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### REJOICE

We have arrived at Gaudete Sunday (Gaudete is the Latin word for "rejoice") this Third Week of Advent, and the Scriptures take on a joyful tone as we continue our preparations for the feast of our Savior's birth.

Our Second Reading gives us cause for joy as St Paul reminds us, "The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all...." Then he gives us a prescription for maintaining this peace: "In everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." Paul's instructions for obtaining peace come as an early Christmas gift. They remind us that we can and should go to God with all our needs and present them to Him along with our thanks. This guidance calls to mind a vital aspect of a stewardship way of life: gratitude to God in response to His great love and countless gifts to us.

The Gospel passage, from Luke, shows us how to live out this sense of thankfulness, making our lives a "Christmas gift" to Christ in joyful response to His love for us. When the crowds hear John the Baptist's message that their Savior is coming, they ask him what they should do to prepare. He responds, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do the same." He tells tax collectors to stop collecting more than is prescribed and soldiers, to be satisfied with their wages. In other words, he tells them to be good and generous stewards of all God's gifts to them!

As the great feast of Christmas draws near, let us rejoice in Christ's extravagant love. Let's avail ourselves of the peace He longs to give us. And let's look carefully at our lives to make sure we are indeed making of them a gift fitting for Him.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen  
P.P.

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am

**Weekday Masses**  
See Schedule  
on the inside of the bulletin

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

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Financial Recorder**  
Sandy Johnson

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
By Appointment Only in COVID-19

**Requesting Sacraments**  
Must be registered and practicing  
Call office for details

**St Martin Elementary School**  
Phone 905-957-3032

**Cemetery**  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648  
This position is now available.  
Contact the parish office.

**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Carolyn Vaughan

**Knights of Columbus**  
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Chair Frank DeFilippis

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy.  
Youth Ministry  
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

E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

### December 12, 2021 - Year - C

## 3rd Sunday of Advent

# December 12, 2021

## 3rd Sunday of Advent - Year C

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 13	9:00 am	+Harry Kruk	by Helen & Andy Lipiec
Tues	Dec 14	9:00 am	God's blessings upon Helen Lipiec	by Joan & Bob Hignett
Wed	Dec 15	9:00 am	+Darren and James Mayhew	by Andrew & Verena Mayhew
		9:30 am	CWL Breakfast Gathering in the community.	
		10:30 am - 12:pm	Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	Fr .Christopher
		6:30 pm	- 7:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration/Confession and Benediction	Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Dec 16	9:00 am	For the successful operation and health & healing of Kamil Pachowicz	by Parents
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Parish Bible Study Group in the upper meeting room	
Fri	Dec 17	7:30 am	- 8:30 Paradisus Dei - That Man Is You: Virtual Rosary	Fr. Christopher
		9:00 am	+Camilia Terpstra	by John & Judy Terpstra
		7:00 pm	- 9:00 pm Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher
Sat	Dec 18	8:30 am	- 10:00 am That Man is You - by Zoom. Paradisus Program (TMIY):	Fr. Christopher
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Mass	Fr. Christopher
		<b><i>The 4th Sunday of Advent</i></b>		
Sat	Dec 18	5:00 pm	For the special intentions of the Widow's of the KOC	by the KOC
Sun	Dec 19	10:00 am	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

#### E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **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.**

Thank you for your stewardship.

Stewardship is given by in-person, E-Transfer and by mail. Unfortunately, not all are currently supporting our parish with their stewardship. Perhaps this gentle reminder will motivate you to give. Again, we continually thank those who are supportive weekly or monthly with their stewardship.

#### OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

The 2022 Offertory Envelopes are available in the church foyer. Please pick up your box even if you use E-Transfers.

Thank you for your continuing financial support.

#### CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS

##### MASS TIMES

**\*Friday Dec 24: 5:00 and 10:30 pm**  
**\*Saturday Dec 25: 10:00 am**  
 Sunday Dec 26: 10:00 am  
 Friday Dec 31: 5:00 pm  
 Saturday January 1: 10:00 am  
 Sunday January 2: 10:00 am

**\* Pre-Registration is required for Dec 24 and 25. Please call or email the office.**

#### ATTENTION: HOSPITALITY/COVID MINISTRY

Due to retirement, illness and surgery, we are in **dire** need of Hospitality/Covid Ministers. It is not a difficult task. If you could assist with this ministry, please call the office. Hospitality/COVID Ministers are required to be at Mass 30 minute prior to the beginning of Mass.

**We can't open our doors to the public without this ministry in place.**

#### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE AND CARITAS PEOPLE AND PLANET FIRST

This year, Development and Peace's **"People and Planet First"** campaign invites you to stand in solidarity with them and celebrate their work! Engaging and informative resources can be found on the website, devp.org.

#### PROOF OF VACCINATION INFORMATION FOR PARISHIONERS

No proof of vaccination is required for anyone attending Mass or other liturgical service in any church in the Diocese of St. Catharines. Physical distancing and face masks are required for the entire time someone is in the church building, except to receive Holy Communion.

Parishioners who are elderly or may be medically compromised may decide to stay home and participate in a livestreamed Mass.

No proof of vaccination is required for closed parish meetings in a parish hall (parish council, CWL, etc.) with a maximum of 25 people.

Proof of vaccination (double vaccination plus 14 days) is required for anyone over the age of twelve attending a reception or social event (e.g. parish pasta dinner, wedding or funeral reception, etc.) in a parish hall.

Proof of vaccination requirements **do not apply** to:

- Funeral services including rites, ceremonies, visitations, receptions, or social gatherings held in places of worship.
- Funeral services including rites, ceremonies, visitations, receptions, or social gatherings held in funeral establishments, cemeteries, crematoriums and similar establishments.

#### ONLINE CHILDREN'S LITURGY IS BACK!

This weekly email contains a reading, video and more, right to your inbox every Sunday. We are monitoring the situation and are hopeful to return to in person in the new year – stay tuned. If you would like to receive the online Children's Liturgy, please send an email to the parish office at [st.martins@cogeco.ca](mailto:st.martins@cogeco.ca) to get added to the list!

#### COVID PROTOCOLS FOR MEETINGS IN THE HALL

As churches are now allowed to have meetings, the following Covid Protocol must be adhered to during Phase 3 of Ontario's reopening plans:

- Capacity restricted to 25 indoors and 100 outdoors.
- Face Masks must be worn at all times.
- 6 feet physical distance must be maintain before, during and after all meetings.
- Sanitize hands upon entering the building
- One person to sign people in with date, name and phone number of all attendees. This Covid contact list must be kept for 6 years.
- The kitchen cannot be used.
- All tables & chairs to be returned to the storage area.
- Proof of vaccine is not required for closed
- Meeting with a maximum of 25 people.
- Proof of vaccine and photo ID is required for open meetings and receptions.
- As we slowly move into the late fall and early winter months we are highly recommending meetings to take place virtually, by zoom.
- We are also troubled that individuals will attend a meeting but not attend Sunday Mass?
- Gathering after Mass outside the physical distance protocol ( 6 Feet) must be maintained.
- Please refrain from hugging others even if outside

#### NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SYNOD 2021-2023, Journeying Together

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited the entire Church to embark on a journey together in a Synod. As we begin this synodal journey in the Diocese of St. Catharines, all parishes are asked to conduct small group listening sessions in February and March, engaging as many parishioners as we can. At this time of preparation, we are looking for volunteers to facilitate discussion groups.

Discussions will take place in 3 sessions. Training for facilitators will be given in January, and all materials including the discussion questions will be provided. A facilitator should be comfortable leading a small group (6-10 people) in open and honest discussion. Please call the parish office if you are interested.