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July 16, 2017

THE FACTS ABOUT ONTARIO'S PUBLICLY FUNDED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

On June 26, 2017 the President of the Ontario Catholic School Trustee's Association, Patrick J. Daly, placed this letter in the Windsor Star. I offer it as information in the current discussions about the funding for Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools.

"Last week there was significant media coverage on the issue of religious education exemptions in Ontario's Catholic schools. Unfortunately much of the information shared was inaccurate and the citizens of Ontario deserve the facts on this issue.

"The people of our province expect a distinctly Catholic learning environment in Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools. Catholic school boards are entrusted to fulfil this important mandate.

"Section 42(13) of Ontario's *Education Act* sets out the relevant exemption for programs or courses of study in religious education. This section applies to students who attend Catholic schools but whose parents are public school supporters. The intent of Section 42(13) is to accommodate the students of non-Catholic families who chose Catholic high schools for their children's education.

"This exemption does not in any way change Catholic District School Boards' right to require Catholic students to take religious education courses in each of their four years of secondary school.

"Ontario has developed one of the most successful publicly funded systems of education in the world. It has done so in large measure because of the choice provided through the distinct mission of each of its four school systems. Together these systems welcome and provide excellence in education to the 1.9 million students in Ontario. The four systems have helped shape the fabric of our society and made the quality of each better.

"Catholic schools in Ontario have been constantly recognized for their academic and co-curricular excellence and commitment to service. The 1,300 Catholic Schools in Ontario share a 180+ year tradition of educating the whole child – Body – Mind and Spirit. They have done so through the integration of the intellectual and spiritual into all aspects of the Ministry of Education's curriculum.

"Working co-operatively with the other publicly funded school system's, Catholic Schools have formed an integral part of Ontario for well over a 180 years. The graduates have helped shape the wonderful province and country we live in today. The structure of publicly funded education in Ontario, and the Catholic schools that are such an important part of it are to be strengthened and celebrated."

Submitted by Father Brian Bevan, Parish Priest.

Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses
Listed inside bulletin

Exposition and Benediction
Listed inside bulletin

Reconciliation/Confessions
Listed inside bulletin
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 2:00 pm

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website
www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



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www.stmartinsparish.net

July 16, 2017
The 15th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2017

The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Monday	July 17	9:00 am	For a Mass of Thanksgiving for God's blessings	by Rose Koshy
Tuesday	July 18	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Hendrika & Jacob Van Geest	by Marg and Dick Van Geest
Wednesday	July 19	6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
		7:00 pm	Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday	July 20	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	July 21	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
Saturday	July 22		St. Mary Magdalene, Disciple of the Lord Anointing of the Sick	
		9:00 am	****AVAILABLE	
Saturday	July 22		The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time	
		5:00 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
Sunday	July 23	9:00 am	For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Antonio Borges	by Maria Borges

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Mary Magdalene, disciple; July 22.

Mary's early life is unknown to us, but by tradition, she is the woman who anointed Jesus' feet during the supper at the pharisees house (Luke 7:36-50), and is the sister of Martha and Lazarus (John 12:1-8). She was called *Magdalene* since she was from *Magdala*, near the lake of Galilee. Mary was present at the crucifixion, and was among the first to see Jesus after the resurrection. Western tradition says that she travelled to southern France and died there, while Eastern tradition holds that after Pentecost she travelled with the Blessed Virgin and (St) John the apostle to Ephesus, where she died and was buried.

This feast dates to the eighth century.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$994.00 to our parish last week.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Are you always wondering when you have been scheduled to serve in your ministry? Well wonder no longer. You can find the current Ministry Schedule on St. Martin's Website. To find our website, simply type into the address bar: www.stmartinsparish.com. Click on the "Schedule" tab and scroll down until you find the month you are looking for.

Please remember that if you are not able to fulfill your scheduled spot, it is your responsibility to find a replacement for yourself. Thank you all for your continued commitment to St. Martin's Parish.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession / Penance was celebrated during Advent and Lent from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings.

Father Brian has decided to bring this time back, effective immediately, on each Wednesday evening.

This change is in answer to requests for having a time for forgiveness made available during the evening.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL - 1

Today we welcome Father Linus Kinyu, of the Diocese of Meru, Kenya. He is currently Parish Priest at St. Alphonus - St. Clement Parish in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. Next weekend we will take a Special Collection in support of Fr. Kinyua's Diocese in Meru.

Please remember Fr. Kinyua in your prayers.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL - 2 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MERU (Kenya, East Africa)

The Diocese of Meru is in the Eastern province of Kenya along the Equator line, serving four counties. Meru diocese serves a population of 1.8 million; half of whom are Catholics. The Catholic Church has continued to grow despite the poverty and other economic challenges. Many of the Christians depend on small farming to bring food on the table and support the church.

Our immediate needs are:

We need your help and prayers for the success of the mission work of the Diocese of Meru. These are our pressing needs:

- **Evangelization** - To train lay leaders, catechists, and

youth who work together with the priests in ministering to the Catholics in mission prayer houses

- **Fostering Vocations** - The diocese has many young men aspiring for priesthood but does not have enough resources to train them

- **Improving the social economic** condition of the poor, especially orphans and neglected children to have the basic needs especially food and clean drinking water.

- **Medical Care** - many people have no health insurance cover. They depend on the church for all medical care. Staffing the diocese health clinics and hospitals with qualified nurses and basic medications is also a priority for the church. This helps the people to have affordable health care.

Your prayers and financial support will help the Diocese of Meru achieve some of the above pressing needs as it continues with its missionary work.

Asante Sana

(Swahili language: Thank you very much)

Contact: Rev. Fr. Linus Kinyua, Mission Coordinator for the Diocese of Meru: Pastor, St. Alphonus -St. Clement Parish, 7496 Calhoun Street- Dearborn, MI 48126

THE BACK PAGE

This week *The Back Page* reprints a letter from the President of the Ontario Catholic Trustee's Association titled, "The Facts About Ontario's Publicly Funded Catholic Schools."

NEXT WEEK'S THE BACK PAGE

Next week *The Back Page* will show how our parish is in accordance with the issues regarding gluten reduced Holy Communion, as raised by Pope Francis. In other words, we are okay.

THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

This Sacrament is for those who are in need of the Lord's comfort and healing. This is extended through prayer, touch and anointing with blessed oil. A person must be *seriously ill = the usual routine of life is challenged or disrupted at least, to the point of death.*



This Sacrament will be celebrated during the 9:00 am Mass on Saturday, July 22nd; the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, who was healed by the Lord of "seven demons".

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

A *Catholic Education Symposium* will take place in November 2017. Stakeholders are invited to participate in an on-line conversation about Catholic Education in

Ontario. Your participation in the on-line discussion will inform and enrich the dialogue about the future and the importance of Catholic Education. You are encouraged to join the conversation at <http://signup.thotex.com/iceont/Pyv>.

OUR LOST & FOUND BOX

Located on the table at the south side of the church entrance, our *Lost & Found Box* may have something for you! Gloves, glasses, prayer books, hats, ear rings and many others can be found there. So if you are missing something - or have found something - then that is the place to have a look.



GREEN FLASHING LIGHTS

Once reserved only for volunteer firefighters, green coloured flashing lights are now being used by other volunteer emergency responders. A green flashing light on a vehicle means a volunteer firefighter or medical responder is on their way to an emergency. Please pull over to let them by - you may help save someone's life!

WE WELCOME

We welcomed Audrey Pogoda to the Ministry of Altar Server during the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, July 9, 2017

We welcomed Deborah Pogoda to the Ministry of the Eucharist during the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, July 9, 2017

We welcomed Mitch Pogoda to the Ministry of the Eucharist during the 9:00 am Mass on Sunday, July 9, 2017. Mitch already serves in the Ministry of Reader.

We welcomed Nicole MacIsaac to the Ministry of Reader during the 11:00 am Mass on July 9, 2017. Nicole already serves in the Ministry of Music.

We pray that Audrey, Deborah, Mitch and Nicole will enjoy their time in these Ministries.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Thomas Valeri – July 16

Dana Ivanaj/Grant McIntyre – July 18

Yvonne MacNiven – July 19

Jennifer Noseworthy/Susanne Perry – July 20

Peter Blokhuis – July 21

Robert Dell/Danielle Parry – July 23

Anniversaries:

Ron & Janet Roscovich – July 17

David & Mary Vieira – July 19

Andrew & Caroline Steger – July 21

Mark & Yolanda Baldasaro – July 22