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MYSTERIES OF SALVATION

This week's Gospel reading continues the passage which was introduced in last week's Gospel reading, in which we saw the Jews' incredulity directly linked to Jesus' statement about eating his flesh. It is interesting to note that their question isn't, "Can this be?" but rather "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Throughout the history of Christianity, the debate has more often taken place about the "how" of the Eucharist than about the reality of Jesus' promise. It is also instructive to note that Jesus does not answer their question as to how it can be, but rather he simply reiterates that it must be. Jesus knew and emphasized previously in this discourse that belief is the issue. Besides if he were to explain it to them they could not have comprehended it, for after all, they were mere men. How could they begin to comprehend the mysteries of God?

My ability to accept this mystery was enhanced by another equally astonishing mystery. One December as I was doing my daily Scripture reading and contemplating the Incarnation, when the Holy Spirit impressed on my heart and mind the awesomeness of Jesus' birth. The Spirit showed me that when the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and she became pregnant with the child Jesus, that within the infinitesimally small seed implanted within Mary's womb there was contained all the fullness of God, a seemingly impossible but true reality. Simultaneously, He enabled me to grasp the concept that if God could be contained within the small, implanted seed within Mary, why is it so outlandish to think that he also could be fully present in the host? The same loving Father is the author of both miracles.

We also see Jesus mentioning in this passage the words "live," "life," "living," and "abide," ten times. Jesus emphasizes that life, real life, eternal life comes through him, through his body and blood. There is real substantial benefit in believing and partaking of him. Jesus truly meant the statements he made elsewhere in John 6 that the person who doesn't eat his flesh has "no life," and that the person who eats will "live because of me." The Jews, had no doubt as to what Jesus meant, even though they had no heart to believe him. We too, like these Jews, can ask in unbelief, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" or we can in faith believe and accept this sacrament which is a mystery that we cannot explain - because of the One who said it to us.

Peter and the disciples' response to this seemingly scandalous message was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God." (John 6:68) The disciples had been with Jesus long enough to observe his life, and to hear and meditate on his words. They knew he was Truth, and spoke the truth. They knew that if they walked away in disbelief, or in apprehension about accepting a mystery they could not understand that they would be walking away from some unbelievably strong promises and more importantly from a lifelong relationship with Jesus. Just listen to the promises of this week's recorded words of Jesus; "if any one eats of this bread he will live for ever," - "has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day," - "abides in me. and I in him," - "will live because of me," and "he who eats this bread will live for ever." As we spend time with Jesus meditating on his words and listening to him we too will experience the growing conviction that Jesus is the Holy One of God and embrace the truth of his presence in the Eucharist.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.
Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
To be re-scheduled

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

Baptism
Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage
Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick
Please call the office

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper
Tracy Pigott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

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Ministry Schedule - August 25/26

Hospitality Ministers

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

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Katie & Laura
10:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy

No Children's Liturgy until Sept 9th

Next Hospitality Sunday

September 3rd

August 19, 2018

**The 20th
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time**

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Mitch Pogoda
#2 - Needed
10:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
#2 - Caroline Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Needed
10:00 am - Andrew, Paula & Bianca

Stewardship Counting

Elaine Parry & Jennifer Fife

August 19, 2018

The 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	Aug 20	St. Bernard 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Joan Horne	by Marg Van Geest
Tuesday	Aug 21	St. Pius X 9:00 am For the special intentions of Joan & Bob Hignett	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Wednesday	Aug 22	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Thursday	Aug 23	9:00 am For the God's blessings upon Roberta Grasso & Vincenzo Callazzo	by Josie & Vern Dell
Friday	Aug 24	St. Bartholomew 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Luke Shcek	by the Lupien family
Saturday	Aug 25	The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	Aug 26	10:00 am For the living & deceased members of the Klunder family	by John & Riky Mulder

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

Lucas Richard Hewage - August 25
Ayden Leitao - September 8
Welcome to our community.

MASS INTENTIONS

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday) or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

Please note that Mass Intentions for 2018 are filled for every weekend Mass and we are currently booking Mass Intentions for weekday Masses in November

If you have special dates that you would like for anniversaries of special occasion please get them to us one year in advance.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER

Parish Discernment Group V
Next Parish Team Meeting is Saturday
September 29, 2018 - 9:30am to 12 noon.
At Gethsemane Centre Wellandport.
Results of Parish Survey.

WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2018

"The gospel of the Family: Joy for the World". Dublin, Ireland, August 22-26, 2018. Held every three years, this major international event brings together families from across the world to celebrate, pray, and reflect upon the central importance of marriage and the family as the cornerstone of our lives, of society, and of the Church.

There will be four main elements of the meeting:

- a pre-catechesis on the theme.
- a Theological Pastoral Congress from August 22-26
- a celebration of the Feast of Families on Saturday, August 25
- a Solemn Closing Mass with the Pope on Sunday, August 26

For more information, visit:

www.worldmeeting2018

SUMMER PARISH MISSION APPEAL

Each year our diocese invites us to welcome a Missionary. We will welcome Father Paul Varuvel, Mission Co-ord-Diocese of Kuzhithur or his assistant. This Mission Appeal will take place the weekend of August 25,26,2018. Visit their website at:

<http://www.kuzhithuraidiocese.com/>

Pope Francis created a new Latin rite Diocese of Kuzhithurai, carved out of the Diocese of Kottar, in Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India making it a suffragan of the metropolitan see of Madurai and with great joy and pastoral concern, he announced it officially on 22nd December 2014 at 12.00 hrs, Italian Time/16.30 hrs (IST) appointing Fr. Jeromedhas Varuvel S.D.B. as its first Bishop. He was consecrated by Most Rev. P. Remigius, Bishop of Kottar on 24th February 2015 at Trinity Central School Campus, Chithrancode.

This new diocese comprises of Mulagumoodu and Thirithuvapuram vicariates and has 264,222 Catholics in 100 parishes, 123 mission stations and a Shrine, spread across 915 sq km. served by 131 priests and 269 religious men and women. The Cathedral of the new diocese is the church of the Most Holy Trinity at Thirithuvapuram in Kuzhithurai Town and municipality. It is the administrative headquarters of the Vilavancode Taluk.

The new diocese of Kuzhithurai (nom. Lat. Diocese Kuzhithuraien(sis), bordered to the north with the diocese of Palayamkottai; east and south with the mother diocese of Kottar; south-west by the Indian Ocean; and to the west with the Archdiocese of Trivandrum and the Diocese of Neyyatt (in the state of Kerala).

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 11/12, 2018

Sunday Offering (61 Env):	\$ 1,614.00
Loose:	\$ 87.00
Catholic Missions (36 Env):	\$ 475.00
Loose:	\$ 22.00
Late Facility Maintenance (2 Env):	\$ 15.00
Summer Mission Appeal (3 Env):	\$ 35.00
Candle Monies:	\$ 187.00

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.*

ON VACATION?

Church bills never take a vacation.
Please remember your
SUNDAY ENVELOPE!
Thank You. God Bless!

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Gregory Jones – Aug 20
Cathy Barnes/Zakary Belmont – Aug 21
Alviay Koshy/Gradley Zelenyt – Aug 22
Alexander Evans – Aug 24
Eric Wegner – Aug 25
Jennifer Mous – Aug 26

Anniversaries:

Luciano & Sandra DiLeonardo – Aug 19