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Bulletin Advertiser's pay a small stipend yearly. \$50.00 small, large \$100. This needs to change. A weekly bulletin is costly. Present stipends don't pay for bulletin. We need to have a conversation about this before we submit invoices to Advertiser's for 2018. Thank you.

LISTENING FOR THE WILL OF GOD

How can I know the will of God? is one of the questions most frequently asked Christian leaders. This question comes from a natural longing for certainty, and a natural aversion to having to live by faith with only partial light. With some it is asked in an atmosphere of fear, believing that they might somehow miss solving life's puzzle and suffer for it. Often the question is asked in genuine sincerity, however, at other times it is only used as a smoke screen to enable a person to practice continued disobedience. The implication of the question is, If I know what God wants me to do, I'll do it. This week's readings help to shed some light on knowing God's will.

A godly older friend of mine always precedes any discussion about knowing God's will, by stating, Ninety percent of knowing God's will is using the wisdom God has already given us. He is referring to the fact that God's Word, Christ's character, and Church teachings provide abundant principles and values for knowing how to live. If we just use our mind to learn and grasp these truths, ninety percent or more of daily decisions will be clear to us. In addition, the assumption is that God isn't endeavoring to hide his will from us, rather, because we are his instruments, his earthly body through which he often works his will, he delights to reveal his will to us.

Samuel discovered God's will regarding a specific, unusual situation by doing two simple things; he listened, and he responded to God's call. For many of us the biggest handicap to overcome in discovering God's will is the handicap of being spiritually deaf, deaf because we choose not to listen. Because of the dissonance or static which our lifestyles create we often can not hear God speaking unless he is hollering at us - which is not his normal mode of communication. I do not know many Christians who are in open rebellion against God, however, it is not uncommon to find Christians floundering without purpose or direction in a passive state of non-commitment. In some cases Christians are clearly living contrary to God's revealed will, that will which we can easily discover by using the wisdom God has given us. We need to learn a lesson from Samuel and schedule moments of solitude in our lives, where we can stop, and do nothing but listen, listen, listen for the still, quiet voice of God.

When Samuel heard God speaking, prompted by Eli, he was ready to do God's will; he responded, Speak Lord, for thy servant hears. When the disciples began to discover Jesus and inquire after him, Jesus simply said, Come and see. Both Samuel and the disciples responded in obedience. In fact, the root meaning of the word obedience is to listen attentively or attentive hearkening. In each case God began to unfold his will to these individuals. They did not see ahead, months and years down the road, but they saw far enough to respond in obedience to what God had revealed. God's will for you also will become apparent if this coming year finds you listening attentively.

Praying is first and foremost listening to Jesus, who dwells in the very depths of your heart. He doesn't shout. He doesn't thrust himself upon you. His voice is an unassuming voice, very nearly a whisper, the voice of a gentle love. Whatever you do with your life, go on listening to the voice of Jesus in your heart. This listening must be an active and very attentive listening, for in our restless noisy world God's loving voice is so easily drowned out. You need to set aside some time each day for this active listening to God if only for ten minutes. Ten minutes each day for Jesus alone can bring about a radical change in your life.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

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| <p>Diocese of St. Catharines</p> <p>St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church</p>  <p>166 West Street, P.O. Box 74 Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0 Telephone: 289-956-0221 Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca www.stmartinsparish.com</p> | | |
| <p>Bishop of the Diocese Most Reverend Gerard P.Bergie, D.D.</p> <p>Pastor Father Christopher Gerard Gillen</p> <p>Sunday Masses Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>Weekday Masses Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m. Wed @ 6:30 pm</p> <p>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament First Sunday of the Month 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Reconciliation/Confessions Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request</p> <p>Baptism Catechesis and appointment necessary</p> <p>Marriage Contact the parish office</p> <p>Sacrament of the Sick Please call the office.</p> <p>Secretary Sandy Johnson Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bookkeeper Tracy Piggott</p> <p>St Martin School Phone 905-957-3032</p> <p>Cemetery Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648</p> <p>Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com</p> | <p>Ministry Schedule - Jan 20/21</p> <p>Hospitality Ministers 5:00 pm - Tom Shields 9:00 am - Bea & Alfons Blokhuis 11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec</p> <p>Altar Servers 5:00 pm - Katie & Laura 9:00 am - Needed 11:00 am - Needed</p> <p>Next Hospitality Sunday February 4th</p> | <p>Jan 14, 2018</p> <p>The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>Lectors 5:00 pm #1 - Katarina Shields #2 - Mitch Pogoda 9:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin #2 - Tom Richardson 11:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin #2 - Sue Armstrong</p> <p>Ministers of Communion 5:00 pm - Needed 9:00 am - Needed 11:00 am - Needed</p> <p>Counting Helen Lipiec & Elaine Parry</p> |

January 14, 2018

The 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

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|---|--------|----------|---|------------------------|
| Monday | Jan 15 | 9:00 am | For the special intentions of Joan Moore | by Martha Devlin |
| | | 7:00 pm | Diocese Council for Development & Peace St. Catharines | |
| Tuesday | Jan 16 | 9:00 am | +For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad | by the Newman family |
| Day Off for Father Christopher following the morning Mass until Wednesday at 2:pm Thank you. | | | | |
| Wednesday | Jan 17 | | St. Anthony | |
| | | 6:30 pm | For the special intentions of and protection of Fr. Chirstopher | by the Newman family |
| Thursday | Jan 18 | 9:00 am | +For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad | by Joyce & Rodney Ross |
| Friday | Jan 19 | 9:00 am | For the health and healing of Joan Hignett | by Heather Belmont |
| Saturday | Jan 20 | | The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time | |
| | | 5:00 pm | For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family | |
| Sunday | Jan 21 | 9:00 am | +For the repose of the soul of Antonietta Carbonara | by Josie & Vern Dell |
| | | 11:00 am | For the special intentions of John & Caroline Burke | by Martha Devlin |

World Day of Migrants and Refugees January 14

A World Day of Migrants and refugees is observed in many places in solidarity with the World Refugee Day promoted by the United Nations and observed since 2001 on 20 June. This January observance was instituted by Saint Pius X in 1914. "The phenomenon of migration today is a providential opportunity for the proclamation of the Gospel in the contemporary world. Men and women from various regions of the earth who have not yet encountered Jesus Christ or know him only partially, ask to be received in countries with an ancient Christian tradition. It is necessary to find adequate ways for them to meet and to become acquainted with Jesus Christ and to experience the invaluable gift of salvation." (Pope Benedict XVI, 2012)

ZUMBA FITNESS

Are you ready to make:
A New Year's resolution?
New friends?
Get into shape/lose weight?

Well, the Knights of Columbus Council #16421 has a remedy for you! Starting January 9, 2018, 7:00pm to 8:00pm, Zumba will be held in St. Martin's parish hall where you can fulfill those resolutions. The cost will be \$5.00. Bring your water bottle and 2 pound weight (optional) and some will power.

DIOCESAN PARISH DISCERNMENT

The Haldimand Deanery (7 parishes) will begin the Diocesan Parish Discernment Process April 1, 2018. An assessment of needs and future direction of our parish will be done, moving the parish from maintenance to mission. A team of at least eight/ten peoples are required for this process. Saturdays mornings at the Catholic Centre from 9:00am to 12:00 noon, beginning April First and continue until November 2018. A group meeting about one per month at the Catholic Centre. The rest of the meetings and the real work takes place in the parish.

Representatives from CWL, Knights, PEG, Lay Ministries will be helpful at this time. More detailed information coming. We need to begin the dialogue early and get organized. Thank you.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2017

Are now available for pickup at main entrance. Thank you for your faithful tithe/stewardship. God Bless.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE SYSTEM 2018

Please mark the first few envelopes with your full name and address. Please notify office of a change of address. Those seeking to use the offertory envelope system are kindly asked to call the parish office. Thank you.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

The January 2018 topics are:

Welcoming the New Year - on January 8th

Who Am I Now - on January 22nd

Kathryn McMorrow is the presenter for both sessions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls.

Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 of 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

PARISH PASTA DINNER

St. Martin's Parish Events Group (PEG) will be hosting their Annual Parish Pasta Dinner with light entertainment Saturday February 3rd. Tickets will go on sale starting January 7, after all masses until January 28th. There will be no tickets sold at the door the night of the event. Thank you.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD DINNER

Our parish is now hosting the weekly Thursday dinner in the parish hall for the month of January. 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Dinner served at 5:30pm. Please pass this invitation on to anyone you feel would enjoy the program. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18-25, 2018

Ecumenical Service Sunday, January 21 (3:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria 3 Lyman St., St Catharines -- Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Unity expresses the Church's heart on this issue: "The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature." (Unitatis Redintegratio; introduction) The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to us from the Caribbean region: "*Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power*" (Exodus 15:6).

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

January 6 / 7, 2018 Epiphany

Sunday Offering (63 Env): \$1,345.00
Loose: \$71.00

Facility Maintenance Offering (40 Env): \$469.00
Loose: \$26.00

Late New Years Offering (3 Env): \$45.00

Late Initial Offering (26 Env): \$111.00

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

ORDINARY TIME

The Church celebrates the fullness of the mystery of the Lord Jesus. The people of God offer praise by celebrating the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. On the first day of the week, the Lord's Day, God assembles the beloved people to hear the Word, to reflect upon it, to offer the living sacrifice of praise, and to eat and drink the banquet of the Lord. Then God sends them forth to proclaim this love by their words and actions. Sunday is the original Christian Feast Day, following the tradition handed down from Apostolic times, for this was the day of the Lord's Resurrection. Today's Christian communities continue this tradition by celebrating every Sunday as the day of the risen Lord.

LENT 2018

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the feast of the sacred season of Lent, will be on the 14th day of February. If you have pastoral ideas for Lent, please email or speak with Father Christopher.

ST.MARTIN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **January 30, 2018 at 6:00pm**. All parent (s), guardians (s) are welcome to attend.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Clair Perry/Mitchell Pogoda – Jan 14
Stephanie Brucculieri/Sarah Deavu - Jan 15
Marie-Clair Alderson – Jan 15
Krystyna Deavu/Joseph Pogoda - Jan 16
Claudia Fracchioni – Jan 16
Anne Arguin – Jan 17
Gilles Arguin – Jan 18
Maxwell Pouliot/Susan Armstrong – Jan 19
Aaron Davis – Jan 20
Rebecca Cossitt – Jan 21