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**FORGIVENESS**

Mercy means not giving people who have behaved unseemly what they deserve. The degree to which we show mercy to others is usually in direct proportion to the gratitude we feel for the mercy shown to us by God. Consequently, when we walk around with unforgiveness in our heart toward others, we are a walking billboard stating that we either have never known, or have lately forgotten and no longer appreciate the mercy God has shown us.

"How often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him?" is a question whose roots lie in legal obligation - the minimum requirements imposed on us. "What are the boundaries beyond which I will be justified in holding a grudge. What are the boundaries beyond which I will be free to live and demonstrate an unforgiving spirit?" It seems that unforgiveness must always be propped up by the concept that we are somehow justified in our resentment.

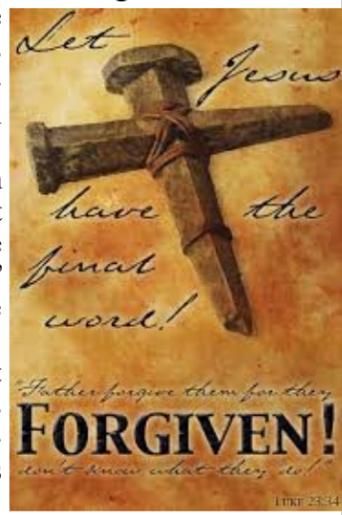
The Pharisee believed that if a brother asks forgiveness three times you should grant it, but if he asks a fourth time you are not obliged to do so. When Peter asks this question, his suggestion of forgiving someone seven times exceeded that of the religious expectations of his time. But Jesus totally knocks the props out from under this legal argument by indicating that forgiveness should be offered without limit.

To move the disciples from viewing forgiveness in legal terms to thinking about it spiritually, Jesus introduces the parable of the "unforgiving servant." Jesus contrasts the debt that was owed by the king's servant, ten thousand talents, with that of the fellow servant, a hundred denarii. Proportionally what the king's servant owed far outweighed what he was owed. We would offer unlimited forgiveness to those who offend us, if we understood proportionally how very much more we have offended God than have others offended us. In spite of the magnitude of our sin we have received God's unconditional forgiveness which has been freely offered to us through Jesus and his propitiatory sacrifice. Forgiveness of others will truly come "from the heart" when it comes from a heart personally grateful for God's forgiveness.

Anger and wrath is viewed as an abomination, and to unforgiveness as endangering our eternal future more than that of the one who has done the wrong about which we are bitter. The implication of living an unforgiving life toward others is a fearful thing when we hear Jesus' words, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from the heart." When next we pray "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," we should, out of gratitude to God for erasing our sins, truly wipe clean the slate of another's sins against us.

Great joy is found in being able to forgive and a wonderful liberation in being forgiven. Out of such experiences emerge new possibilities for growth and relationship, so that even the previous hurts and wounds open up new perspectives of the healing love of God. To refuse to forgive is to allow resentment to smolder. Even if it does not result in overt revenge or violence it will take root and spread bitterness in all other areas of a person's life. The attitude of 'I'll forgive but I'll never forget!' falls short of true forgiveness, which springs, from mercy, humility and compassion.

Emmaus Journey Reflections



Bishop of the Diocese  
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor  
Father Christopher Gillen

Sunday Masses  
Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses  
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.  
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Benediction and Exposition  
First Friday @ 8:00am

Reconciliation/Confessions  
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism  
Sunday by appointment

Marriage  
Contact Fr. Christopher Gillen

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 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

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



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

**Ministry Schedule - Sept 23/24**  
**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tony Zanni & Tom Shields  
9:00 am - Alfons & Bea Blokhuis  
11:00 am - Andy & Pat Wirth

**Altar Servers**  
5:00 pm - Needed  
9:00 am - Needed  
11:00 am - Needed

**Children's Liturgy**  
Jennifer Noseworthy

**Next Hospitality Sunday October 1**  
9:00 am - PPC  
11:00 am - Children's Liturgy

**Sept. 17, 2017**

**24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**FORGIVEN**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Nick Shields  
#2 - Mitch Pogoda  
9:00 am #1 - Mary Pikula  
#2 - Needed  
11:00 am #1 - Alex Joyner  
#2 - Jacob Abrams

**Ministers of Communion**  
5:00 pm - Martha Devlin  
9:00 am - Bea Blokhuis  
11:00 am - Barb Joyner

**Counting**  
Needed

# September 17, 2017

## The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



*Lord, may the request of your people rise before you like a fragrant offering*

Monday	Sept 18	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of all the souls in purgatory	by Anonymous
Tuesday	Sept 19	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Maria & Abilio Fonseca	by Maria Martins
Wednesday	Sept 20	6:30 pm	<b>St Andrew Kim Tae-gon &amp; St. Paul chong Ha-sang &amp; Companions</b> For the special intentions of Kenneth and Matthew O'Keefe	by Sherry & Darren O'Keefe
Thursday	Sept 21	9:00 am	<b>St. Matthew, apostle &amp; evangelist</b> For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Sept 22	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
Saturday	Sept 23	5:00 pm	<b>The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> For the health and healing of Lenora and Regina Newman	by Val Newman
Sunday	Sept 24	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Joe Mulder	by John and Riky Mulder
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's parish family	



## Father Christopher Gillen

Join us this weekend as we welcome our newly assigned pastor, Fr. Christopher Gillen, to our parish community. May God bless him and fill him with His Holy Spirit so to continue leading us closer to God's love and the love of our Blessed Mother Mary.

O Jesus, our great High Priest, hear our humble prayers on behalf of your priest, Father Christopher. Give him a deep faith, a bright and firm hope and a burning love which will ever increase in the course of his priestly life.

In his loneliness, comfort him, in his sorrows, strengthen him, in his frustrations, point out to him that it is through suffering that the soul is purified, and show him that he is needed by the Church, he is needed by souls, he is needed for the work of redemption.

O loving Mother Mary, Mother of Priests, take to your heart your son who is close to you because of his priestly ordination, and because of the power which he has received to carry on the work of Christ in a world which needs him so much.

Be his comfort, be his joy, be his strength, and especially help him to live and to defend the ideals of consecrated celibacy. Amen.

### RETROUVAILLE

**Stress in Your Marriage?** – Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most couples don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille can help. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend **November 3, 2017**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamilton-retrouvaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamilton-retrouvaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

### GRIMSBY LIFE CHAIN

On **Sunday, October 1st** from 1 - 2pm hundreds of pro-life people in our community plan to gather at the intersection of Main St and Christie St in Grimsby to pray for an end to abortion. This is the 30th year of this annual event. We will be joining our prayers with thousands of people in 1600 locations across Canada and the United States who will be forming Life Chains on that date!!

We pray silently, holding professionally-printed signs provided at the site. Peacefully we stand in honor of the 60 million lives who have been lost to abortion. Every year women report deciding not to have an abortion after reading the signs and seeing the people praying.

For questions or if you would like to receive promotional information to distribute, please contact [grimsby-](mailto:grimsby-)



[lifechain@gmail.com](mailto:lifechain@gmail.com).

Last Sunday's Offering: \$1325.50

*Thank you for your generosity to the House of God.*

### CELEBRATION OF A LIVING ROSARY

Saturday, September 30, 2017, St. Alfred Church, 272 Vine Street, St. Catharines.

8:30 am: Mass with Most Rev. Gerard Bergie;  
9:15 – 11:30 am: Reflections, song and prayer.

Parishioners, diocesan organizations, Catholic school communities and all the faithful from across the diocese are invited to this special event to **pray for peace in the world** during the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions.

**Free admission. No registration. All are welcome.**

### PUBLICLY FUNDED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS TOGETHER IN FAITH

For more than 150 years, Ontario's publicly funded Catholic schools have been a distinctive, highly successful and valued contributor to our public education system. The "Together in Faith" campaign amplifies that message by promoting our Catholic school students' achievements in academics, social justice, and Christian service.

Parishioners are invited to join the campaign to strengthen publicly funded Catholic education in Ontario. Add your name to the "Together in Faith" community list at [www.togetherinfaith.ca](http://www.togetherinfaith.ca). Follow the campaign on Twitter (@Catholicedu) and on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationInOntario](http://www.facebook.com/CatholicEducationInOntario)) and help us share the Good News!

This campaign is sponsored by the Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association and is supported by the Assembly of Catholic Bishops of Ontario and Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

### NEEDS OF THE CANADIAN CHURCH

#### Why is there such a collection?

Every year, the Bishops of Canada make an appeal for financial assistance to support their work and the work of each diocese/eparchy by means of the Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada. The President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB), the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O.M.I., Bishop of Hamilton, has described this Collection as an invitation to "all the faithful to participate in the life and mission of the Church through their active involvement in the life of their parish community, their prayers, their

diverse charisms, their moral support, and the contributions of their time and talents. The Collection for the Needs of the Church is an opportunity for Catholics to truly help their diocese/eparchy participate in the regional episcopal assemblies and the CCCB. Any additional revenue which is raised is used by the diocese/eparchy for its own pastoral programs and other activities."

The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place on 23 and 24 September 2017. This annual charitable initiative furthers the collegiality and synodality of the Bishops' ministry in leading, shepherding, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and pastorally caring for all of God's children, disciples of Christ in Canada.

### REGENERATE(D) 2017

Sponsored by Branches Catholic Ministries, **Regenerate(d) 2017** will take place again at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls on Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is based upon one of the most important questions of our time, "What is Truth?" and how and where do we find it?

In a culture that promotes that truth is relative how do we as Catholics respond? Keynote speakers: Jennifer Fulwiler, Trent Horn, Dr. David Anders and Steve Weidenkopf will address atheism, relativism, the divisions in Christianity bringing Protestantism and how to discuss this with family and friends.

For the first time **Regenerate(d) Youth 2017** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18 years.

Early-bird tickets are available now! To purchase tickets and more information about these conferences visit [www.branchesoftheword.org](http://www.branchesoftheword.org) or call Branches at 905-685-7000.

### BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

#### Birthdays:

- Liam Bungay – Sept 17
- Maggie Bungay/Sternly Lipiec – Sept 18
- Oliviya Koshy – Sept 19
- Herman Johnson/Priscilla Henley – Sept 20
- Maria deWilde – Sept 20
- Dave Bliedung – Sept 23
- Geraldine Bell/Olivia Branco – Sept 24
- Isla Ridlan/Connie Zimmer – Sept 24

#### Anniversaries:

- Linu & Bindumol Alex – Sept 17
- Nick & Stephanie Fasulo – Sept 22
- Bruce & Cheryl Ecker – Sept 22