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 General Inquiries - attn: Grand Knight

JUMPING WITH JOY

Since this Fourth Sunday of Advent falls close to Christmas, our minds and energies may be focused on the upcoming Christmas celebrations, family gatherings, and traditional remembrances. We will need to be watchful and observant this week and during Mass to not let our minds wander from the wonder of the miraculous to that of the mundane.

The Incarnation of Christ is so filled with the miraculous that it is difficult for us as we meditate on one aspect of it to not be immediately awed by some corresponding wonder. Certainly, we are dazzled by the immediate, profound, and joyful surrender of Mary. Her simple trust and willingness to say yes to God's will in the face of the societal consequences which faced an unwed mother, should astound any reasonable observer.

Yet even as we contemplate the wonder of Mary's response our thoughts are eclipsed and dazzled more intensely by the humble submission of the Son to the Father. He who participated as co-creator of the universe and who was perfectly united with the Father, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, willingly surrendered all rights, and humbly embraced a body prepared for him. Though he knew that his body was to be a living sacrifice that once for all would remove the effects of sin and death, yet he in willing cooperation says, "I have come to do Thy will." We stand awed to consider that the Almighty Lord would visit earth in the form of a helpless, totally defenseless and dependent, babe. We are astounded that the Ruler of the Universe would submit to the constraints of so flawed a society of man. We are amazed that he whose appearance is described as "the hair of his head was as white as wool or as snow, and his eyes like a fiery flame, his feet were like polished brass refined in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of rushing water," (Rev. 1:15) would encapsulate his glory in human flesh so that we might know him and know of his love for us. Amazing grace!!

The wonder of Jesus' incarnation at first a child like any other, it cries, is hungry, sleeps, and yet is 'the Word...become flesh'. The young creature in the stall of Bethlehem was a human being with human brain and limbs and heart and soul. And it was God. Its life was to manifest the will of the Father: to proclaim the sacred tidings, to stir mankind with the power of God, to establish the covenant, and shoulder the sin of the world and to win the victory of the Resurrection

It is no wonder that the baby in Elizabeth's womb jumped for joy, or that Elizabeth, full of the Holy Spirit, and tapping into the wisdom of God, should proclaim "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" As we kneel in adoration and expectation on this Fourth Sunday of Advent may God grant us similar insight, allowing our hearts to also "jump with joy."

Emmanuel Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
 Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
 Pastor
 Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
 Diocesan Social Justice Rep
 Sunday Masses
 Saturday 5:00 pm
 Sunday 10:00 am
 Weekday Masses
 Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am
 Wed @ 6:30 pm
 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 This Sunday at 2:00 pm
 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
 Please call the office
 Secretary
 Sandy Johnson
 Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
 Bookkeeper
 Tracy Piggott
 St Martin School
 Phone 905-957-3032
 Cemetery
 Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648
 Parish Organizations
 Catholic Women's League
 Knights of Columbus
 Parish Groups
 Children's Liturgy
 West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
 Parish Events Group
 Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines
St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church



A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

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December 23, 2018 to January 6, 2019
The 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Season

Ministry Schedule
December 24 through Jan 6
Hospitality Ministers
 5:00 pm - Tom Shields
 11:30 pm - Elaine & Chuck Parry
 10:00 am - Deanne & Justin Long
 5:00 pm - Janet & Ron Roscovich
 10:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec
 5:00 pm - Tony Mous
 10:00 am - Needed
 5:00 pm - Tom Shields
 10:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H.
Next Hospitality Sunday - Jan 6

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
 5:00 pm - Yolanda B
 11:30 pm - Needed
 10:00 am - Vern Dell & Dick V.
 5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
 10:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa
 5:00 pm - Needed
 10:00 am - Dick Van Geest
 5:00 pm - Needed
 10:00 - Needed
Children's Liturgy
 10:00 am - Dec 30 - Carolyn V.
 10:00 am - Jan 6 - Deanne Long

Lectors
 5:00 pm #1 Yolanda B. #2 Lisa P.
 11:30 pm #1 Caroline S. #2 Andrew S.
 10:00 am #1 - Marg V. #2 - Mitch P.
 5:00 pm #1 - Heather T. #2 - Sue A.
 10:00 am #1 - Tom R. #2 - Mary P.
 5:00 pm #1 - Sue A. #2 - Needed
 10:00 am #1 Caroline S. #2 Andrew S.
 5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda B. #2 - Tom S.
 10:00 am - #1 Marg V #2 - Tom R.
Stewardship Counting
 Dec 30 - Mary Ann P. & Lisa Poort
 Jan 6 - Lisa Poort & Sandy Johnson

December 23, 2018 to January 6, 2019

The 4th Sunday of Advent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Dec 24	<i>The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Eve</i> 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Harry Belmont +For the repose of the soul of Don Diletti 11:30 pm For the special intentions of the Dell Family +For all the Deceased Parishioners in 2018	by Heather Belmont & family by Frances Diletti by Vern & Josie Dell
Tuesday	Dec 25	<i>The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day</i> 10:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Joe Mulder +For all the Deceased Parishioners in 2018	by John Mulder
Wednesday	Dec 26	No Mass: Father Christopher taking a break - emergency calls are covered.	
Thursday	Dec 27	No Mass:	
Friday	Dec 28	No Mass:	
Saturday	Dec 29	<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sunday	Dec 30	10:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Andy Wirth For the special intentions of the Lewis children & spouses grandchildren & great grandchildren	by Pauline Lewis by Pauline Lewis
Monday	Dec 31	<i>The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Aleksander Sekula For God's blessings upon Christina & Andrew Mikhail	by Irene Lipiec by Mr & Mrs Melo
Tuesday	Jan 1	<i>The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God</i> 10:00 am +In memory of all the past benefactors of St. Martin's Parish	
Wednesday	Jan 2	No Mass: Father Christopher taking a break - emergency calls are covered	
Thursday	Jan 3	No Mass:	
Friday	Jan 4	No Mass:	
Saturday	Jan 5	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i> 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Don Diletti +For the repose of the soul of Bryan Kenny	by France Diletti by Joyce & Rodney Ross
Sunday	Jan 6	10:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

ST. MARTINS OF TOURS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Parish Discernment 2018

What is Parish Discernment?

The Parish Discernment Process is a St. Catharine's Diocese initiative to help parishes determine individual parish requirements to move from a state of maintenance to mission. St. Martin's participated with the 6 other parishes of the Haldimand Deanery.

Report was presented last weekend. Extra copies are available at front foyer. Please make sure you have a copy of the Report. We welcome feedback...

Next Parish Discernment Team

Meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019, at 7:00 pm.

PLEASE REMEMBER CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS BEGINS CHRISTMAS EVE MONDAY DECEMBER 24 AT 11:30 PM

PARISH EVENTS GROUP THANKS YOU

PEG would like to thank everyone who purchased Poinsettias this year which financially supports PEG Activities: First Holy Communion and Confirmation, Socials and the Parish Picnics. With the School and Parish Sales, we raised \$500.09. **The Annual Parish Pasta Dinner will take place on February 9th.** Please book the date. More information will come as we approach this time.

PRAYERFUL PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday December 23 Eucharistic Holy Hour from 2:00 pm to 3:00pm. Sacrament Confession available at this time. Please come and prepare.

Might we discover true parallels in our faith through food. - beginning with this holy season of Advent and Christmas. Consider how, in the city of Bethlehem ("House of Bread"), Mary placed Jesus in the manger (a place for animals to be fed).

Remember that the first to celebrate Christmas by adoring the Lamb of God who takes away our sins were shepherds (those who feed the flock). These connections, which fill our hunger for knowing God's love, can only come when we take time and marinate - that is, soak up, God's goodness through the ancient act of Eucharistic Adoration.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2018

The West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme will offer a fully home cooked meal and social every Thursday beginning January 3, 2019 to June 27, 2019 inclusive from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Dinner begins at 5:30 pm. Please pass this invitation along to anyone whom you feel would benefit from this programme. Host Churches:

January & March St. Martin of Tours

February & April Smithville Canadian Reformed Church

May & June St Ann's Community Church
Fall of 2019 TBA Smithville Christian Reformed

Donations can be given at anytime. We shall leave this collection "open". Thank you.

If there are any interested individuals who would be interested in serving and cleaning up after, please contact Josie Dell at:
vernandjosie@gmail.com or call 905-346-1830

(NEW) YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. MARTIN'S Youth Group Ages from 12- 14

The Group will meet bi-weekly centered around the 5:00pm Mass and engage in a number of activities following Mass in the parish hall and in the community.

Saturday, January 12, 2019 is our Kick Off!

Scheduled event is Mass, Pizza and Skating.
January 26 Mass:

Hamburgers/Hotdogs, Tobogganing at local hill, hot chocolate.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

December 16, 2018.

Sunday Offertory (74 Env):	\$ 1,768.10
Loose:	\$ 488.80
Late Facility Maintenance (1 Env):	\$ 10.00
Early Christmas Offering (2 Env):	\$ 60.00
Parish donation	\$ 500.00

Thank you for your faithful stewardship

THE PARISH FINANCIAL COUNCIL

This is a group of parishioners whose purpose is to assist the pastor in rendering an account of the parish finances to the local ordinary (Bishop) and to the faithful of the parish. They also assist the pastor by providing council concerning the general care and administration of parish property and finances. They will also work closely with Parish Maintenance Committee and soon the Parish Pastoral Council.

First Meeting to be scheduled in January of 2019 when we confirm the availability of all.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed from Friday December 21 to Wednesday January 2, 2019. The parish office reopen on Thursday January 3, 2019.

Emergency calls are covered 24/7. The Christmas Season affords us all an opportunity to gather with family and friends and to be free of regular meetings, etc that take us away from loved ones. Take the time to be present to others this Christmas. God Bless!

NEXT PARISH BULLETIN IS JANUARY 5, 2019

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DECEMBER 2018

Our membership fees have remained at \$20 for years now. Please put your name and address on an envelope with your \$20 and drop in the collection basket. Some ladies say they can't make it to meetings, others that they can't bake, etc. Even if this is the case, we still need you to join. Ask the Lord to guide you. Let us be united and strong and guided always through the intercession of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Sylvana Oliver C.W.L. President