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PREPARE TO CHALLENGE OVER TEMPTATION

As we begin the beautiful and challenging season of Lent, our readings this week remind us why we need these 40 days so much. They also suggest a particular strategy we Christian stewards might take as we make the journey towards Easter.

Our first reading takes us back to Genesis, reminding us of our Creator and the loving care and lavish gifts He gave to our ancestors, Adam and Eve. He created them out of pure love and provided abundantly for them.

Life was good in the Garden! Until the first couple allowed just a sliver of doubt in the goodness of God to enter their minds. Swayed by the words of the serpent, they became ungrateful and distrustful despite God's great love and all the gifts of creation He had provided. Sound familiar? These same temptations threaten to pull us away from God today.

Our Gospel passage, from Matthew, shows us by the example of Jesus Himself, one way that we can attain spiritual strength and grow to become more effective disciples and stewards. In this passage, we find our Lord in the desert, fasting for 40 days and 40 nights. Like Adam and Eve, He is confronted by the evil one. But unlike our fallen parents, our Lord triumphs definitively over the devil's lies and sends him slithering away.

How did He do it? By knowing the Scriptures and by proclaiming them confidently. And by His perfect trust in the Father.

This Lent, let us embrace this 40-day spiritual reset. Let us prioritize our use of time by committing to prayerful study of the Scriptures and trusting more deeply in the Father's love. We will surely be better stewards by Easter.

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

Ministry Schedule - Mar 7/8

Hospitality Ministers
 5:00 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich
 10:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

Altar Servers
 5:00pm -
 10:00 am -

Children's Liturgy
 Zoe & Jenn N.

Next Hospitality Sunday
 March 1

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**



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

**Mar 1, 2020
 The 1st Sunday
 of Lent
 Year A**

Lectors
 5:00 pm #1 - Youth Reader
 #2 - Youth Reader
 10:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
 #2 - Tom Richardson

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
 5:00 pm - Yolanda Baldasaro
 10:00 am - Dick Van Geest

Stewardship Counting
 Halina Gryzbek & Sandy Johnson

March 1, 2019

The 1st Sunday of Lent - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Mar 2	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher's Day Off	
Tues	Mar 3	NO MASS TODAY - PRIESTS LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION	
Wed	Mar 4	9:00 am +Sophie Modrzejewski	by Family
		10:30 am Gethsemane Mass Father Christopher	
		6:30 pm Knights of Columbus Mass and Meeting	
Thurs	Mar 5	9:00 am For the health and healing of Amanda Pearson	by Carol McNulty
		9:30 am - 10:30 am Scripture Study Group in parish hall	
		5:30 pm - 7:00 pm West Lincoln Loaf of Bread parish hall	
		7:00 pm Acts Women's Team Commissioning Rite Mississauga	Father Christopher
		Men's Acts Team Preparation Meeting Mississauga	Father Christopher
Fri	Mar 6	9:00 am For the personal intentions of Father Christopher's on his Birthday	by St. Martin's Parish
		9:30 am First Friday Holy Hour with Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction	
		6:30 pm Lenten Stations of the Cross	
Sat	Mar 7	The 2nd Sunday of Lent	
		9:30 am - 10:30 am Parish Financial Council Meeting Rectory	
		5:00 pm +Antonio Pais	by Fatima Araujo
		+William & Harriet Ross	by the Chorley Family
		6:00 pm Youth Group Activity	
Sun	Mar 8	10:00 am Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

THANK YOU FROM PARISH EVENTS GROUP

On Feb.15th the Parish Events Group hosted the Annual Pasta Dinner. We want to thank all those that came to our event and those that worked to make it happen.

There was a wonderful atmosphere of fun and enjoyment. Also, a special thanks to all who stepped in for the clean up. It was truly a parish event on all levels.

God Bless you all for your kind hearts and hands.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL CONTINUES IN 2020

www.saintcd.com/appeal

Did you know that the restoration of our cathedral is on schedule, and thanks to the intercession of St. Catherine, on budget? Consider a visit to our cathedral to see firsthand the amazing restoration well underway. And "thank you" for prayerfully considering making a donation.

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

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

CARITAS CANADA

"For Our Common Home"

This year, Development and Peace is encouraging us to support all those in the Amazon and the Global South who are caring for God's creation.

How can we help?

- 1) Donate online at devp.org/give or give during the "Solidarity" Sunday collection on March 29, the 5th Sunday of Lent. Your generosity helps support over 149 projects in 36 countries around the world!
- 2) Read Development and Peace's "Share Lent" literature and watch the videos to learn about and hear from the guardians of the Earth.
- 3) Sign the "Solidarity Letter" addressed to two embattled Brazilian communities at devp.org/act.

SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2020

First Reconciliation - March 10, 7:00 pm
First Holy Communion - May 3, 1:00 pm.

DIOCESAN-WIDE RECONCILIATION / ADORATION

On Saturday, March 28 in every parish church across the diocese, a priest will be available from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing -- or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 6th, 2020 is World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical celebration on the theme "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk". Join with 170 countries from around the world in the prayers written by the women of Zimbabwe. A service will be held at:
Smithville Christian Reformed Church
6522 Smithville Rd. Smithville
Friday March 6th at 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact Heather Tomascini at 905 957-7805. World Day of Prayer is sponsored by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Everyone is welcome.

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

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.*

Here are examples of changes to our worship style to err on the side of caution during this outbreak: (1) Find another way to give the sign of peace than a handshake. (2) Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue.

Let us each do our part to keep our parish safe!

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

February 22/23, 2020

Regular Sunday Offering \$ 2, 553.10

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

Host Churches

March - St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic
February & April - Smithville Canadian Reformed Church

May & June - St Ann's Community Church

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- Tuesday, March 3, Priests Lenten Day of Recollection Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre Niagara Falls.
- Tuesday March 10, First Reconciliation 7:00 pm
- March break - 16 to 20.
- World Day of Prayer Friday, March 6, 1:30 pm
- Parish Financial Council Meeting - Saturday, March 7, at 9:30:am, parish rectory. (Please note the early start)

LENT 2020

The ashes we used on Ash Wednesday were the burnt palms from last year's celebration of Passion Sunday. We begin our Lenten journey aware of where we are going. We want to enter into the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus for us more fully. That is the purpose of our journey.

It is why we mark our heads with His cross. It is why we fast and abstain from meat in the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Our Lenten program is not an effort to save ourselves. We have been saved by His sacrifice. Our self-denial helps us, in the darkness that surrounds us, to prepare ourselves to receive his light.

For this is a journey to the Easter font, where we will renew the promises of our Baptism, remembering that in dying with him in the waters of Baptism, we are re-born with Him to everlasting life.

This year's journey begins today.