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ACTIVELY WAITING AND WATCHING

“My Daddy! My Daddy!” the little boy sang out as he spotted his father progressing up the long airport corridor, returning after a long trip. For some time the little boy had pranced around animatedly waiting and watching. His eyes, his face, his whole body strained forward scanning the faces of other passengers to find his father, moving back and forth trying to see around the emerging throng of passengers. Then, sighting his dad, he lit up with recognition, joyfully exclaiming for all to hear, “My Daddy! My Daddy!”

This week’s Gospel reading provides an appropriate transition from the end of one liturgical year to the beginning of a new his first coming. And these actions we are encouraged to follow are the actions of active waiting.

With the Second Advent in mind we are stimulated to celebrate his first Advent with similar active waiting, anticipating a fresh appearing of Jesus’ presence in our lives. Will we be like the little boy mentioned above focusing and concentrating our attention on seeing him? Or will we have our attention diverted by the glitz and secular trappings of a Christmas that ignores that he ever existed, or could ever again reappear to us? Perhaps this is the week when we should determine a plan for peering around the emerging onslaught of secular traditions and purely mercenary celebrations, to actively watch for Jesus. If we take time now to sort out what we are going to do to actively watch for him in the face of this onslaught, and then follow through on our intention, we too will burst forth with exclamations of joy.

“For while all things were in quiet silence and the night was in the midst of her course, thy almighty word leapt down from heaven from thy royal throne...” The passage, brimming with the mystery of the Incarnation, is wonderfully expressive of the infinite stillness that hovered over Christ’s birth. For the greatest things are accomplished in silence - not in the clamor and display of superficial eventfulness, but in the deep clarity of inner vision; in the almost imperceptible start of decision, in quiet overcoming and hidden sacrifice. Spiritual conception happens when the heart is quickened by love, and the free will stirs to action.

Let us pray as we dwell in this time period between Jesus’ first and second appearing that there might be a third appearing, the reappearing of Jesus in our hearts and lives. When the little boy’s dad appeared, he scooped up his son in his arms in mutual love and spent a lifetime mentoring his son to growth and maturity. So, may it be with the reappearing Christ in our lives that our hearts would be quickened by love and our free will stirred into action.

Emmaus 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
 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
 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
 Scripture Study . 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



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Ministry Schedule - December 8/9

Hospitality Ministers
 5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S
 10:00 am - Marcel Pouliot

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

Children’s Liturgy
 Rose Koshy

Next Hospitality Sunday
 December 2nd

December 2, 2018

The 1st Sunday of Advent

Lectors
 5:00 pm #1 - Lisa Poort
 #2 - Kelly Staples
 10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
 #2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
 5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
 10:00 am - Nick, Paula & Victoria

Stewardship Counting
 Jennifer Fife & Lisa Poort

December 2, 2018

The 1st Sunday of Advent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Dec 3	NO MASS TODAY	
Tuesday	Dec 4	No Mass Today - Priests Advent Day of Recollection Mount Carmel Niagara Falls 7:00 pm Parish Team Discernment Meeting at Rectory	
Wednesday	Dec 5	9:00 pm +In Memory of all the Benefactors of St. Martin's 9:45 am School Reconciliation / Confessions 7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting	
Thursday	Dec 6	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Aleksander Sedula For the health and healing of Maria Biancaniello	by Irene Lipiec & family by Vern & Josie Dell
Friday	Dec 7	<i>St. Ambrose</i> 9:00 am +For the repose of the souls of John & Lucinda Cruz 10:30 am School Advent Mass & Adoration	
Saturday	Dec 8	<i>The 2nd Sunday of Advent</i> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sunday	Dec 9	10:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Geraldine Bell +For the repose of the soul of Riky Mulder	by Sherri deWilde & family by the Knights of Columbus

ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Tuesday, December 11 & 18, 2018 - 7:00 pm

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

[devp.org/campaign]

Share the Journey! (Signing "Action Cards")

68.5 million thank you! On behalf of Aysha, Patience, Rehanna, and their families, as well as all those forced to flee their homes, villages, or countries, Development and Peace / Caritas Canada wants to thank you for your ongoing commitment and mobilization. Together, we have taken action in solidarity with forced migrants. Together, we have the power to change lives. To continue to take action throughout the Share the Journey campaign, go to devp.org/campaign. Without your action, there is no change and no justice.

PLEASE RETURN SIGNED ACTION CARD TO CHURCH AND DROP IN OFFERTORY COLLECTION BASKET. THANK YOU!
3 cards returned to date.

ADVENT: WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?

Presented by Fr. Michael Wastag, O. Carm.
Wednesday, December 5 (9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre
7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.
Tel: 905-356-4113
\$65/person (includes lunch)

In Advent, we wait and look forward to celebrating the fact that God loves us so much that he sent his Son into the world to save us. This waiting is far from empty; rather, it is full of hope. We anticipate the Second Coming of Christ as well.

Reflect and pray on these wondrous and mysterious Advents.

WINTER: SEASON OF DORMANCY AND DIFFICULTY

Presented by Fr. Michael Wastag, O. Carm.
Saturday, December 12 (9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre
7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.
Tel: 905-356-4113
\$65/person (includes lunch)

Explore what the winter season can teach us about spirituality and life through reflections on Scripture, tradition, and the arts.

PARISH DISCERNMENT TEAM MEETING

The diocesan part of this discernment process is now completed. The real work begins now with us as we move forward.

Team meeting set for Tuesday, December 4, at the Rectory at 7:00pm.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

This month's topics are:

- **Dec 10 - Overcoming Loneliness**
 - **No meeting on December 24**
 - **Regular meetings resume January 14, 2019**
- Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154 or email:

separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE DECEMBER 2018

From St. Martin's C.W.L. to all our ladies in the Parish, we would like to wish you all the best in this Christmas season. We have been busy making Christmas Urns and are now preparing for our Craft and Bake Sale on December 2nd. Our final meeting of the year will be on Thursday, December 13th when we hope to have dinner followed by some games.

It is the goal of every C.W.L. in Canada to have every woman of the Parish belonging to this truly worthwhile organization. It is only through our numbers that we can approach our Provincial and Federal leaders to implement changes like on abortion and euthanasia and numerous other issues. Did you know that Canada has no laws concerning when abortions can be performed, whether it be at 6 weeks or 6 months? Please consider joining St. Martin's C.W.L. for the year 2019.

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

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

NOVEMBER 24/25

Sunday Offertory (71 Env): \$ 2,050.00
Loose: \$ 154.00
Late Deo Gratias (5 Env) \$ 170.00

Thank you for your faithful stewardship

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY FAITH & FLAVOURS OF ITALY

Fr. Rico Passero, Pastor of St. Joseph Church in Grimsby is leading a pilgrimage to Italy - called "The Faith & Flavours of Italy", from: **April 29 to May 13, 2019**. We will be visiting Milan, Padua, Venice, Florence, Rome, Siena, Assisi, Pompeii, Amalfi Coast, Isle of Capri, Sorrento, and San Giovanni Rotondo. **ALL are welcome!**

Please see the itinerary found at the door of the Bulletin Board or contact St. Joseph Church at 905-945-2661 for more information.

SANTA'S COMING

The CWL is hosting a visit with Santa in the Church basement, following the 10:00am Mass Sunday, December 16th.

Cookies and refreshments will be served and a small gift will be given to the children. A CWL member will have a signup sheet following masses until December 9th.

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY

Diocese of St. Catharines "first Fridays" Gather from 5:30-6:30 p.m. for supper, fellowship, faith session, prayer. Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Hwy. r.s.v.p. -- call 905-684-0145, ext. 209 or text 905-351-9107

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday, December 24:

Christmas Eve Family Mass - 5:00 pm
Solemn Midnight Mass - 12:am

Tuesday, December 25:

Christmas Day Mass - 10:00 am.

DECEMBER 26 to 28: NO WEEKDAY MASSES

Saturday, December 29:

Feast of the Holy Family Vigil - 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 30: 10:00 am Mass

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. New Year's

Monday, December 31: Vigil Mass 5:00 pm

Tuesday, New Year's Day: Mass at 10:00 am

JANUARY 2 to 4: NO WEEKDAY MASSES