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SPREADING THE MESSAGE

"Don't miss the message," seems to be the telecommunication warning of our day. Homes are jampacked with devices to ensure that even the most trivial message gets through. Homes have multiple telephone lines, message recorders, call waiting, call forwarding, cell phones, smart phones, email, internet and various other devices for making sure nothing is missed. It makes you wonder what messages are so important that everyone is so afraid of missing them.

God's messages are the ones that are really important. In this week's readings God sends a message to us using four different delivery systems to make sure we get it. In 2 Samuel 7, God sends the message through his prophet Nathan to David. The message was an important promise that God would establish an everlasting kingdom, not just a temporary, man-made kingdom, and that he would do it through a descendent of King David. This promise was critically important because this descendent would also usher in the means of a personal relationship with the Father based on loving forgiveness.

Years later, God sends another message through a different means, by the angel Gabriel. In this instance it is not delivered to a king but to a lowly maiden, Mary. God's message to Mary is that she was especially chosen to bear this promised descendant of David, who is coming to establish God's kingdom. In this message she is given additional insight that this descendant of David was to be the Son of the Most High, the Son of God. What a message! Thankfully, we don't have to miss it for God recorded it on the pages of his eternal sacred Scripture.

As Mary received the angel's message she then became a unique message bearer herself. For Mary did not simply deliver this message from God, as did Nathan the prophet, or Gabriel the angel, instead she delivered both the final message and the final messenger, as it says in Hebrews, "In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe." (Hebrews 11:1,2) Jesus is both the final, most thoroughly revealing message of God's love, and the quintessential messenger. And Mary, full of grace, delivered both God's Message and God's final Messenger, her son and our Savior, Jesus.

And if after the announcement of the heavenly messenger the Virgin is called 'blessed among women' (Lk. 1:42) it is because of that blessing with which God the Father has filled us in the heavenly places in Christ. It is a spiritual blessing which is meant for all people and which bears in itself fullness and universality ('every blessing'). It is a blessing poured out through Jesus Christ upon human history until the end: upon all people.

God went to a lot of trouble in the days before telecommunication to insure that we didn't miss the Christmas message; sending it through a prophet, an angel, a lowly maiden, and finally an only Son. Many are missing the message, some are waiting for a messenger to bring them the message. Having heard and received both Jesus and his message, we now have the privilege to carry both to people within our sphere of influence. Are we? Stop for a moment and gaze at the people within your natural environments. Who there needs to hear the real meaning of Jesus? Communicating the message of Jesus is the Christmas spirit.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office.

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

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St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church



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Dec 24, 2017
4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Eve

Ministry Schedule
Dec 25/30/31/Jan 1

Hospitality Ministers

10:00 am - Pat & Andy Wirth
5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec
5:00 pm - Tom Shields
10:00 am - Chuck & Elaine Parry

Altar Servers

10:00 am - Needed
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Katie & Laura
11:00 am - Needed
5:00 pm - Needed
10:00 am - Needed

Lectors

10:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda
#2 - Heather Tomascin
5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero
#2 - Needed
9:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda
#2 - Marg Van Geest
11:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort
#2 - Caroline Steger
5:00 pm - Sue Armstrong
10:00 am - #1 Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger

Ministers of Communion

10:00 am - Caroline & Andrew Steger
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Vern, Dick & Deb
11:00 am - Sherri, Helen & Andy Lipiec
5:00 pm - Needed
10:00 am - Dick, Vern & Mitch

Counting

Beth Davis & Helen Lipiec

Children's Liturgy

Needed

Next Hospitality Sunday

January 7

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent - Year B



Lord, may the request of your people rise before you like a fragrant offering

Sunday	Dec 24	The Nativity of the Lord 11:30 pm +For the repose of the soul of Connor Eberhard	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Monday	Dec 25	10:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Joe Mulder	by John & Riky Mulder
Tuesday	Dec 26	St Stephen, First Martyr 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Regina & John Newman	by the Newman family
Wednesday	Dec 27	St John, Apostle, Evangelist 9:00am For the health and healing of Reg Hare	by Joan & Bob Hignett
Please note the change during the Christmas Octave week. NO WEDNESDAY EVENING MASS			
Thursday	Dec 28	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis & family
Diocesan Knights of Columbus Mass 7:00pm. Meeting to follow in parish hall			
Friday	Dec 29	9:00 am For the health and healing of Barb Joyner	by Joan and Bob Hignett
Saturday	Dec 30	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph 5:00 pm For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family For God's blessings upon Christina Melo and Andrew McCale on their wedding	by the Melo family
Sunday	Dec 31	9:00 am +For the repose of the souls of all the deceased Melo Family members	by the Melo family
		11:00 am +For the repose of the souls of Helen Lipiec & Benny Klimowicz	by Andy & Helen Lipiec
		The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God 5:00 pm For God's blessings upon Christina Melo & Andrew McCale on their wedding day and future	by the Melo family

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve:

Family Mass 5:00pm.

Christmas Midnight Mass:

Dec 24 beginning at 11:30pm.

Christmas Day:

Monday, December 25, 10:00am.

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MASSES

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary And Joseph

Saturday, December 30, Vigil Mass 5:00pm.

December 31: Regular Sunday Masses 9 & 11 am

New Year's Vigil Mass:

Sunday December 31, 5:00pm

New Year's Day Mass:

Monday, January 1, 2018: 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

FALL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

"On behalf of all women who build peace in their communities, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment. Together, we have the power to change things! Join a dynamic pan-Canadian movement that takes action for peace and justice – become a member of Development and Peace. Without your action, there's no change, no justice!" For more information, please go to devp.org/membership

2017 DONATION FOR TAX RECEIPTS

Donations credited to your 2017 tax receipt must be received by December 31/17 The evening of December 31st will be applied to your 2017 receipt. Thank you.

SEASONAL FLOWER OFFERING

FOR LOVED ONES

The parish prays for: Don & Catherine Brown, Edward & Ellen Doyle, Bill Sawchuk, Andy Sawchuk, Eddie Sawchuk, Joachim Urban, Rose Anne Barker, Ethel & Bill Mataseje, Violet & Nelson Cronin, Peter & Julie Yakowenko, Millie Breddy, Joseph & Dorothy Bering, Eunice Doucette, Ted Saunders, David McIntyre, deceased members of the Sorbara family, Andreas & Katarina Wirth, John Wisniewski, Lily & Frank Wisniewski, John & Freda Chambers, Ann & Doug Newton, Nancy Shields, Joe Mous, Suzanne Cizmar, Cecile Kotuza, Jan & Krystyna Szwedo, Margaret & Jim Flaherty, Robert & Margaret Lemmon, Jose Martins, Antonio Borges, Anthony Mego, Austin Davis, Jean-Claude Paradis, Joseph Savoia, Tho Chorley-Ross, Allen, family and friends, Mildred & Joseph Pikula, Joey Pikula, Tom Pikula, Frnak & Sophie Modrzejewski, William & Lillian Kent, Don Kent, Bill Kent, Cameron Galvin Sr, Cameron Galvin Jr, Anna & Andrew Hornak, Mike & Vera Pereima, Jean Mego, Connor Eberhard, Deceased members of the Devlin family



TOO MANY TO THANK

"Barb Joyner and family would like to sincerely thank every one in the parish for all their prayers, food, flowers, mass intentions and well wishes during this time of illness. Special thanks to Sylvanna of CWL for introducing me to (and driving me to) the look good feel better program. The support has been overwhelming and so appreciated! Thank you all so much!"

ZUMBA FITNESS

Are you ready to make:

A New Year's resolution?

New friends?

Get into shape/lose weight?

Well, the Knights of Columbus Council #16421 has a remedy for you!

Starting January 9, 2018, Zumba will be held in St. Martin's parish hall where you can fulfill those resolutions. The cost will be \$5.00. Bring you water bottle and 2 pound weight (optional) and some will power.



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection December 17, 2017
\$1,578.50 - Envelopes (80)

Loaf of Bread Offering
\$690.00 - Envelopes (32)
\$457.75 - Loose

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.*

DIOCESAN PARISH DISCERNMENT

The Haldimand Deanery (7 parishes) will begin the Parish Discernment Process April 1, 2018. An assessment of needs and future direction of our parish will be done, moving the parish from maintenance to mission. A team of at least eight peoples are required. In 2018, we will need to gather and plan the future direction of our beautiful and dynamic parish. We've much to give thanks for and much to look forward to. We will discern together.

BELONG, BELIEVE, BEHAVE

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

The January 2018 topics are:

Welcoming the New Year - on January 8th

Who Am I Now - on January 22nd

Kathryn McMorrow is the presenter for both sessions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 of 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Ted Wisniewski/Danielle MacGillivray – Dec 24

Luca Sposato – Dec 27

Leah Yaromich/Maya Ridland – Dec 28

Nancy Sawchuk/Joseph DeFilippis – Dec 30

Sarine & Shayla Cacilhas – Dec 31

Anniversaries:

Chris & Jacqueline Chlisczyk – Dec 30

Craig & Andrea Evans – Dec 31

Anthony & Julie Notarianni – Dec 31