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FAMILY LIFE

The Holy Family experienced many of the same joys and trials that all parents and children experience today. And, so, we can look to this Family for help in our own family lives and see in them a model of stewardship in family life.

The Gospel passage from Luke starts by telling us something about Jesus' parents: "Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and when he was 12 years old, they went up according to festival custom." This Family took seriously the stewardship of their time. The "Holy Couple" carefully observed the traditions and practice of their Jewish faith and brought up their Son to do the same. They worshiped as a family, and with their faith community. And they did so faithfully.

We can take their example to heart by making Sunday Mass attendance a priority for our families, by making prayer with our family a priority every day, by making sure that we regularly celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and by observing in our family life the feasts and fasts appropriate to the liturgical calendar. When we, as families, prioritize our Time with God and worship of Him we will be imitating the Holy Family.

On this Feast of the Holy Family, let us reclaim the beauty and importance of family life. Let's commit to steward our families well in 2022, making time spent with God and practicing our faith the most important appointments on our family calendars.

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
Contract Pending with new Management

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Carolyn Vaughan

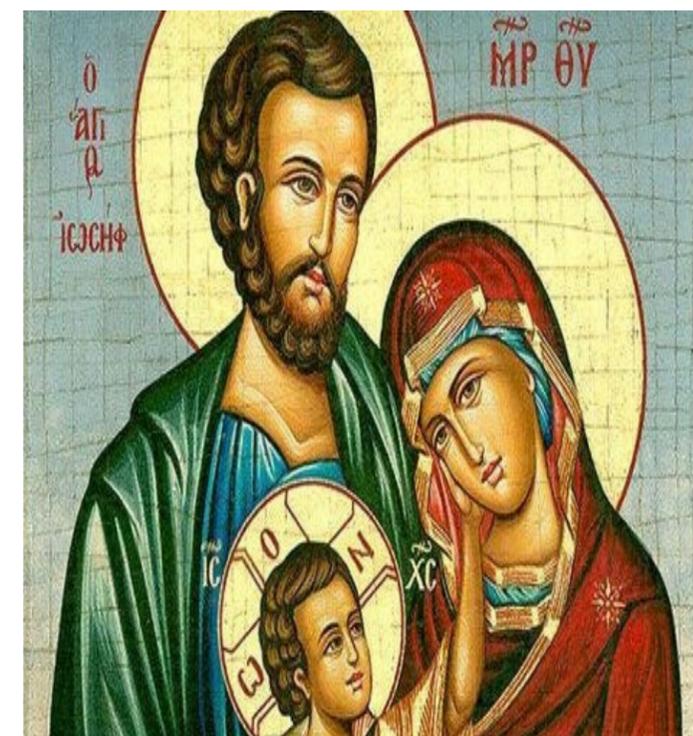
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis
koc.16421@gmail.com

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



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Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com
E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

December 26, 2021 - Year - C

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year C MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 27	NO MASS TODAY	
Tues	Dec 28	NO MASS TODAY	
Wed	Dec 29	9:00 am +Carrol Morkin	by Donna & Steve Bray
Thurs	Dec 30	9:00 am For the health and healing of Joyce Ross	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
Fri	Dec 31	<i>The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. New Year's Eve</i> 5:00 pm For the health and healing of Loretta Mego	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
Sat	Jan 1	New Year's Day 10:00 am For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher	
Sun	Jan 2	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> 10:00 am 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.

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.

NEW YEAR'S MASS TIMES

Friday Dec 31:	5:00 pm
Saturday January 1:	10:00 am
Sunday January 2:	10:00 am

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 to get added to the list!

SYNOD 2021-2023, JOURNEYING TOGETHER

The active phase of our local participation in the Synod will begin in the New Year with small group discussions organized in every parish focusing on the fundamental question: *A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, "journeys together." How is this "journeying together" happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our "journeying together"?* (PD, 26)

For more information, visit:
<https://www.synod.va/en.html>.

For information on what is happening in our local Church, visit
<http://www.saintcd.com/synod-2021-2023>

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.

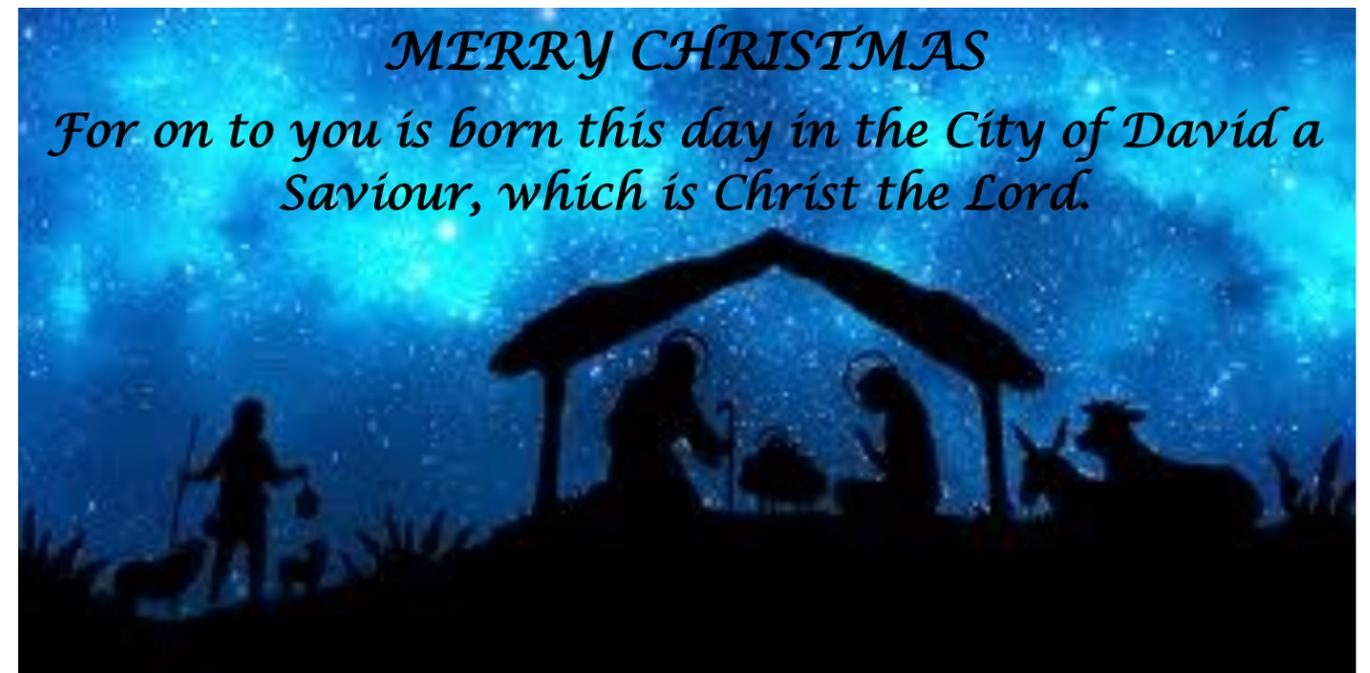
CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S OFFICE HOURS

The office is now closed and will re-open on Tuesday January 4, 2022

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 maintained 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



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
Christmas 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Life is full of signs and symbols that can either teach, warn, or inspire us. Some are familiar and easily recognized. Others are more obscure and require greater reflection. A very few are mysterious and require deep contemplation. We find an example of this at Christmas.

In the Gospel of St. Luke we are told that on the night that Jesus was born an Angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds to reveal to them a great sign. The angel states, “this will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12).

After going to the manger and seeing Jesus, we are told that the shepherds “returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen, as it had been told them” (Luke 2:20). As they contemplated this sign, their hearts were filled with peace and joy. What appeared so ordinary was truly extraordinary in meaning.

At the present moment there are many distressing ‘signs’ in our world that seem to disturb our peace. We can easily feel overwhelmed. A significant one is the ongoing pandemic and all of the collateral damage that is associated with this virus. Sadly, there is still a great deal of anxiety and uncertainty in the hearts of God’s people.

In the First Letter of John we are told that “there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear” (4:18). Here we find the significance of the sign promised to the shepherds. They came to the manger in darkness filled with fear. They returned to their fields enlightened by “Perfect Love”. Contemplation led to transformation.

This Christmas I invite you to go to the manger to contemplate Divine Love. Allow this mysterious sign to give you the gift of hope during these troubling times: “you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger”.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines