

PLEASE PATRONIZE THE SUPPORTERS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

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**NO TIME TO WASTE**

Today we begin the beautiful and holy season of Advent. With all that we have going on this time of year, it's no wonder Advent that does not always seem to get the attention it deserves. But if we will commit to living this season well, we will experience a deeper conversion to Christ and find real transformation in our lives as Christian stewards.

Why? Advent calls us not only to look back in grateful contemplation of Christ's first coming, but it also calls us to look forward in preparation for His Second Coming. Advent is a time to reset and regroup, to repent over any misplaced priorities, to turn our minds and hearts back to God while we still have time. We do so not out of fear or guilt, but rather, out of gratitude for Love Incarnate lying in a manger bed.

Whatever we feel God calling us to do this Advent - committing to a daily Gospel reflection, visiting a lonely neighbor, or donating money to those in dire need - there is no time to waste.

Jesus makes this clear in our Gospel passage from Matthew. He tells the parable of a man going off on a journey. Before he leaves, he "places his servants in charge, each with his own work." We, of course, are the servants in this parable, each with a mission to accomplish in building the Kingdom of God. Jesus warns us over and over in this passage to remain vigilant to the work He has given us to do because we do not know when we will be called to give an account for it.

Our lives are a gift. This holy season is a gift. Let us recommit to living the stewardship way of life. Love came down to us as a Baby. And He is coming again. Be watchful!

reflections@catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.  
Diocesan Social Justice Office Rep.  
Member of Ontario Bishops' Social Affairs Commission.  
Spiritual Chaplain to Diocesan D&P  
Spiritual Director to Acts Retreat Ministry Men & Women.  
Intern to Mental Health/ Addiction Counselling Hamilton.

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday 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**  
Sandy Johnson

**Financial Recorder**  
Tracy Piggott

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
By Appointment Only

**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 - Carolyn Vaughan

**Knights of Columbus**  
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@gmail.com

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy. Youth Ministry  
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
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**



ADVENT PREPARES US FOR CHRISTMAS

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

**November 29, 2020  
Year B  
The 1st Sunday of Advent**

# November 29, 2020

## The 1st Sunday of Advent - Year B

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Nov 30	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Bob Hignett	by Joan Hignett
Tues	Dec 1	9:00 am	+ Father Lawrence Martis ( Died November 25, 2020, 55yrs old)	by Fr. Christopher
		10:00 am	- 12 Noon - By Zoom Advent Priests' Day of Recollection	Fr. Christopher
Wed	Dec 2	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Christine Dell	by Vern & Josie Dell
		10:30 am	- 5:00 pm - Gethsemane Center Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
			Father Christopher celebrant. Confessions and Counselling if required.	
Thurs	Dec 3	9:00 am	+All the souls in purgatory	by Martha Devlin
Fri	Dec 4	9:00 am	For the Salvation of the Lewis family	by Pauline Lewis
		7:30 pm	- 9:30 pm Praise and Worship Gethsemane Centre Wellandport - Register if attending	
		7:00 pm	- 8:00 pm Hamilton Drug and Rehabilitation Zoom Meeting	Father Christopher
Sat	Dec 5	<b>The 2nd Sunday of Advent</b>		
		5:00 pm	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Dec 6	10:00 am	+Fred Bell	by Judy Terpstra & Sherri Dewilde

#### ONLINE EUCHARIST

##### Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am. Visit the diocesan website for viewing:

[www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com) or on YouTube

##### St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.

Follow on Face Book or their website:

[Stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://Stjosephgrimsby.ca)

##### Vision TV: Sun - 8:00 am

Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

##### Salt + Light: Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm

Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,

3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

##### yesTV: Sun - 10:30 am

Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

Internet : [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

[www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass)

#### E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **Interac 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](mailto: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.**

This is a first for us, so bear with us as we begin this new way of accepting tithe/stewardship/donations. We thank you for your patience and generosity during this pandemic.

#### RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Religious Christmas Cards are available this year through the Knights of Columbus.

If interested please call Ron Roscovich at:  
905-386-0648

#### "VIRTUAL" CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy, under the direction of Mrs. Noseworthy is posting videos every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Thank you

#### COVID-19 AND PARISH STEWARDSHIP

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all of us. We appeal to your generosity as we need the weekly stewardship of one and all, to maintain our financial commitments. A special thank you to those who send in their weekly/monthly stewardship. Also, to those who have begun with E-Transfers. We encourage others to be regular with their presence and stewardship.

#### PASTORAL HOME VISITS

Father Christopher will continue to visit parishioners for Confession, Holy Communion Service and 'Anointing of the Sick if needed. Kindly call the office if you would like a pastoral visit. Masks and physical distancing enforced. Please call the parish office to schedule a pastoral visit. Thank you.

#### SUNDAY MISSALS 2021

Sunday Missals have finally arrived. There was a delay of course due to COVID-19. If you desire to donate, you are welcome to do so, but it's not required. First come First Serve. Only 50 have been ordered as we have cut down on expenses. The new liturgical year begins this First Sunday of Advent - Year B.

#### THE DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS

**which was celebrated Wednesday, November 25**, will be broadcast on Cogeco TV on Sunday, November 29 at 12:30 p.m. and Monday, November 30 at 8:00 p.m. It will also be available to Cogeco customers on the Video on Demand Channel (ch. 602).

#### STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES 2021

Stewardship/Offertory envelopes are available in alphabetical order on the table in the center of the crying room. We ask that you enter by the church entrance near the confessional room and exit by the main foyer. Please exercise social distance and wait until other people have moved on. Please check that your name and address are correct. If you did not use envelopes last year and wish to begin this year or if you have changed your address, please come to the office during the week. We ask you not to use old Church envelopes from previous years. If you have not used envelopes for a few years your number may have been assigned to someone else.

If you would still like your box of envelopes and are not attending please contact the office to arrange a pick up time .

#### VIRTUAL ADVENT RETREAT

Join retreat facilitator, Terri Pauco from the Family and Youth Office, from the comfort of your own home, for A Virtual Advent Retreat for Busy Catholic Women being held through ZOOM on December 12, 2020 from 9:00am to 11:30am.

Women of all ages are invited to join online to pray and explore the idea of finding peace in the seasonal preparations and busyness of life complicated by the pandemic. Bishop Bergie will lead a portion of this sacred time. This event is free. Register by December 9th using the link found on the diocesan website,

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

For more information, call 905-684-0154.

#### REMINDER

Masks **MUST** be worn in Church at ALL times. The only time you take your mask off briefly is at Holy Communion. Some also need to replace their mask after consuming the Eucharist , as you cannot leave the church building holding your mask. Please arrive early. We discontinued lock the doors as others protested. Yet, we have not turned others away. Please do not place your offering before Mass, please give after Mass. Thank you.

## REGISTRATION FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King, and the conclusion of our liturgical year A. Advent is on the horizon - and our new liturgical year B. Advent calls us to be alert, ready. We begin early plans and preparation as we invite you to register for the Christmas Masses. Christmas is a time where a lot of our families and friends join us to celebrate the birth of Christ. That is a joyful and happiest occasion for each of us to get together to worship the gift of Love that God shares with us. Given the situation of COVID-19, we need to limit the numbers and we need to plan for the masses. We want to try to give as many chances for the people and your registration will greatly help in our planning.

Even though it is a pandemic, let us not forget that we need God in our lives and only God can lead us and guide us and give us the strength to face any situations. The church will be disinfected after every Mass. Strict protocols are in place to assure your safety.

The pandemic has caused financial difficulty for a lot of families, young people at colleges or universities, some struggling with terminal illness, seniors and municipal and provincial businesses. The church is not an exception. I invite all those who can do a little more to support our parish. Currently, less than half of our members have supported us throughout the pandemic. Let's act together for a just recovery that includes all. Thank you for your generosity and solidarity.

There will not be an official collection to avoid the interaction between people but we invite you to leave your offering in the basket at the foyer. I hope you will show your generosity as we celebrate the love of God being shared with you and your family.

If there is a need, more Masses will be added. Therefore, we must receive early registration from you by December 10, 2020.

Here is our proposed schedule.

- Christmas Eve December 24.
  - Vigil Mass 5: 00 pm.
  - Anticipated Midnight Mass 10:30 pm
- Christmas Day December 25.
  - 10:00 am.
  - 11:30 am

Parish Office: Phone: (289) 956-0221  
Email: [st.martins@cogeco.ca](mailto:st.martins@cogeco.ca)  
Website: <http://www.stmartinsparish.com>

You can either call or email the parish office indicating your choice of Mass. Please include your full name and phone number and the number of those attending in your household. Registration will close for a Mass if and when maximum capacity is reached. We regret that we will not be able to accommodate anyone coming to Christmas Mass without a reservation.

Please remember that the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass remains in place and people who are at high-risk for severe illness from Covid-19 are encouraged to stay safer at home and participate in Mass remotely. We will be live streaming ALL of our Christmas Masses on Facebook.

Please note: There is no certainty that we will have public Masses at Christmas. For the time being we ask you to continue to register for Christmas Masses. We will continue to monitor the situation and consult with public health officials and our diocesan office to determine the course of action for the weekends ahead.

This has been a difficult year for sure ... there is no debating that. We've all had to make adjustments in our lives, many of which began with real pain but led to positive changes. Remember: We're in this together. God be with you, and within you.

In Christ, Christopher +  
Parish Priest

## ADVENT: A PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

As each year draws to a close, and Christmas fast approaches, we tend to focus on what is obvious – putting up our decorations, trimming our tree, shopping for friends and family. And before you know it, time has escaped us.

Suddenly it's Christmas Eve night and all the wonders that come with it – reflecting on Bethlehem, the birth of Jesus, the angels singing, the shepherds in the field, the wise men beginning their descent from the east, all culminating in “Silent Night, Holy Night.” But wait! Are we even prepared for Christmas? Prepared for all of the beauty and wonder of Christmas? Truly prepared?

Before the coming of our Lord, is the season of Advent. A time of preparation. The world tells us that Christmas is about filling our homes with bright lights and greenery, attending office parties, singing carols, listening to Handel's “Messiah” or the latest pop star's new Christmas album. The world encourages us to shop, shop and shop!

But should we not also be more intentional (and joyful) when practicing and experiencing the season of Advent? The coming of our Lord!

### ***How to Prepare for Christmas, through Advent***

And what should we be doing to prepare for the coming of our Lord? The obvious things are:

- Meditate on our Lord's impending birth
- Give to those in need
- Feed the hungry
- Clothe the homeless
- Be kind to others
- Be satisfied with what we have (gratitude)

What ways can we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus – in our own homes? How about patience – toward those nearest you? Be more willing to listen, less eager to criticize? Give of your time and your person and not necessarily your money.

We can also practice more patience with those outside of our homes – especially in stores or driving on the road (Christmas shopping traffic!). We can be more giving and patient toward those in the workplace. Maybe we can be less prideful and more humble.

How about being more temperate with our sweet tooth (or teeth, for that matter)? Advent challenges us to understand the Christmas season in the contexts of the coming of Christ. Advent also offers us a powerful alternative to the commercialization of Christmas.

A reason to exclaim “Merry Christmas!” instead of a bland and politically correct “Happy Holidays.”

## ***A Season for Giving***

I'm sure you've heard it before; Christmas is a season for giving. Then make it so. Give to those in need. I'm sure you've heard that Christmas is a time for feasting. Then make it so. Help to feed those around you who can't afford to do so. I'm sure you've heard that Christmas is a season of joy, hope and peace. Then make it so. Grow in these virtues by putting them into practice with friends, family, neighbors and strangers. And most importantly, with the whole reason there is Christmas.

Advent is the story of a wondrous moment when God entered our world to make things right. It is the greatest story ever told and it changes everything—including the way we celebrate Christmas. And the next time someone asks you, “Are you ready for Christmas?” you can honestly say, “I'm not but I'm trying to be with the help of the season of Advent.”

### **Nativity Scene**

The church nativity scene is proper for Christmas and not Advent. Once again others have requested that it be displayed. This seems to be an annual request. I've once again readdressed the issue with the individuals. It truly is disappointing since I was expecting a different narrative given the pandemic. We are all struggling to maintain our resilience and hope as we look forward to Advent and the coming Christmas season. Hopefully, our Advent season will prepare us for the coming feasts of Christmas and the display of the nativity scene. I might add to diffuse disappointment - the wise men (or three kings) will be added on the feast of Epiphany on 6th January, as is liturgically proper to the feast.

We must be careful not to speak of “should” and “shouldn't” and “right” and “wrong” because there is no right and wrong. The liturgy has rubrics. The GIRM and other Church documents specify what may and may not be on the altar, said, sung, or otherwise used in the Mass and other liturgies. There is no right and wrong when it comes to nativity scenes. Let's not state our opinions on how we prefer to do things as if they were rubrics of the Church or the personal wishes of others.

I pray for us as a “Faith Community” that we continue our faith journey towards Advent, Christmas and the Kingdom of God. As we journey towards our celebration of the Lord's Birth, let us pray for one another, for all our families, that we be renewed in our commitment to be good stewards of HOPE in this current pandemic. May Mary, who rejoiced at the coming birth of Her Son, pray for us that we may truly be His disciples.

In Christ, Christopher + Parish Priest.