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**BEGIN ANEW**

Holy Week and the Easter celebration has enabled us to emotionally and spiritually walk with Jesus and the disciples through their spiritual warfare and victory. On Holy Thursday our hearts were alternately warmed and chilled as we entered into Jesus' inauguration of the Eucharist and heard the warning of his coming betrayal. Our hearts became burdened with heaviness when on Good Friday we recalled Jesus' arrest, abusive trial and crucifixion, even though we knew the rest of the story. Then in the Easter vigil and during the Easter celebration we were able to exalt in Jesus' resurrection and victory over Satan, the forces of evil, and death. We rejoiced knowing that death is destroyed once and for all and that we have new life through faith in the merits of Jesus.

Sadly, for many, the Easter story ends on Easter morning. Easter should be just the beginning of a new reality. What are we celebrating if we are not celebrating entering into a new way of living? How tragic it would have been for the disciples to have participated in this fateful week in Jesus life and to have walked away unchanged. How tragic it would have been if they simply returned to their homes and picked up their lives where they left off before they met Jesus. The whole message of the Gospel of John is captured in the opening paragraph; *In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* And in the closing chapters of John's Gospel, Jesus' Passion fulfilled this truth uttered at the beginning of his ministry. Would it be possible to really comprehend this truth, celebrate it, and walk away unchanged by it? I think not!

There are three expected changes that are fully recognizable in today's Gospel reading. The first is when Jesus twice said, *Peace be with you.* No more should our lives be characterized by fear; fear of death, of God's retribution, or of powerlessness in our lives to overcome the darkness. As we contemplate the finished work of Christ and entrust ourselves to him, we will see a diminishing of fear and an up-surfing of peace filling our being.

A second change should come about as we grasp Jesus' statement, *As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.* This commission provides purpose and direction for a lifetime. No more must we wander meaninglessly about trying to discover why we exist, or what our purpose is. The resurrection and this commission provides the ultimate promotion; to be ambassadors of Christ to a world that lives in darkness and from which we have been delivered. We have become carriers of forgiveness to a world experiencing the affects of condemnation.

The third change is captured in John's statement, *that believing you may have life in his name.* If we walk away unchanged, only to experience life as do the nonbelievers around us, we are missing out, really missing out. Jesus truly offers us new life, a life with new attitudes, spirit, power over sin, relationships, both with God and with God's people, family. We need not walk away unchanged. We can continue to walk with the disciples emotionally and spiritually for the remainder of our lives. The process for us is the same as it was for them. We need to go to Jesus and ask him to breathe into us new life, then join with his disciples to follow him. If our life in God is to become vital in our experience, we must be involved in ongoing and repeated transformation. It does not have to be forced, but it does have to be real. God's grace will do most of it, but our cooperation is required.

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

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
First Sunday of the Month  
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 2:00 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  
**St. Martin of Tours  
Roman Catholic Church**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
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www.stmartinsparish.com

**Ministry Schedule - Apr 7/14/15**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tony Mous  
9:00 am - Bea & Alfons Blokhuis  
11:00 am - Anita D & Joan H

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Tanya Jones

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
May 6

**April 8, 2018  
The 2nd Sunday  
of Easter  
Divine Mercy  
Sunday**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples  
#2 - Tom Shields  
9:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
11:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin  
#2 - Mary Pikula

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Yolanda  
9:00 am - Bea, Marcel & Vern  
11:00 am - Mike, Mary & Nick

**Stewardship Counting**  
Maryann Paradis & Jennifer Fife

April 8, 2018

# The 2nd Sunday of Easter - Year B



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

Monday Apr 9 *The Annunciation of the Lord*  
 \*\*\*\*NO MASS TODAY\*\*\*\*

Tuesday Apr 10 \*\*\*\*NO MASS TODAY\*\*\*\*

Wednesday Apr 11 *St. Stanislaus*  
 \*\*\*\*NO MASS TODAY\*\*\*\*

Thursday Apr 12 \*\*\*\*NO MASS TODAY\*\*\*\*

Friday Apr 13 \*\*\*\*NO MASS TODAY\*\*\*\*

Saturday Apr 14 *The 3rd Sunday of Easter*  
 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family

Sunday Apr 15 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Lou Zych  
 11:00 am For the special intentions of Joan Hignett

by Bernice Pikula  
by Ted & Joan Wisniewski

### PARISH DISCERNMENT

Bishop Bergie has invited the Haldimand Deanery, Group V, to begin the Parish Discernment Process Saturday **April 14, 2018**, at the Gethsemane Centre, 84008 Wellandport Road from **9:30am to 12 noon**. Sr. Margaret Kane, CSJ, will be the facilitator.

The Parish Team has now been discerned and confirmed. We thank those individuals willing to accept this wonderful opportunity as we move the parish forward and into the "New Evangelization"...

**Father Christopher G. Gillen. Josie and Vern Dell. Elaine Parry. Lisa Poort. Heather Tomascin. Andrew and Caroline Steger**

### **REMINDER TO TEAM**

**Mark your calendars for Saturday April 14, at 9:30am to 12Noon. Car pooling available with Father Christopher at rectory at 9:00am.**

### DIOCESAN "RESPECT FOR LIFE"

Solemn Mass: Annunciation of the Lord Monday, April 9 (7:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria -- Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding (reception following, hosted by the C.W.L.) The Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, and other groups are invited to send representatives and carry banners in the procession. For info, call Elise Mathie (905/684-7569) or Martina Flatman (289/686-6122).

### LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

Through your generous donation to the Community Care Lenten Food Drive, our parish donated 776.5 lbs of food and St. Martin of Tours Elementary School donated 1280 lbs. This will go a long way to helping those in our own community. Thank you to all of you who heard the call to help the least of His people.

### NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Supporting scholarships and students in need. [+ Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction] ~ Bishop's Gala ~ Do you know that one in five students goes to school hungry every day? Many need daily necessities of life. Your support of the Bishop's Gala can help. Join us on Friday, April 20 (cocktails 5:30 pm, dinner 7:00 pm) Club Roma, bring people to Christ? Perhaps it 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. Tickets \$80 each, with a \$30 tax receipt upon request; includes one drink ticket and two bottles of wine on each table during dinner (must be purchased by April 13). For tickets, call Sherry Morena at (905-735-0240 x213)

### FATHER CHRISTOPHER'S ABSENCE FROM THE PARISH

Please note that there will be no weekday Masses beginning Monday April 2nd to 13th inclusive. Weekday Masses will resume on Monday April 16th.

Holy Cross Fathers will cover the weekend Masses of April 7 and 8; including a Baptism at the 11am Mass. Fathers' Rico and Ron from St. Joseph's Parish in Grimsby, will be covering funerals. If you unfortunately find yourself in hospital and require a priest, the hospital chaplain will be available to you or call St. Joseph's parish in Grimsby. Thank you.

Father Christopher will leave April 2, and return from Ireland April 11. A special time with his dying Mother, and family and friends all as they gather to say farewell... Please remember Father's mother Gemma in your prayers. Thank you; and God bless.

### ST. MARTIN'S WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website. You can find the bulletin, the Ministry Schedule and upcoming events there. It is updated every Thursday.

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP MARCH 31/ April 1, 2018

Regular Sunday Offering (76 Env):	\$2,110.00
Loose Collection:	\$ 612.20
Easter Offering (78 Env):	\$2,270.00
Good Friday (57 Env) :	\$1,251.00
Loose collection	\$ 217.80
Late Share Lent (3 Env)	\$ 130.00
Early Facility Maintenance (1 Env):	\$ 200.00
Bulletin Ad:	\$ 150.00

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

### SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

This month's topics are :

Helping Children Cope: April 9  
New Relationships: April 23

Meetings are 7 to 9pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Center, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Preregistration is not required.

For information:

Call: 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154  
Email: [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

### BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

#### **Birthdays:**

- Krista Bliedung/Andy Wirth - Apr 8
- William Zonruiter - Apr 8
- Beau Fischer -9
- Daniela Pearson/Nicole Wealleans - Apr 10
- Allain Hayward/Sandy Johnson - Apr 10
- Anthony Pearson - Apr 11
- Claudio Baccaga - Apr 12
- Taylor Juskiewicz - Apr 12
- Austin & Mike Pereira - Apr 12
- Rachel Telford - Apr 12
- Colleen Mugphy/Abigail Vieira - Apr 13
- Jack Bruzzese/Lisa Mous - Apr 14
- Becca Long - Apr 14
- Tyson LeBlanc - Apr 15