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THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christmas lights are one of the most delightful aspects of the holiday season and to me were even more impressive in the early 1950's. Growing up in Portland, Maine in the early '50's every store front was decorated with colorful lights and animated Christmas displays. As the days of December crept closer to Christmas, more and more homes became festooned with colorful Christmas lights, usually made even more luminous by a fluffy coating of snow. Inside, homes were aglow with well-lighted Christmas trees placed in front of the most prominent windows. Though my dad never joined us, choosing instead to stay home alone, part of our holiday ritual on Christmas eve was to pile the other seven of us into the old Chevy and drive downtown and throughout the various neighborhoods ooh-ing and aah-ing over the lights. What is it about the lights that attract us so?

"The Light" was one of John the Baptist's earliest phrases used to describe Jesus. Perhaps that is from where the practice derived of decorating our homes with Christmas lights. In any case, Jesus selected this phrase later in his ministry to describe himself, saying, "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life," (John 8:12). Surprisingly, those who listened did not have enough interest in being enlightened to ask Jesus to give them this light, instead they challenged his right to make this statement. We are reminded of this week's Gospel reading, wherein John the Baptist announces, "Among you stands one whom you do not know." The light was there with all God's brilliance, but they couldn't see it, or perhaps like my Dad with Christmas lights they didn't want to see it.

Jesus is the Light of the world. The formerly broken hearted, those previously held captive, those once bound, and those who have had reason to mourn, who have seen him know this to be true. They know the Light of the world transformed the darkness of their lives, and they will readily testify of the joy he brings. But is it possible, even though we set aside four weeks during Advent to prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, to not only miss seeing the Christmas lights, but also to miss seeing the Light? Is it not possible to be out and surrounded by Christmas displays and yet sit at home in our heart, and miss seeing THE Light of Christmas, to miss out on really seeing Jesus?

There are three weeks left of Advent, still time to contemplate Jesus, and the significance of his coming. Still time to ooh and aah over the brilliance of God's love displayed in his Son.

"Insignificant man, escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labors. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him. Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, Lord, I desire. Lord, my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you."

Perhaps you are finding it difficult to bring his light into your life. Please don't stand there asking the wrong question, as did the priests and Pharisees. Rather ask for an early Christmas gift, the Light of his presence. If necessary ask a trusted Christian friend for help in allowing Jesus to light up your life.

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
TO BE RE-SCHEDULED

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 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

Ministry Schedule - Dec 23/24/25

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom Shields
9:00 am - Bea & Alfons Blokhuis
11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec
5:00 pm - Tony Mous
11:30 pm - Janet & Ron Roscovich
10:00 am - Pat & Andy Wirth

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Katie & Laura
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed
5:00 pm - Needed
11:30 pm - Needed
10:00 am - Katie & Laura

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero
#2 - Maeve Devlin
9:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
#2 - Heather Tomascin
11:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger
#2 - Caroline Steger
5:00 pm #1 - Lisa Poort
#2 - Andrew Steger
11:30 pm #1 - Maeve Devlin
#2 - Sue Armstrong
10:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda
#2 - Heather Tomascin

Ministers of Communion

5:00 pm - Deb, Mitch & Doug
9:00 am - Dick & Vern
11:00 am - Helen & Andy
5:00 pm - Needed
11:30 pm - Doug & Sherri
10:00 am - Caroline & Andrew

Counting

Elaine Parry & Lisa Poort

Children's Liturgy

Needed

Next Hospitality Sunday

January 7

December 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent - Year B



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

Monday	Dec 18	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Oliviya Rose Koshy and for the special intentions of Rose Koshy	by Rose Koshy
Tuesday	Dec 19	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Annie Dumoulin	by Martha Devlin
Wednesday	Dec 20	6:30 pm	For the God's comfort and blessings upon Linda & Ron Ardito	by Martha Devlin
Thursday	Dec 21	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad	by Joyce & Rodney Ross
Friday	Dec 22	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Regina Newman	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
Saturday	Dec 23	4th Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm	For the intentions of Sts. Martin's Parish family +For the repose of the souls of the deceased members of The Melo family	by the Melo family
Sunday	Dec 24	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Michael Tomascin	by the Tomascin family
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of the Chorley family	by Maria Chorley
			The Nativity of the Lord	
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck +For the repose of the souls of Don & Catherine Brown	by the Lupien family by Cathy DeSimone

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Saturday, December 23, Vigil Mass 5:00pm
December 24: Regular Sunday Masses 9 & 11 am

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

EXTRA PARISH ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Regular Confessions are Saturday:
 4:00pm to 4:30pm
 or by appointment at anytime.
 Each Wednesday in Advent 5:45pm to 6:25pm
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 at this time.
 Parish Evening Mass is at 6:30pm
 Come for Adoration, Prayer and Reconciliation
 and stay for Eucharist.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE

In a "relatively rare" situation which last occurred in 2006, Christmas Day this year falls on a Monday.

Because Catholics are obliged to attend Mass for Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation, some parishioners have asked whether a Sunday evening Mass on Christmas Eve would fulfill both the obligation for a Sunday Mass and the obligation for a Christmas Day Mass.

The faithful should attend two Masses to fulfill their Sunday and Christmas Mass obligations.

Since the mid-twentieth century, the Church has allowed for Catholics to attend vigil, or anticipated, Masses for Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation as "a convenience for many of the faithful."

"Most canon lawyers defer to Venerable Pope Pius XII's Apostolic Constitution Christus Dominus (January 6, 1953), which gave 4:00 p.m. as the earliest time when anticipated Masses may be scheduled."

This means that the Sunday obligation for Dec. 24 can be fulfilled on Sunday, or anytime after 4 p.m. on Dec. 23, and the Christmas Mass obligation can be fulfilled on Monday, anytime after 4 p.m. on Dec. 24.

In the case of two consecutive days of obligation, as at Christmas this year, the "prevailing view of many canon lawyers is that each obligation must be fulfilled with a separate Mass."

"Thus, when consecutive obligations occur on Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday, the faithful must attend Mass twice to fulfill two separate obligations."

Thank You.

2017 DONATION FOR TAX RECEIPTS

Donations credited to your 2017 tax receipt must be received by December 31/17. The Solemnity of Mary Vigil on the evening of December 31st will be applied to your 2018 receipt. Thank you.

SCHOOL ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Each Wednesday in Advent beginning at 9:30am. Wednesday, December 19 will conclude this special visitation with our dear young people.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection December 10, 2017
 \$2,150.00 - Envelopes (86)
 \$242.40 - Loose

Knights of Columbus Donation \$575.00
 (Silent Auction from Knights
 Dinner Dance in October)
 Single Private Donation \$500.00
 Total donations \$1,075.00

Christmas Flower Offering
 \$332.00 - Envelopes (24)
 \$149.40 - Loose

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

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 Szvedo, 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

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:
 Walter Kulakowsky/Joy Mudjar – Dec 18
 Dayna Legge – Dec 21
 Joshua Diletti/Kenneth O'Keefe – Dec 23
 Ted Wisniewski - Dec 24
 Danielle MacGillivray – Dec 24