

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE SUPPORTERS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS BULLETIN

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Vision of St. Martin of Tours

To be a thriving parish community rooted in our Catholic faith, evangelizing, and welcoming all to participate in Worship and to serve our parishioners, schools and those in our community of West Lincoln.

HOW WILL WE DO THIS?

- Faith:** We will meet parishioners where they are in their faith journey and help grow their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Evangelize:** We will share the hope and joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by living and leading by good example, fostering healing and reconciliation where and when needed.
- Welcoming:** We will invite, welcome, and build healthy relationships, to provide a sense of belonging and community for all.
- Worship:** We will place Jesus Christ at the center of the Liturgy and actively participate.
- Serve:** We will invite all to actively share their talents to establish a vibrant and thriving parish that lives and serves by example.

Hospitality	Ministry Schedule Dec 30/31 & Jan 1	Holy Communion
5:00 pm - Julie Notarianni 10:00 am - George Yakowenko 10:00 am - Joan & Bob Hignett	Lector 5:00 pm - Sandy Johnson 10:00 am - Marg Van Geest 10:00 am - Caroline Steger	5:00 pm - Nick Verrecchia 10:00 am - Cathy Cartagine 10:00 am - Andrew Steger

Pastor
Very Rev. Fr. Christopher Gerard Gillen
Parish Priest / Vicar Forane
(Dean of Haldimand)

Administrative Assistant
Financial Recorder
Sandy Johnson
In Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 10:00 am
Weekday Masses
See Schedule inside of the bulletin

Reconciliation/Confessions
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Requesting Sacraments
Interview and Classes Required

St Martin Elementary School
905-957-3032
Blessed Trinity High School
905-945-6708

Cemetery Management
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Maryanne Mous
StMartinsCWL@hotmail.com
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight Tony Zanni
t.zanni@hotmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Chair Frank DeFilippis

Parish Groups
Parish Pastoral Council
Parish Financial Council
Parish Events Group
Cemetery Committee
Responsible Faith Ministry
Children's Liturgy.
ACTS Retreats Teams
RCIA TEAM

Diocese of St. Catharines
Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard Paul Bergie, D.D.
President of Assembly of Ontario Catholic Bishops
Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Faith Community
1866 -2023**



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

Mission of St. Martin of Tours
We will follow Jesus Christ and love all people.

**December 24, 2023 - Year - B
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve**

December 24, 2023

The 4th Sunday of Advent - Year B

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:35 am

Sun	Dec 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm +Harry Belmont 10: 00 pm For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher	by Heather Belmont
Mon	Dec 25	Christmas - The Nativity of the Lord 10:00 am For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher & St. Martin's Parish Family	
Tues	Dec 26	Christmas Octave: St. Stephen 9:00 am +Conor McGrath	by Caroline Elliot
Wed	Dec 27	Christmas Octave: St. John the Apostle 9:00 am For the health and healing of Fr. Christopher	by Andrew & Caroline Steger
Thurs	Dec 28	Christmas Octave. The Holy Innocents 9:00 am +Kamil Pachowicz	by Emilia & Walter Pachowicz Fr. Christopher
Fri	Dec 29	7:30 am - 8:00 am Paradisus Dei Men's Rosary Group Virtual Christmas Octave 9:00 am +Kamil Pachowicz 10:00 am - 12 : Noon. Pastoral Home Visits to those who registered	by Emilia & Walter Pachowicz Fr. Christopher
Sat	Dec 30	Christmas Octave: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 5:00 pm +Orlando Verrecchia	by the Verrecchia, Balsor & Delgobo Families
Sun	Dec 31	10:00 am +Pro Populo Dei - For the special Intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

We rely on your weekly stewardship to support our faith community of St. Martin. We thank you for your stewardship commitment to our parish, and diocese.

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.

2024 OFFERTORY ENVELOPES

Your 2024 Offertory Envelopes are in the foyer of the Church for you to pick up. Thank you for your continuing financial support.

YEAR END STEWARDSHIP

If you would like to make a financial contribution to be added to your 2023 income tax receipt, please ensure it is in the office before December 25, 2023. Thank you.

DIOCESE OF ST.CATHARINES

SECURITIES DONATIONS

With Dec. 31 fast approaching, many individuals are in the middle of tax planning. This is a perfect time to consider making a donation of securities to the parish or diocese, to support the very good work being done. You will receive a charitable gift receipt for the full amount of the donation, calculated when the donated securities are sold. Find the link to our donation form; questions may be directed to John O'Brien, Diocesan CFO (jobrien@saintcd.com).

ADVENT&CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS FROM THE CANADIAN CONFERENCE OF BISHOPS

A series entitled "Journey Through Advent" is available on the CCCB website (<https://www.cccb.ca/oec/journey-throughadvent>).

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Parish Pastoral Council will gather on January 8 at 7 pm. We look forward to the New Year of 2024, as we continue on our synodal path of encouraging, listening and accompanying

SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS HOLY FAMILY and NEW YEAR'S MASSES

- Dec 24 - 5:00 pm Vigil Mass for Christmas
- Dec 24 - 10:00 pm Anticipated Midnight Mass
- Dec 25 - 10:00 am Christmas Day Mass (Holy Day of Obligation)
- Dec 30 - 5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass Feast of the Holy Family
- Dec 31 - 10 am Sunday Mass (No vigil Mass for New Year's Eve).
- Jan 1 - 10 am Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. (Holy Day of Obligation).

CHRISTMAS 2023

The Christmas Mass continues to be the principal way for us as Roman Catholics to express our joy and gratitude for the mystery of the Incarnation. Catholic practice observes the Eucharistic Liturgy at the four "cardinal points" of the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Get to know the spirit proper to each of the Christmas Masses.

- Dec 24 - 5 pm and 10 pm: "The seeing of light" - the Christmas of light and shadow. The people who walked in darkness see the great light for all peoples heralded to the shepherds.
- Dec. 25: 10:00 am: "The celebration of inner seeing" - the Christmas of joy, of manifesting the glory of God. The fuller meaning of the Word become flesh becomes manifest as a reflection of the Father's glory and being, which will ultimately be seen to the ends of the earth.

We welcome you to our Christmas Masses. We encourage you to recommit to a regular practice of Sunday Mass as we begin the New Year 2024.

We welcome you to play a fuller part in our Mission and Vision of St. Martin - our small parish with a big heart. Come, and let us follow Jesus Christ, and love all people.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- Jan 10 Regular Meeting at 7: 00 pm Nominations at this meeting for 2024. Please consider individuals for nominations and perhaps consider taking an executive/leadership position yourself.

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS?

The octave of Christmas is celebrated as an eight day feast which begins on the Nativity, Dec 25, and continues to January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Since at least the fourth century, Christians have celebrated the most important liturgical feasts with "octaves" - eight days of celebration. Christmas has been celebrated as an octave since at least the seventh century and is today one of two octaves celebrated by the Church - the other is Easter.

During the Christmas octave, the "Gloria" is sung each day during Mass, and each day is generally regarded as a day of great feasting. We encourage you to join us for the octave of Christmas Masses all of Christmas week at 9 am.

GRADE 7 CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

St. Martin's Parish kicked off the award winning *Chosen* Confirmation program on Sat Nov 18 with 5 youth from St. Martin's School. We welcome and pray for these students as the start their Confirmation Journey.

Still want to join us? We encourage more students.

Who: Grade 7 Students.

When: Next session - Jan 13 at 4:45 pm

Where: St. Martin's Church

Cost: \$50 cover meals and course material

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION for the Month of December

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation (Apostleship of Prayer/Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network).

NEXT PARISH BULLETIN

We take a break from our weekly parish bulletin.

Our next publication is the Epiphany of the Lord, January 7, 2024

PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

The parish office will be closed the last week of December (25-29). The parish office will reopen on January 2, 2024. Emergency calls are covered 24/7.