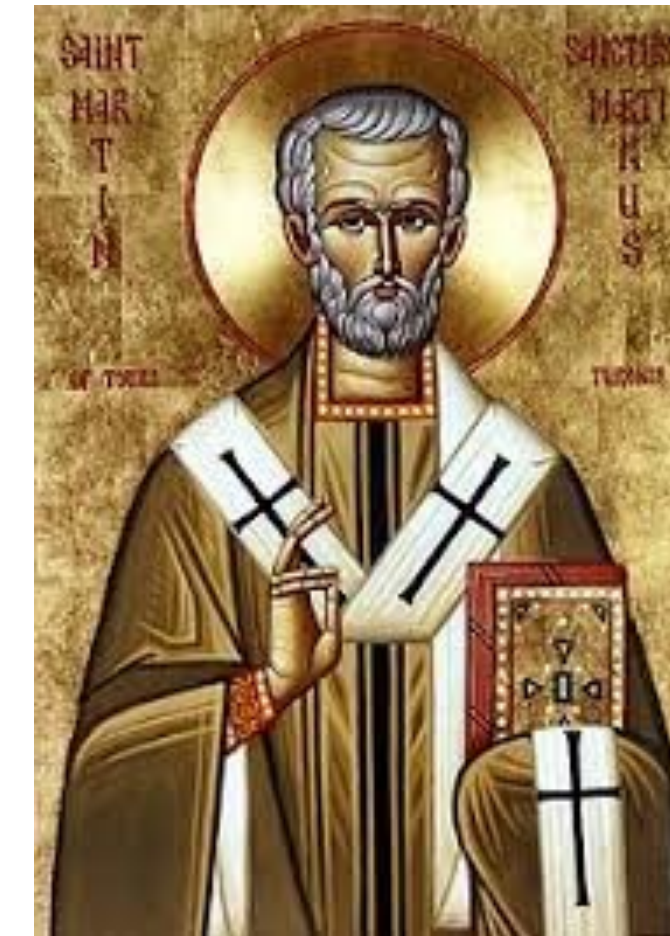
Cemetery  
 Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations  
 Catholic Women's League  
 Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups  
 Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry  
 West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
 Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines  
**St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church**



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**Ministry Schedule - December 22/23**

**Hospitality Ministers**

5:00 pm - Tony Mous  
 10:00 am - Pat Wirth

**Altar Servers**

5:00pm  
 10:00 am

**Children's Liturgy**

Jen Ewing

**Next Hospitality Sunday**

January 6

**December 16, 2018**

**The 3rd Sunday of Advent**

**Lectors**

5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples  
 #2 - Tom Shields  
 10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger  
 #2 - Andrew Steger

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**

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

**Stewardship Counting**

Adam Grzybek & Cheryl Dell

# December 16, 2018

## The 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Dec 17	NO MASS. Father Christopher's Day Off	
Tuesday	Dec 18	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Louis Zych 7:00 pm First Reconciliation Group 2	by John & Mary Mojeski
Wednesday	Dec 19	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Aleksander Sekula For the special intentions of James Ross	by Irene Lipiec by the Chorley family
Thursday	Dec 20	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Robert Schnaar For the special intentions of Paul & Ann Lowrey	by John Mulder by the Chorley family
Friday	Dec 21	9:00 am For the special intentions of the Chorley family and of George & Pat Ross	by the Chorley family
Saturday	Dec 22	<b>The 4th Sunday of Advent</b> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sunday	Dec 23	10:00 am +For the repose of the souls of Helen Lipiec & Benny Klimowich +For the repose of the soul of Riky Mulder 2:00 pm Eucharistic Holy Hour and Confessions	by Helen & Andy Lipiec by the Knights of Columbus

**ST. MARTINS OF TOURS**  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Parish Discernment 2018**

**LATE FALL 2018 REPORT**

**What is Parish Discernment?**

The Parish Discernment Process is a St. Catharine's Diocese initiative to help parishes determine individual parish requirements to move from a state of maintenance to mission. St. Martin's participated with the 6 other parishes of the Haldimand Deanery.

**Who was involved?**

Father Christopher along with a dedicated team of St. Martin's volunteers attended meetings with the other parishes. Bishop Bergie and his discernment team facilitated the meetings, provided guidance, and assigned follow up actions at each step of the process.

Please find the full Report with today's parish bulletin.

**Next Parish Discernment Team Meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019, at 7:00 pm.**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

- Monday, December 24:**  
**Christmas Eve Family Mass - 5:00 pm**  
**Solemn Midnight Mass - 11:30 pm**
- Tuesday, December 25:**  
**Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 am.**  
**DECEMBER 26 to 28: NO WEEKDAY MASSES**
- Saturday, December 29:**  
**Feast of the Holy Family Vigil - 5:00 pm**
- Sunday, December 30: 10:00 am Mass**

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD.**  
**NEW YEAR'S**

- Monday, December 31: Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, New Year's Day: Mass at - 10:00 am**  
**JANUARY 2 to 4: NO WEEKDAY MASSES**

**COUNCILS: FINANCIAL AND PASTORAL**

If you are interested in becoming a member kindly speak with Father Christopher. If you have some financial background you could be an asset to us. If you work well with others, and have pastoral vision please share with us. These councils are to aid the pastor in the administering of the parish.

More details to follow...

**PRAYERFUL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS**

Sunday, December 16 and Sunday December 23 Eucharistic Holy Hour from 2:pm to 3:00pm. An opportunity to seek: Adoration, Community, Theology and Service. (ACTS). An invitation to Sacramental Confession is available. Volunteers for the recitation of the holy rosary is sought.

We encourage all parishioners to avail of this time for personal prayer. Those in parish ministry, and especially eucharistic ministry are also encouraged to attend.

**PARISH EVENTS GROUP THANKS YOU**

PEG would like to thank everyone who purchased Poinsettias this year which financially supports PEG Activities: First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Socials and the Parish Picnics. With the School and Parish Sales, we raised \$500.09.

**The Annual Parish Pasta Dinner will take place on February 9th.** Please book the date. More information will come as we approach this time.

**WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2018**

The West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme will offer a fully home cooked meal and social every Thursday beginning January 3, 2019 to June 27, 2019 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  
 Fall of 2019 TBA Smithville Christian Reformed

**A special collection for donations to the Loaf of Bread Programme will be taken up on December 22/23. Special Envelope with today's bulletin. Donations can be given at anytime. We shall leave this collection "open".**

**Thank you.**

If there are any interested individuals who would be interested in serving and cleaning up after, please contact Josie Dell at: vernandjosie@gmail.com or call 905-346-1830.

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP**

<b>DECEMBER 8/9</b>	
<b>Sunday Offertory (66 Env):</b>	<b>\$ 1,610.00</b>
<b>Loose:</b>	<b>\$ 130.45</b>
<b>Late Facility Maintenance (4 Env):</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>
<b>Missal Sales</b>	<b>\$ 48.90</b>

*Thank you for your faithful stewardship*

**(NEW) YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. MARTIN'S**

**Youth Group Ages from 12- 14**

The Group will meet bi-weekly centered around the 5:00pm Mass and engage in a number of activities following Mass in the parish hall and in the community.

**Saturday, January 12, 2019 is our Kick Off!**

Scheduled event is Mass, Pizza and Skating.

January 26 Mass:

Hamburgers/HotDogs, Tobogganing at local hill, hot chocolate.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY**

We continue to implement this important ministry. Many challenges are present ;and we are trying to address them. Gathering children before-hand and having them involved in the offertory of the Mass is crucial and needs to be organized each Sunday.

Thank you for your patience...

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

**DECEMBER 2018**

Our membership fees have remained at \$20 for years now. Please put your name and address on an envelope with your \$20 and drop in the collection basket. Some ladies say they can't make it to meetings, others that they can't bake, etc. Even if this is the case, we still need you to join. Ask the Lord to guide you. Let us be united and strong and guided always through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

**Sylvana Oliver C.W.L. President**

**CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER AT THE**

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Don't spend Christmas Day alone.  
 If you are alone, consider joining us for  
 Christmas Dinner and Social.**

**Contact Father Christopher.  
 RRSVP by Tuesday, December 18.**