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PREPARE THE WAY

“Pre-evangelism” is very much like the agricultural process of preparing the soil to receive seed so that the seed has the optimal chance of germinating and springing into life. The farmer prepares the soil by plowing, tilling, and adding various soil supplements, depending on the condition of the soil. This process takes time, energy and money, however without proper soil preparation much seed would be wasted, and the harvest greatly diminished.

John the Baptist was a herald of Jesus' arrival. John's austere life and straightforward proclamations prepared the way for the appearance of Jesus and the starting of his ministry. John was involved in “pre-evangelism” for he conditioned hearts to be receptive to the arrival of the Lamb of God, and Jesus' work of salvation. Consequently, when Jesus presented himself to John to be baptized, several of John's disciples were prepared to follow Jesus, ultimately becoming his disciples. Because of John's preparatory work the seed of Jesus' words fell on the receptive soil of their hearts, bringing forth both growth and fruit.

We know that Christ has come, that's what we celebrate during this season of Advent. However, there dwells in our midst many people for whom Jesus' coming does not exist. Though they may know his name and even use it when cursing, they don't know who he is, they do not comprehend what he has done for them, and they have never encountered him personally. Many are bruised and battered by life, cynically rejecting the Truth, and steeling themselves against further hurt, they remain unreceptive to the seeds of Truth.

People today also need a herald to awaken their hearts to the Good News. Like the farmers soil, people need someone who cares enough to gently break up the fallow ground of their hearts by their living witness, so that it can receive the seeds of Truth.

The season of Advent is a prime time to begin this process with people we know. Advent lends itself to being friendly and expanding relationships. Casual conversations about Christmas plans, feelings, and traditions can easily overflow into a gracious and non-threatening sharing with others the real meaning of Christmas for us. Little kindnesses and thoughtful, unexpected acts of grace-filled giving can soften and melt hearts steeled by life's hurts, communicating love, care and concern. We not only can be, but must be, heralds of Jesus especially during this season of Advent. Who knows? Perhaps God will use us in this season to herald his coming to a friend or family member who will hear him, for the first time.

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
 To be Re-scheduled

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

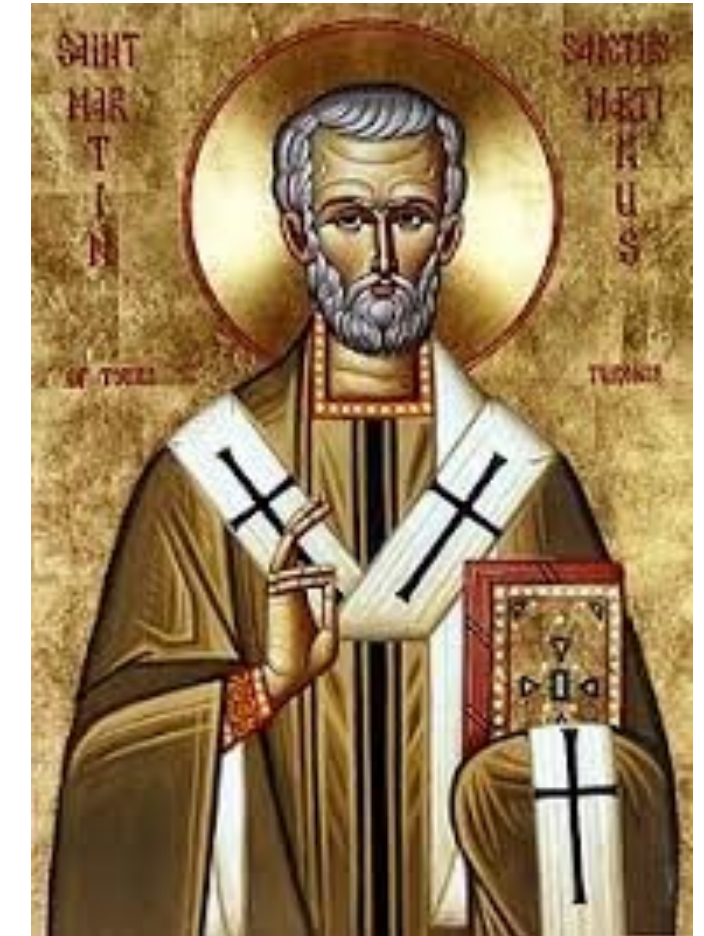
Parish Organizations
 Catholic Women's League
 Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
 Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
 West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
 Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
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Ministry Schedule - December 15/16

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich
 10:00 am - George Yakowenko

Altar Servers

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

Children's Liturgy

Zoe Gunn

Next Hospitality Sunday

January 6

December 9, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
 #2 - Caroline Steger
 10:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
 #2 - Lisa Poort

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
 10:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec & Sherri deWilde

Stewardship Counting

Antonella Presta & Elaine Parry

December 9, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Advent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Dec 10	No public Mass today. Father Christopher's Day Off	
Tuesday	Dec 11	9:00 am +For the repose of the souls of Hortencia & Abilio Fonseca +For the repose of the soul of Michael Andrew Chorley 7:00 pm 1st Holy Reconciliation	by Maria Martins by the Chorley family
Wednesday	Dec 12	Our Lady of Guadalupe 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Antonio Pais 9:45 am School Reconciliation Week Two	by Maria Pais
Thursday	Dec 13	St. Lucy 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Robert Schnaar For the special intentions of Marg, Brian & Paul Whittle 5:30 pm Catholic Women's League Christmas Dinner Rollie's Restaurant	by John Mulder by the Chorley family
Friday	Dec 14	St. John of the Cross 9:00 am For the special intentions of Frank Ross & John Ross For the ACTS 18 RETREAT TEAM	by the Chorley family by Father Christopher
Saturday	Dec 15	The 3rd Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm For the living and deceased members of the Mulder family	by John Mulder
Sunday	Dec 16	10:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family 2:00 pm - 3:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hour with Confessions.	

ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, December 11 & 18, 2018 - 7:00 pm

SUNDAY MISSALS AVAILABLE

The new liturgical year c begins the First Sunday of Advent December 2. A donation of \$5.00 is appreciated. Available at front foyer or at parish

WINTER: SEASON OF DORMANCY AND DIFFICULTY

Presented by Fr. Michael Wastag, O. Carm.
Saturday, December 12 (9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre
\$65/person (includes lunch)

Explore what the winter season can teach us about spirituality and life through reflections on Scripture, tradition, and the arts.

7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.

Tel: 905-356-4113

SINGERS WANTED

Singers wanted to form a choir for Midnight mass which actually begins at 11:30 pm. No experience necessary. Please join Norrie from 4:15pm to 4:45pm **each** Saturday night to practice.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

This month's topics are:

- **Dec 10 - Overcoming Loneliness**
- **No meeting on December 24**
- **Regular meetings resume January 14, 2019**

Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.

Pre-registration not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154 or email:

separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

DECEMBER 2018

From St. Martin's C.W.L. to all our ladies in the Parish, we would like to wish you all the best in this Christmas season. We have been busy making Christmas Urns and are now preparing for our Craft and Bake Sale on December 2nd. Our final meeting of the year will be on Thursday, December 13th when we hope to have dinner followed by some games.

It is the goal of every C.W.L. in Canada to have every woman of the Parish belonging to this truly worthwhile organization. It is only through our numbers that we can approach our Provincial and Federal leaders to implement changes like on abortion and euthanasia and numerous other issues. Did you know that Canada has no laws concerning when abortions can be performed, whether it be at 6 weeks or 6 months? Please consider joining St. Martin's C.W.L. for the year 2019.

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

SANTA'S COMING

The CWL is hosting a visit with Santa in the Church basement, following the 10:00am Mass Sunday, December 16th.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Diocese of St. Catharines "first Fridays" Gather from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for supper, fellowship, faith session, prayer. Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Hwy. r.s.v.p. -- call 905-684-0145, ext. 209 or text 905-351-9107

PRAY THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

In the Service of the Transmission of Faith ~ That people who are involved in the service and transmission of faith may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

NOVEMBER 24/25

Sunday Offertory (73 Env):	\$ 1,539.80
Loose:	\$ 123.60
Facility Maintenance (48 Env):	\$ 719.30
Loose:	\$ 45.35
Late Deo Gratias (1 Env)	\$ 15.00
Missal Sales	\$ 90.00
Memorial Donation (Andy Wirth)	\$ 50.00
Confirmation Collection	\$ 505.70

Thank you for your faithful stewardship

LOOKING AHEAD

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

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.

YEAR "C" -- THE LITURGICAL YEAR OF LUKE

The tradition of the Church teaches that Luke was a doctor and a missionary companion of Paul. Luke is a patron of artists, and his words paint a picture of Jesus as loving and kind, welcoming all and teaching of God's forgiveness. This gospel gathers the stories and teachings of Jesus into an orderly account so that all who hear it can come to believe.