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OPEN OURS EYES

Today's readings are filled with contrasting images - God's vision versus human vision, spiritual blindness versus spiritual sightedness. Embracing a stewardship way of life can free us from spiritual blindness and help us to reflect the light of Christ's love in our daily lives.

Our Second Reading, from Ephesians begins, "...You were once in darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light." Because of our Baptism, we have the "light" of the Blessed Trinity dwelling within us. In the difficulties and messiness of daily life, it's easy to forget this glorious truth about ourselves. It can also be difficult to determine whether we truly are living in a way that reflects Christ's light.

The stewardship way of life, with its emphasis on the rightly ordered use of the gifts of time, talents and treasure, gives us a guide to help ensure we really are living as "children of the light."

In our Gospel passage from John, Christ restores sight to a man born blind. The man says that Christ "opened my eyes." These Lenten days are an excellent time for us to ask Jesus to open our eyes, too. Let us ask Him to show us where we may be suffering from spiritual blindness, perhaps even in subtle ways in our use - or misuse - of time, talents and treasure.

As we continue on our Lenten journey, let's intensify our efforts in any of these areas where we have become a little blinded so that by Easter, we are truly living as children of the light.

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

I plead with you –
never, ever give up on hope,
never doubt, never tire,
and never become discouraged.
Be not afraid.

– Pope John Paul II



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Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Mar 22, 2020

The 4th Sunday of Lent - Year A

March 22, 2019

The 4th Sunday of Lent - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Mar 23	9:00 am	For All Parishioners at this most challenging time	by Father Christopher
Tues	Mar 24	9:00 am	All the past benefactors of St. Martin of Tours	by St. Martin's Parish
Wed	Mar 25	9:00 am	+Ted Wisniewski	by Joan Wisniewski & Family
Thurs	Mar 26	9:00 am	+Escolastica & Jacinto Melo	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Fri	Mar 27	9:00 am	+Lina DeFilippis	by the DeFilippis Family
Sat	Mar 28	The 5th Sunday of Lent		
		5:00 pm	Cancelled publicly - but celebrated privately by Father Christopher	
Sun	Mar 29	10:00 am	Cancelled publicly but celebrated privately by Father Christopher	

**Father Christopher will continue to celebrate Mass each day and at weekends privately.
Church is OPEN during the day (9:30 am - 4:00 pm) for private prayer.
Keep 2 metres apart from one another.**

**CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL
CONTINUES IN 2020**

www.saintcd.com/appeal

As of March 4, 2020, just 10 months into our 18 month Cathedral appeal, we, as a diocese have raised \$1,010,360.54 in cash donations and \$86,247.32 in outstanding pledges. This brings our **total raised to \$1,096,607.86** or 91% of our \$1,200,000 goal.

**THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY
OF SO MANY!**

Already made your donation? Thank you for playing your part in the restoration of the mother church of our diocese. Still thinking about making a donation?

Visit www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.

**WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019
Host Churches**

March: St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic
- cancelled
April: Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June: St Ann's Community Church

**SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2020
First Holy Communion - May 3, 1:00 pm.**

ONLINE DAILY EUCHARIST

With no public weekday or weekend Masses we offer the following:

- **Please share our online bulletin with others.**
 - **Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League please send out the bulletin link to all your members. Thank you!**
- We continue to keep Holy Sabbath.**

In an effort to continue the practice of our faith in these trying times, I would like to invite you to [join us online](#) for daily Mass.

Vision TV

Sunday - 8:00 AM

Monday - Friday 8:00 AM & 12:00 PM

Saturday - 8:00 AM & 9:30 AM

Salt + Light

Sunday - 11:00 AM & 10:30 PM

Monday - Saturday - 6:30 AM, 11:00 AM, 3:00 PM, 10:30 PM

yesTV

Sunday - 10:30 AM

Monday - Saturday - 1:00 PM

Internet

www.dailytvmass.com

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

Mass this Sunday is streamed live from our Cathedral at 11:30 am. Visit the diocesan website for viewing: www.saintcd.com

My Dear Friends :)

In the course of a few days, our entire work, life and church just went digital. I know...talk about whiplash. I'm currently retreating in my home and our church. I shall continue to celebrate the Holy Eucharist each morning for the parish and intentions requested.

Chances are, before COVID-19 goes away, it will hit even closer to home. It is in many of our cities. It is making its way into our churches. It may well enter some of our families and the lives of those we love. Be careful. Be cautious. Be wise and practical in what you do. But do not live in fear.

What I fear, more than COVID -19, is that we will forget who we are and to whom we belong. As a church, we need to take preventive measures and commit ourselves to prayer. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice and entrust our lives to Christ. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered and remember and remind each other that we belong to Christ.

Know that I am praying for you and for our church body. I am praying for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. I am praying for my bishop, my brother priests, and for our people and for God's Holy Spirit to protect us as a church. I am praying and I will continue to pray until the coronavirus is over, and beyond, but I am not afraid.

The apostle Paul says it well. "Do no be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

We should be concerned. The coronavirus is real. But we cannot and we will not be afraid. We are the Church and, together, we belong to Christ. "Be not afraid, I am with you always" (Matthew 14:27).

Keeping you all in thought and prayer. Be kind to each other, and look after one another. Pray, rest, and be safe; spring clean the house.

Shalom, Christopher+

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU
FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP!**

March 14 / 15, 2020

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 1,397.00

We are all challenged now with our personal finances. People are loosing their jobs and others are being laid off. Many are now worrying about food and rent. We stand in solidarity with all during this period of "EMERGENCY". We don't doubt that our regular parishioners and those who use our offertory envelope system will continue to support us financially. Our commitment and responsibility to our Faith Community remains. We thank you in advance for your solidarity at this difficult time.

Thank you and God bless.

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

*Lord God, I pray for all who have been sickened or died by the Coronavirus that has been spreading around the world.
In your mercy and compassion,
deliver us from this disease.
In your holy wisdom,
guide all who are working to contain the outbreak.
In your steadfast love,
bring healing to all your children who have been sickened,
Welcome into your arms the ones who have died,
and comfort the ones they left behind.
In faith, I place my trust in you.
In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.
In love, I give glory to your name.
In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.
In your Son's name I pray. Amen.*

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
GIVE ALMS FOR LENT- HELP OTHERS
Annual Lenten Food Drive
February 26th - April 9th**

Brown Bags have been distributed for Community Care. Please return them to our parish foyer throughout the season Lent. The last collection will be April 9 before 9:00 am. Thank You, as we deeply appreciate your solidarity and out-reach to those in our community who find it difficult making ends meet. God bless You!