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**THE 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent. It is a season meant for preparation. For what exactly are we preparing? Two things: the celebration of our Savior's birth and the anticipation of His second coming.

These are weighty tasks with eternal consequences. So, let us stewards make the words of the Prophet Isaiah our motto for the season: "Come, let us climb the Lord's mountain to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways and we may walk in his paths."

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, it seems everywhere we turn we are pushed to do more to create a "perfect" Christmas day. But the Church's guidance to use these weeks to focus on our spiritual lives can indeed seem like a mountain-climb.

The intentional use of the gift of time is what the Christian steward is called to do, and with even greater intensity during Advent. How can we use our time to prepare for Jesus' birth on Dec. 25 and for His second coming at a date we do not know?

We can push back against the world's pressure to have the "perfect Christmas." Scale back on materialism so we have more time for spiritual preparations: Confession, weekday Mass, adoration, family prayer time, lighting the Advent wreath, acts of kindness.

In the end we will be prepared to celebrate a truly meaningful Christmas, be-come more like our Savior and be ready for Him to come again.

reflections @catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am

**Weekday Masses**  
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am

**Office hours**  
Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Administrative Assistant**  
Sandy Johnson

**Financial Recorder**  
Tracy Piggott

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

**Requesting Sacraments**  
Must be registered and practicing  
Call office for details

**St Martin School**  
Phone 905-957-3032

**Cemetery**  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Sylvana Oliver  
905-715-5779  
Knights of Columbus  
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry  
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
Parish Events Group  
Parish Financial Council  
Responsible Faith Ministry  
ACTS Retreat Teams

**Ministry Schedule - Dec 7/8**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S.  
10:00 am - Mike & Mary Hornak

**Altar Servers**  
5:00pm -  
10:00 am -

**Children's Liturgy**  
Rose & Andrea

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
Today, December 1.

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**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0  
Telephone: 289-956-0221  
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca  
www.stmartinsparish.com

**Dec 1, 2019**

**The 1st Sunday of Advent Year A**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
10:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascini  
#2 - Tom Richardson

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.  
10:00 am - Helen, Andy & Sherri

**Stewardship Counting**  
Lisa Poort & Beth Davis



# December 1, 2019

## The 1st Sunday of Advent - Year A

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Dec 2	9:00 am	In Thanksgiving for ACTS Retreats Women and Men	by Father Christopher
Tues	Dec 3		NO MASS TODAY - PRIESTS ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION MOUNT CARMEL	
Wed	Dec 4	9:00 am	+In memory of all the past benefactors of St. Martin of Tours	by St. Martin of Tours
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Centre Mass, Adoration, Confessions	Father Christopher
		11:15 am	- 12:45 pm Advent School Confessions	
		7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus General Meeting and Early Christmas Social	
Thurs	Dec 5	9:00 am	+Andrew & Ursula Koenig	by Family
		9:30 am	Confirmation Rehearsal and Review	
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Scripture Study in the parish hall	
Fri	Dec 6	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Maeve & Doug Devlin & Jackie Lupien	by Heather Belmont
Sat	Dec 7		<b>The 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>	
		8:00 am	- 10:30 am THIS MAN IS YOU Merciful Redeemer Parish Mississauga	Father Christopher
		5:00 pm	Welcome to Bishop Bergie for the Celebration of Confirmation/ Reception in Hall/ Dinner Rectory	
			+Angelina Medeiros	by Melo & Mikhail families
			God's blessings upon Antonio Pais	by wife, Maria Pais
Sun	Dec 8	10:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
		2:00 pm	- 3:00 pm Eucharistic Holy Hour/ Benediction. All are welcome to attend	

#### CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

[www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal)

Cathedral Appeal: Did you know that the main window of our cathedral reflects the gospel account of the Crucifixion? Mary, the Mother of our Lord, stands at the left of the cross in a prayerful position, while at the foot of the cross kneels Mary of Magdala.

Never been to our cathedral? Consider coming to see the wonderful progress that has been made on our cathedral restoration project. Assist us financially towards achieving our goal of \$1.2 million.

Visit [www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal) or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.

#### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, Dec 24,

- 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Mass
- 10:30 pm - Anticipated Midnight Mass
- 10:00 am - Christmas Day, Dec 25

#### HOLY FAMILY SCHEDULE OF MASSES

- 5:00 pm - Saturday, Dec 28, Vigil Mass
- 10:00 am - Sunday, Dec 29

#### NEW YEAR'S / SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

- 5:00 pm - Tuesday, Dec 31, Vigil Mass
- 10:00 am - Wednesday, Jan 1, Mass

#### PARISH EVENTS GROUP (PEG) THANKS YOU

PEG would like to thank all those who supported the Poinsettia Fund Raiser. It was another successful year. Please remember that you can pick up your Poinsettia on December 1st after the 10am Mass.

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Sunday Dec 1 - Fellowship Sunday in Parish Hall. Baptism at 11:30 am
- Tuesday, Dec 3 - Advent Day of Recollection for the Priests. Mount Carmel Niagara Falls. (No am Mass)
- Wednesday, Dec 4 - Advent School Confessions begin at 11:15 am, and continues every Wednesday during Advent.
- Wednesday, Dec 4 - Knights of Columbus General Meeting and Social at 7:00 pm
- Thursday, Dec 5 - Confirmation Rehearsal at 9:30 am. Grade 8 here for Mass.
- Saturday, Dec 7 - Confirmation at the Vigil Mass at 5:00 pm. (You might consider attending Sunday Mass rather than the vigil)
- Wednesday, Dec 11 - CWL Meeting
- Thursday, Dec 12 - Partners in Catholic Education Annual General Meeting at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm
- Friday, Dec 13 - Advent School Mass at 10:30 am
- Sunday, Dec 15 - Christmas Visit of Santa for young children, following Mass in the parish hall. Light lunch served.
- Dec 15 - Rental of Parish Hall for a private function 3:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES FOR 2020

Your Box Sets are made available at the front foyer. Please do not use until the new year 2020. Thank you for your registration and for using Offertory Envelopes.

#### LIVING FAITH DEVOTIONALS

Since the Hendrik's have retired from donating the Living Faith Devotionals to every parish in the Diocese of St. Catharines, St. Martin's Catholic Women's League has picked up this practice by donating 75 devotionals to our parish. They ask that you take only 1 copy per family. These devotional booklets will begin in January 2020. You can pick yours up near the end of December.

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Nov 23/24, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering (78 Env)	\$ 2,227.00
Loose Collection	\$ 85.00
Late Deo Gratias (2 Env late)	\$ 110.00

*Thank you for your consistent stewardship*

#### "WHAT'S ON" AT GETHSEMANE MINISTRIES 84008 Wellandport Rd.

The Night Vigil is every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:00 pm Sat to 6:00 am Sun, and includes praise and worship, silent adoration, Divine Mercy, Rosary, and Holy Mass.

The weekly Prayer Meeting is every Wednesday (7:30- 9:00 pm) and includes praying the Rosary, praise and worship, sharing the Word of God, and fellowship.

From Monday, Dec. 30 (7:00 am) to Tuesday, Dec. 31 (11:00 p.m.), the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for anyone to visit during the 40 Hours of Adoration. There will be a New Year's Eve celebration for those who would like to bring in the New Year with the Lord. The evening begins with dinner at 8:00 pm, followed by Holy Mass, adoration, and fellowship.

For more information about these events, call 905-386-1111 or [www.gethsemeministries.com](http://www.gethsemeministries.com)

#### GLORY AND PRAISE WEEKLY PRAYER MEETING

Rosary, Praise & Worship,  
Word of God Prayers for Healing, Fellowship.  
Every Wednesday from 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm  
Come join us this Wed Dec 4.

**"For Where Two Or Three Are Gathered in My Name, I Am There Among Them"**

Matthew 19:20

**VENUE:** Gethsemane Centre  
84008 Wellandport Road. Wellandport  
905-386-1111

[info@gethsemaneministries.com](mailto:info@gethsemaneministries.com)

[www.gethsemaneministries.com](http://www.gethsemaneministries.com)