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WILL YOU GO TO THE WEDDING BANQUET?

The Father requests the honor of your presence at the marriage supper of His Son, Jesus Christ, to be held in heaven. Only those will be admitted who come clothed in the Wedding Garment provided by the Father *“He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness.”* Isaiah 61:10

This wedding feast is a future reality for all who believe. A wedding feast is a celebration of love, a celebration of commitment, a celebration of union. Why would someone, called to such a celebration feast, refuse to attend?

It is interesting to note the excuses that were given for not accepting the invitation. Most busy people would say that these excuses are reasonable, but in actuality none of the reasons were really necessary hindrances, just convenient excuses. And that is how the king viewed them; as illegitimate, showing frivolous disrespect for both the celebration and the ones celebrated. Their disingenuous excuses were believed only by the people giving the excuses.

Consequently, the king goes out into the city calling for anyone who will, to come to the feast. He provided an open invitation. None is excluded. The Kingdom of God is truly a classless society with people from every race, from every economic and social level receiving the same invitation. The Father invites all people to celebrate the love, commitment and union we can have with his Son. Consequently, we all will be accountable for how we respond. In fact, even now we all are responding, either voicing our “Yes” and moving toward the celebration, or silently voicing “No” through our unresponsiveness and disinterest.

It is both a cause of wonder and of praise to reflect on the fact that like the wedding banquet the gates of heaven have been opened to “both bad and good.” We wonder how can this be so? The answer, “By grace!” sends us to our knees in praise because, Jesus Christ prepares us, for God’s presence and for each other’s company, so that we can sit down together at table. He clothes himself so to speak, in the garment of our poverty, and in being taken up by him, we are able to be with God, we have gained access to God. We are washed through our willingness to yield to his love. The meaning of this love is that God accepts us without preconditions, even if we are unworthy of his love, incapable of relating to him, because he, Jesus Christ, transforms us and becomes a brother to us.

The Father both calls us to the banquet and prepares and makes us acceptable, how can we refuse? Sometimes we ease our conscience by fabricating seemingly legitimate excuses, however the Father is not fooled, only we ourselves.

There are some who still do not know about the invitation and the Father is looking to us to make the invitation known to them and to help them “yield to his love.”

We who have responded with a resounding, “Yes!” look with eagerness to participation in the mystery of the union and enjoy, even now, the availability of communion with the Son. We are motivated knowing that the celebration begins here on earth, only to be continued in heaven. Why would someone, called to such a celebratory feast, refuse to attend? It’s unfathomable.



Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese

Most Reverend Gerard P.Bergie, D.D.

Pastor

Father Christopher Gerard 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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

To be rescheduled after feedback

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 Holy Anointing

To the sick and home-bound.

Call parish office.

Secretary

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 - Oct 21/22

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tony Mous & Dossen S

9:00 am - John Mataseje, Louie Madzo & Marcel Pouliot

11:00 am - George Yakowenko & Justin L

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Katie & Laura

9:00 am - Needed

11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy

Jennifer Noseworthy

Next Hospitality Sunday

November 5

Oct 15, 2017

28th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Your Invited

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Katrina Shields

#2 - Nick Shields

9:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger

#2 - Andrew Steger

11:00 am #1 - Mary Pikula

#2 - Sue Armstrong

Ministers of Communion

5:00 pm - Mitch & Deb Pogoda

9:00 am - Dick & Bea

11:00 am - Martha

Counting

Needed

October 15, 2017

The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



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

Monday	Oct 16	St. Marguerite D'Youville 9:00 am For God's protection and special intentions of Fr. Christopher	by the Newman family
Tuesday	Oct 17	St. Ignatius of Antioch 9:00 am For the special intentions of Fr. Brian Bevan	by Martha Devlin
Wednesday	Oct 18	St. Luke 6:30 pm +For the repose of the souls in purgatory	by the Newman family
Thursday	Oct 19	9:00 am For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Oct 20	9:00 am For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar	by John and Riky Mulder
Saturday	Oct 21	The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Harriet Ross	by Maria Chorley
Sunday	Oct 22	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Norma Dell 11:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by Vern and Josie Dell

CWL CORNER

The CWL are still selling Giant Tiger Gift Cards in the following denominations: \$10, \$25 and \$50. All the proceeds will go our parish CWL. There will be a CWL member at each of the Masses selling these cards.

The CWL Memberships are now due for 2018. It would be appreciated if you can please drop the \$20.00 membership into the collection basket marked for the CWL.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Parish has available dates over the next weeks and months. Please fill out the **Mass Intentions** envelope located at the entrance of the church and place them in the collection baskets. Thank you.

RETRouvaille

Do you feel alone? - Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **November 3, 2017**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamilton-retrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

BISHOP'S CHARITIES DINNER

The Bishop's Charities Dinner is being held on Saturday, October 21 at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines. The reception begins at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm.

All proceeds will be going to the Diocesan Catholic Charities. The tickets are \$50 each, payable to Knights Bishop's Charity Association. Door prize is a Smart TV. For information contact John Mataseje or Pierre Paradis at 905-957-4591

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES

November is a privileged month that the church all over the world unites in "Prayers for the Repose of the Souls" for our loved ones who have passed on. If you wish to have your loved one's name written in the **Book of Remembrance**, which will be kept at the altar for daily prayers and Masses throughout November, please fill out the **All Souls Offertory Envelope** and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office before the end of October. Thank you.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00am.
First Meetings with parents and children,
Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30pm (church).
Retreat for Grade 2, Wednesday, November 22,
at school beginning at 10:00am.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, November 8th, at 7:00pm
Registration Forms are now to be returned.
Grade Eight are presently being prepared.
Music Ministry, Parish Ushers, and Altar Servers are required for this celebration. There's a parish cost for this celebration, so a special collection is required.
We look forward to the cooperation of one and all.
Please remember our dear young people in your prayers.

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 26 at 6:00pm.
We continually build the TRIAD between:
Home, Parish, School.

DIOCESAN PRIESTS STUDY DAYS AT MOUNT CARMEL

Sunday, October 29th to Tuesday, October 31, at Noon.
No Weekday Masses Monday and Tuesday.

STEWARDSHIP COUNTERS TRAINING SESSION

Monday, October 16, 7:00pm, in the crying room.
Current and new stewardship counters to attend.

DINNER DANCE

The St. Martin of Tours Knights of Columbus welcome you and your friends to join in celebrating our Patron Saint's Day, St. Martin of Tours, on Saturday November 11, 2017.

We will have a wonderful dinner with plenty to eat followed by great music by our very own JAH Werks DJ services (Herman Johnson) to dance the night away. Doors open at 6pm, dinner served at 7pm. Tickets will be available after each Mass leading up to the event and also by emailing KOC.16421@gmail.com or by calling Paul Chiarcos at 905-975-0364 or Pierre Paradis at 905-957-4591. Tickets \$25.00 ea. Licence LLBO

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 18th. 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 or call Branches at 905-685-7000.

12 DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Egypt & the Holy Land – February 15-26, 2018
led by Fr. Rico Passero

Deepen your Lenten Spiritual experience by participating in a pilgrimage to **Egypt and the Holy Land along with Fr. Rico Passero from February 15-26, 2018**. We will be walking in the footsteps of Moses and the people of Israel, culminating with a spiritual reflection on the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pilgrimage will take us to Cairo, Mount Sinai, Eilat & the Red Sea, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Masada, Mount Carmel, Cana and the Mount of Olives.

Come for this significant experience – a pilgrimage not to be missed. Price is \$3,690 CDN per person (double occupancy, single supplement \$690), includes air fares, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, taxes and fees. For detailed information and to secure your spot, contact Edgar Tetelbaun (905-889-1681; edgar@gateways-international.m) or Fr. Rico Passero (905-945-2661; ricopassero@gmail.com)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Offering October 8, 2017
\$1, 552.15

Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.

The Parish Debt : \$35,451.43

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Deborah Pogoda/David Kulakowsky – Oct 17
Tyson Bruculieri – Oct 17
Sean Tracey – Oct 18
Martin Ridland – Oct 19
Joan Wisniewski/Regan Legge – Oct 22

Anniversaries:

Pierre & Maryanne Paradis – Oct 16
Thomas & Meghan Valeri – Oct 18
Rick & Leslie-Ann Legge – Oct 19