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**STEPS TOWARD HOLINESS**

As Christian stewards we are called to a high and holy standard - living as Christ's disciples every day and with every person the Lord places in our path. But we can move towards this goal in "baby steps."

Jesus demonstrates this comforting truth through the parable He tells in today's Gospel from Matthew. It is the story of two sons whose father instructs them to go out and work in his vineyard that day. While the second son agrees to his father's request, he does not follow through - he fails to obey the father's will. The first son tells his father, "no." At least he is honest! And in the end, he reconsiders and obeys his father.

The first son's honest, less-than-perfect response, is consoling to us Christian stewards. Haven't we all felt this way at times when God's will for us seems to be just too hard?

We can be honest with God at these times. He knows our thoughts already, after all. But when we stayed engaged in a real relationship with Him, even if it's just to say, "I don't think I can, Lord," He will supply us with just the grace we need to change our minds and do what He is asking us to do.

We can even take a step backward from time to time because our Father is merciful and kind. What matters is that we keep baby stepping along, assured of the grace we need to more closely imitate the actions and attitudes of Christ. This is the beauty of the stewardship way of life.

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 & 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

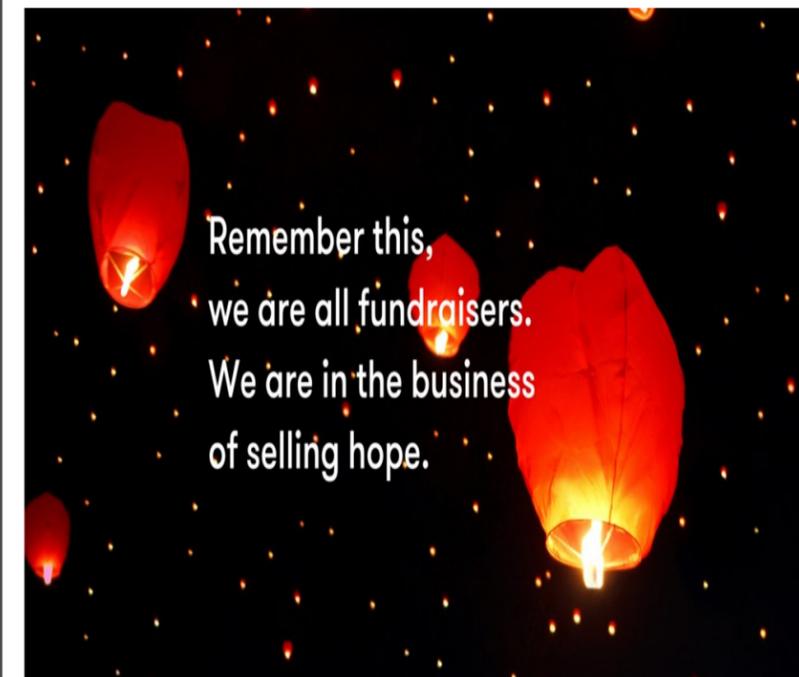
**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Carolyn Vaughan  
Knights of Columbus  
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**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**



Remember this,  
we are all fundraisers.  
We are in the business  
of selling hope.

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Telephone: 289-956-0221  
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www.stmartinsparish.com

**September 27, 2020 - Year A**

**The 26th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**

# September 27, 2019

## The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Sept 28	9:00 am +Don Tylter	from St. Alfred Parish
		9:30 am 11:30 am Reliance Security Update and Repairs for Our Security Alarms	
Tues	Sept 29	9:00 am +Past Benefactors of our Parish	by St. Martin's Parish
Wed	Sept 30	9:00 am + Kathleen Finlay	by Marg Van Geest
		10:30 am - 5:00 pm - Gethsemane Center Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
		Father Christopher celebrant. Confessions and Counselling if required.	
Thurs	Oct 1	9:00 am +Yvonne Vanderbraak	from St. Alfred Parish
Fri	Oct 2	9:00 am <b>NO MASS TODAY.</b>	
		7:30 pm - 9:30 pm Praise and Worship Gethsemane Centre Wellandport - Register if attending	
Sat	Oct 3	<b>The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
		5:00 pm For God's blessings upon Andrew, Christina & Nyla Mikhail	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sun	Oct 4	10:00 am Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

### 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](http://www.saintcd.com) or on YouTube

#### **St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.**

Follow on Face Book or their website:

[Stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://Stjosephgrimsby.ca)

#### **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](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

[www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass)

### COVID-19 AND PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Our Catholic faith has much to contribute with respect to promoting human, social and spiritual values for the common good of society. We trust that you will now see the urgency to discern wisely the signs of the times and to "reset" our lives so that our collective experience in moving forward accords with the Gospel.

You are invited to reflect and discern with us the kind of response that will be needed to address some of the human and social values that have surfaced during this pandemic. Specifically, we seek new ways to promote authentic human development and flourishing in the very way that we live, care for others, work, organize and interact with one another here at St. Martin's and in our wider community. Moved by our faith in Christ and inspired by the principles of Catholic Social Teaching we move forward in HOPE!

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all of us.

We appeal to your generosity as we need the weekly stewardship of one and all, to maintain our financial commitments. No different from your own expenses and budget.

Thank you; and God bless you for your stewardship.

### PASTORAL HOME VISITS

Father Christopher will continue to visit parishioners for Confession, Holy Communion Service and 'Anointing of the Sick' if needed. Kindly call the office if you would like a pastoral visit. Masks and physical distancing enforced. Please call the parish office to schedule a pastoral visit. Thank you.

### "ETIQUETTE AT EUCHARIST"

**We update weekly given our experiences of the weekend Masses; and with Public Health Regional Bylaws and our Diocese.**

You will be asked to sanitize your hands using the new automatic dispenser (touchless) just inside the main door. The wearing a face mask or shield are now mandatory throughout Niagara (except the very young and those with breathing difficulties). Masks are available free of charge.

Please wait for a hospitality team member to escort you to your assigned pew. In order to ensure physical distancing, please remain in your seats once seated. Please move up in the pew.

Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality are updated weekly or when needed by email. This weekend we will present a floor plan for the Ushers. All are kindly asked to follow the floor plan as we need every space that is available. The doors are now locked as we begin Mass and for good reason: the TEAM 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.

For the reception of Holy Communion. Come to "Red Line" and remove your mask or drop below your chin. There will be no exchange of words as this will have already been done by Father Christopher when he gives the necessary directions.

Note: 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).

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".

All of the above is for your safety and the protection of all. It is not meant to be unwelcoming as some have written and expressed. We have entered into new pastoral challenging and will continue to do so.

**"Say Something Positive.  
If you stay Positive in a Negative Situation.  
YOU WIN!"**

## COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR THE REOPENING PARISH HALLS

- Physical distancing (2 meters or 6 feet) and all precautions with respect to personal sanitation and cleaning of the parish hall are in effect.
- Everyone over the age of five must wear a face covering.
- Wherever possible one door should be used as an entrance and a different door should be used as an exit. Doors should be labelled "Entrance" and "Exit".
- The maximum number of persons permitted to gather in a parish hall is 50 persons, provided physical distancing of two meters (six feet) is maintained at all times. In addition, the setup of the parish hall must permit enough room for attendees to enter, exit and move about, while maintaining physical distancing requirements, before, during and after the gathering.
- Hand sanitizer must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Everyone must pass the posted COVID-19 self-assessment located at the main entrance to the parish hall, before entering a parish hall or meeting room.
- Having passed the self-assessment, all visitors and staff must record this in the "**Staff and Visitor Log**" located at the main entrance to the parish hall. This record is also important for contact tracing.
- Hand sanitizer must be placed at, or near, the **Staff and Visitor Log**.
- For meetings, it is recommended that chairs be set up in a circle or square rather than in rows. Minimize the use of furnishings; if you don't need tables, do not use them. Any furnishings used must be sanitized after the meeting or event.
- No printed or other materials are to be made available at the event unless they are handed out by one person as people are leaving.
- Parish hall washrooms are to be used for emergencies only. No more than one person/family (living at the same address) at a time should use a washroom. Notices to this effect must be posted outside the washroom. Hand-washing signs should be placed in the washroom. Washrooms must be cleaned and sanitized after every meeting or event. In the event that a washroom is soiled, it must be closed, pending thorough cleaning with disinfectant.
- Prior to and after each meeting or event all door handles and any other "touch points" must be disinfected.
- **The user group will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing.**
- Where food and/or beverages are served, the kitchen and the bar must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
  - No buffet style food service is allowed.
  - Individuals must be seated when eating or drinking.
- Permitted Uses
  - The parish hall may be used for all **parish** events and activities
  - The parish hall may be used for **non-parish** events provided the renter of the hall signs a hall rental contract and provides proof of insurance for the event.
- At all non-parish events, the parish must assign someone to audit the event to ensure that all protocols are being followed.

## PASTORAL LETTER

### **Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ.**

Parishioners, Parent(s), Guardian(s), School Staff, Members of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League, Parish Events Group and all Committees. Peace and grace be with you all in these challenging times.

Needless to say, there is a lot of new anxiety, with regards to the increases in transmission of the COVID-19 virus throughout the Province of Ontario. As a faith community, with core values of social justice, hospitality, and compassion, we are called to do all that we can to ensure that we continue to express care, concern, and love for one another, here in our church home, domestic church and school, and in the wider community.

To that end, our parish of St. Martin continues the journey with Public Health to do all that is possible to keep us all safe. Our usual church programs, groups, and activities are now somewhat on semi-pause for an indefinite period of time so that we can help to "flatten the curve" of transmission and best care for those most at risk of contracting the COVID-19 virus. The message is clear, we need to do everything we can to protect one another.

Please know that none of this will be forever. Please also know we will continue to "be" the Church. We are currently engaged in only what is essential. Sunday and weekday Masses, Sacramental Life. Parish meetings among parish organizations and committees will only gather when absolutely necessary. Executive meetings are encouraged but not with all members of organizations. Virtual meetings need to be set up and exercised. There are no meetings in the parish office. Correspondence is by phone, email and Face Time.

First Holy Communion for last year's Grade 2 (Spring of 2020) needs to be celebrated. We are currently conversing as to how best to proceed. Confirmation is on schedule for this coming fall in November, with all necessary information coming to you within the next week or so.

As members of the Body of Christ, WE are the Church and we will continue to be a loving and connected presence in one another's lives, and in the life of the community. We will be in touch again very soon, and we will explore new ways of providing companionship, pastoral care, and spiritual nourishment while we navigate together these uncharted waters. Visit our website for weekly updates, direction and protocols from our diocese. <http://www.stmartinsparish.com>

Do all you can to be safe, and remember always that God's grace, warmth and love surround each of us in every moment of time.

Sincerely, in Christ.  
Christopher +

Parish Priest of St. Martin  
September 15, 2020.

## OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 11, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On the morning of the Resurrection, Mary Magdalene found the empty tomb and believed that the body of Jesus had been stolen. Overwhelmed with grief, she said, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him" (John 20:13)

As many of you may already know, there was a recent break-in at our Cathedral and the tabernacle was stolen. What is most disturbing is that the Blessed Sacrament was also taken. Like Mary Magdalene, we have experienced the cruel reality that they have taken our Lord and His location is unknown. What have they done to him?

A day after the theft, a parishioner of the Cathedral formed a search party and the tabernacle was found dumped in shallow water not far from the Cathedral. Two pieces of the ciborium, the container within the tabernacle for the Sacred Hosts, were also found in the water. It is my hope and prayer that the Hosts dissolved in the water.

Some have speculated that this theft was for nefarious reasons by people involved in the occult. I believe that the motivation was for money. The video footage seems to support this theory. The first thing the thieves did when they entered the Cathedral was to empty the boxes that contained money for candles and the poor.

How should we respond to this tragedy?

The Blessed Sacrament has been desecrated and our Eucharistic Lord has been harmed at the hands of thieves. When this happens, the Church in her wisdom asks that we make reparation for the harm that has been done.

With this in mind, I ask you and the clergy of our diocese to join with me in a month of reparation. It will begin on Monday, September 14, which is the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, and conclude on Monday, October 12, which is Thanksgiving Day. You will be given a simple prayer that I ask you to recite on a daily basis. I have also asked the priests to celebrate the Mass in honour of the Most Blessed Sacrament once a week.

During this month there will also be opportunities to reflect on the mystery of the Eucharist and our belief that through the miracle of the Mass, the bread and wine become the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus.

Do we truly believe this teaching and do our actions reflect what we believe? I have been told about an evangelical protestant who said to his Catholic friend, "If I really believed, like you say you do, that Christ himself is in the tabernacle, I'd be crawling up the aisle on my hands and knees."

Jesus is in all the tabernacles throughout our diocese and world. It is also true that at every Mass we participate in the representation of the one sacrifice of Christ on Calvary and the Heavenly Banquet with all the angels and saints. What an incredible grace to be able to attend Mass and to receive our Lord!

During this month let us work at strengthening our love for the Lord in the Eucharist. This would be our greatest act of reparation.

The Cathedral break-in occurred during the early morning of the feast in honour of Mary's birthday. I pray that through her prayers and example, our faith will be strengthened in her Son who is the Bread of Life.

Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Bishop of St. Catharines

## PRAYER OF REPARATION

O Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifferences by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary I beg the conversion of poor sinners. Amen.

### **More News:**

On September 14, the last two parts of the ciborium from the Cathedral tabernacle have been found. On September 15, the luna from the tabernacle was also found by a scuba diver. The luna did not have a host inside; however, after being in our water for more than a week, it is believed that it dissolved. On September 17, the last missing door to the tabernacle was found and returned. To date, we have everything returned that was taken except the silver container that held the luna in the tabernacle. We still live in hope that it will return.