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FOLLOW MARY'S HEART

Our Blessed Mother takes center stage on this fourth Sunday of Advent, and fittingly so, as we draw near to the celebration of her Son's birth. After our Lord Himself, Mary is our model and guide to a stewardship way of life.

Today's Gospel passage from Luke describes Mary's actions immediately after her "yes" to the angel Gabriel's message. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah... and greeted Elizabeth." Mary immediately begins to think of others before herself, setting out quickly to be with her cousin, modeling two of the pillars of stewardship – Hospitality and Service.

What warmth and humility the Mother of our Savior shows, traveling to Elizabeth to spend time with her, rejoicing with Elizabeth over her own incredible pregnancy, and assisting her in a time of need. And what joy this hospitality and service brings to Elizabeth.

Our Blessed Mother's example of a stewardship way of life is one that we, her children, can follow in our own lives today. With all the gifts God gives us - our time, our talents, our material possessions - we, too, can offer ourselves to God by using these gifts to serve and glorify Him. In so doing, we will effectively spread the Good News of the Gospel to the world around us today.

We will be stewards after our Mother's own heart.

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



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www.stmartinsparish.com
E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

December 19, 2021 - Year - C

4th Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

4th Sunday of Advent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 20	9:00 am +Frank Luchetta 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Diocesan Council for Development & Peace Zoom Mtg	by Lenora Newman Fr. Christopher
Tues	Dec 21	9:00 am +Stewart Cook	by Donna & Steve Bray
Wed	Dec 22	9:00 am +Lawrence Shiarot 10:30 am - 12:pm Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration/ Confessions & Benediction	by Donna & Steve Bray Fr .Christopher
Thurs	Dec 23	9:00 am +Michael Berlingieri 9:30 am - 10:30 am Parish Bible Study Group in the upper meeting room	by Andrew & Caroline Steger
Fri	Dec 24	Christmas Eve - The Nativity of our Lord 5:00 pm - +Harry Belmont, Grace & John William Tye 10:30 pm +Maria deFatima Pais	by Heather Belmont by Family
Sat	Dec 25	Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord 10:00 am -For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher and St. Martin's Parish Family The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	
Sun	Dec 26	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 before Dec 21.**

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 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 Catholic Church to participate in the Synod on Synodality, which is all about our journeying together. Through listening and discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit, the entire people of God is called to contribute to a process by which the Church deepens in understanding of Her mission and looks toward the future. A Synod, which is the process by which the Church will begin this important work is not just a convening of Bishops advising the Pope. It is a journey of discernment in which the entire people of God are called to pray and reflect upon the Holy Spirit's will for the Church. Through our listening and our sharing, we will seek to understand what the Holy Spirit's will is for the topic being discussed – and thus, for the Church.

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 do 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-rille New Year.

Yours sincerely in Christ.

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