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CAST YOUR NET

The stewardship way of life could be described as a daily pursuit of the kingdom of heaven. In our Gospel passage from Matthew today, Jesus employs three parables to describe this kingdom.

In the first of today's parables, our Lord reminds us that living for Him and for His kingdom will be costly. But the deep joy that comes in following Him makes the "price" entailed worth it. Jesus says, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." Next, He says the kingdom of heaven is "like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all he has and buys it."

In each of these stories, the kingdom of heaven is somewhat "hidden." We must intentionally search for it amidst the noise of the world that bombards us. Yet, our Lord reminds us that His Kingdom is meant for everyone and He wants us to find it! He says, "It is like a net thrown into the sea which collects fish of every kind."

But Jesus concludes His teaching with a rather ominous image, reminding us that every "fish" will also be judged as good or bad. "The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace." This is a description that is difficult to forget. Clearly Jesus wants to get our attention.

Let us pray for the wisdom to recognize the kingdom of heaven in our midst and intensify our efforts to pursue it starting right now. There is no time to lose, and we will obtain the immeasurable joy that only comes when we live as disciples of Jesus.

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

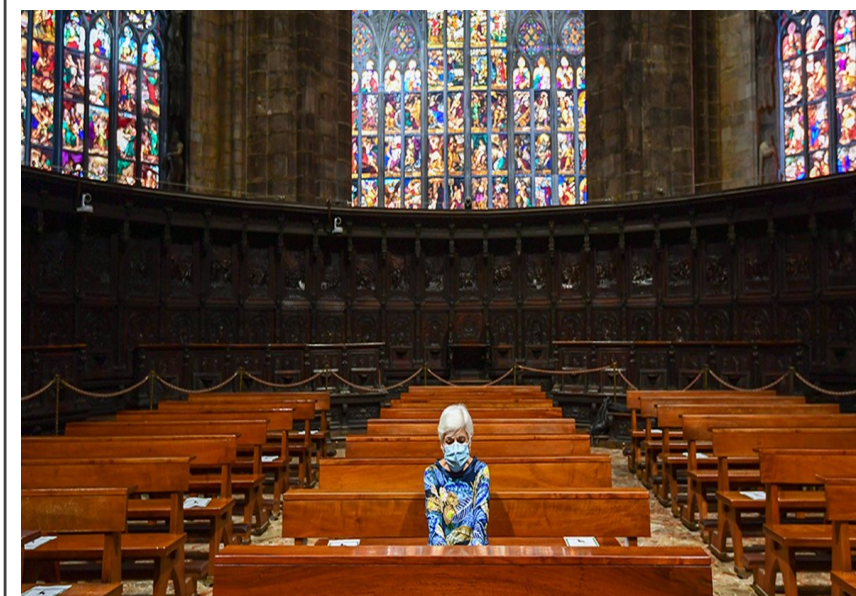
Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Carolyn Vaughan
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan
koc.16421@gmail.com

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

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 We Welcome You Back



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

July 26, 2020 - Year A

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2019

The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	July 27	9:00 am	Mass of Thanksgiving	by Martha Devlin
Tues	July 28	9:00 am	Intentions Available	
Wed	July 29	9:00 am	Intentions Available	
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Center Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to 5:00 pm	
			Celebrant Father Christopher	
Thurs	July 30	9:00 am	Intentions Available	
Fri	July 31	9:00 am	Intentions Available	
		7:30 pm	- 9:30pm Praise and Worship Gethsemane Centre Wellandport - Register if attending.	
Sat	Aug 1		<i>The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
		5:00 pm	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Aug 2	10:00 am	Intentions Available	

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 or on **Youtube**

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

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass is celebrated each day here. Given our long period of absence it was important to return to the celebration of daily Mass. The attendance is low with some days having only two for Mass. It is the desire of Father Christopher to continue to have daily Mass. Vacation time will be considered in August.

Mass intentions are requested as there are many dates available for intentions. Please email your intentions to the parish office. Thank you. st.martins@cogeco.ca

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Please view the Website for the July and August Schedule under the Schedule tab of the Website. Please find your own replacement if you are unable to fulfill your time slot.

Hospitality Ministers and COVID-19 volunteers are asked to be in church 20 mins prior.

Volunteers are needed for sanitizing and cleaning. Please consider volunteering and give others a break.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Before COVID-19, it was already difficult to get people to attend regularly for both weekday and weekend Masses. We are yearly updating our outreach to young families, and to our youth through the celebrations of baptism, first reconciliation and first holy communion and confirmation.

After re-opening only 10% of our parish membership has returned. Ironically, at a time when the world needs the Gospel the most, it appears to be least interested. Everywhere you look, its bad news. But the path to the good news is blazed by others who keep moving through all the bad news. We have entered into hard times. This is perhaps not just a COVID-19 related, but a cultural reality.

We encourage and welcome others to return to the celebration of weekday and weekend Masses.

Many have opted to continue with online Sunday and Weekday Masses which is acceptable. We are asking and encouraging that "WE" continue our financial support to our parish.

We continue to ask YOU to either drop off your stewardship to the rectory mailbox or kindly mail in your offering. We thank you in advance for your stewardship.

Thank you, and God bless.

"ETIQUETTE AT EUCHARIST"

All parishioners are encouraged to wear a face mask when entering the church (except the very young and those with breathing difficulties).

The ushers will direct you to the pew. We know that some have expressed a desire to sit where they usually do. This is not possible at this time.

Communicants are to remove their masks while the person ahead of them is receiving and bow; and after the priest says "the Body of Christ" and the answer "Amen" is given, only then does the communicant cross the red line (hands extended) to receive and step into the "box" to consume the Bread of Life.

Note well: The washrooms are to be used only if absolutely necessary; parishioners making their way there during Mass tend to be a distraction to the others. As well, please refrain from touching any surfaces upon entering or exiting the church (anything touched has to be cleaned). The doors are closed (locked?) when Mass begins for a reason: the ushers have a right to worship and are not obliged to wait unnecessarily. Also, attending one Mass on the weekend is sufficient; please be mindful of others by not taking a space someone else could have.

Lastly, be respectful of the ushers and cleaners and their tasks; their willingness to serve is of benefit to us all because if there are no ushers and no cleaners there can be no open church.

Thank you, as we move forward together into the "new normal" ...