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**COPING WITH PURPOSE AND PRAYER**

My mother died at 97 years of age and it intrigues me to imagine the changes people of her generation have seen in their lifetime. Transportation has moved from horse and buggy to space travel; housing has experienced innovations that went from out-houses to multiple baths with conveniences like whirlpool tubs; kitchens have moved from open hearth to microwave; from vegetable cellars to refrigerator-freezers; from cooking supper to eating out, etc. etc. We live in the wonderful world of change! With all these wonderful technological innovations one would expect that our lives would become more enjoyable and more relaxed. Instead, we have become the most stressed filled generation of all time, and it only gets worse. Terms like "road rage" and "going postal" have become common place as have reports of disasters reeked on others by stress filled individuals.

Christians also, are not exempt from this stress and pressure. In addition to coping with all of these modern changes and the pressure life creates, they have added to their lives the demands of being and doing all that their faith requires. There is no shortage of well meaning individuals who through messages, books, and the electronic media lay one expectation after another on our plate, spelling out the many things we must do to be a faithful Christian. Consequently, we often feel pulled in many directions, running faster and faster, with less and less joy, trying to fulfill the expectations of others.

Jesus, being fully human, also lived amid considerable pressure. He experienced people besieging him for help in overcoming sickness, disease, demon possession, and the many ills of society. Multitudes followed him continually; some to listen and learn, while others, intent on tripping him up, listened to his every word only so that they could accuse him. Both the general population and Jesus' disciples conveyed expectations to him of what he should do and be. How did Jesus avoid succumbing to the stress and pressure life brought on him? Why did he not become angry and stressed-out?

First of all, Jesus maintained a life that was centered on the Father, and on doing his Father's will. This, singleness of purpose and desire to please the Father in everything, brought calmness in the midst of turmoil, and clear direction to his life. All other expectations were perceived and evaluated through this singular lens of the Father's revealed will.

Second, Jesus, being fully human, consistently took time to commune with God the Father through periods of private prayer. Out of these times of aloneness with the Father Jesus found direction, strength and determination to keep his saving mission. And for us also, it is in our moments of solitude with the Father that we are able to become anchored spiritually, to discover and re-discover who we are, why we are created, and how we should live. From these times of reflection and prayer come the life-giving relationship with the Father that enables us to go forth in peace, being peace bearers to those around us. That which Pope John Paul II stated in On the Coming of the Third Millennium remains true for us; "In order to recognize who Christ truly is, Christians, especially in the course of this year, should turn with renewed interest to the Bible ... In the revealed text it is the Heavenly Father himself who comes to us in love and who dwells with us, disclosing to us the nature of his only-begotten Son and his plan of salvation for humanity."

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  
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

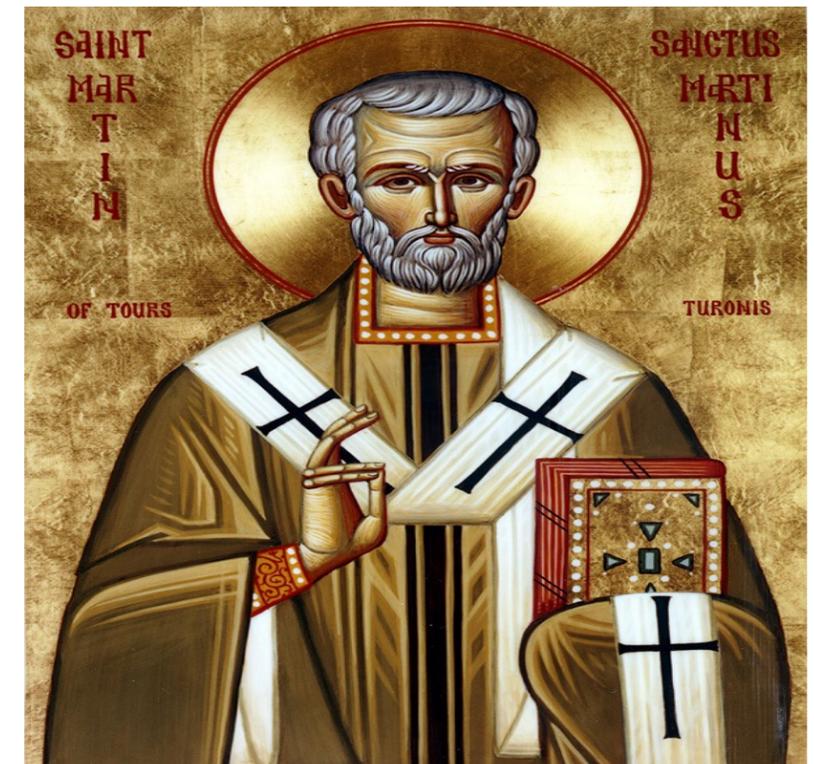
Sacrament of the Sick  
Please call the office.

Secretary  
Sandy Johnson  
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Bookkeeper  
Tracy Piggott

St Martin School  
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocese of St. Catharines  
**St. Martin of Tours**  
**Roman Catholic Church**



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www.stmartinsparish.com

**Ministry Schedule - Feb 10/11/14**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S.  
9:00 am - Louie Madzo  
11:00 am - Pat & Andy Wirth  
6:30 pm - Elaine & Chuck Parry

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Alicia

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
March 4th

**Feb 4, 2018**  
**The 5th**  
**Sunday in**  
**Ordinary**  
**Time**

**Lectors**

5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Ann Staples  
#2 - Mitch Pogoda  
9:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger  
#2 - Caroline Steger  
11:00 am #1 - Mary Pikula  
#2 - Lisa Poort  
6:30 pm #1 - Needed  
#2 - Needed

**Extra-ordinary Ministers**

5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom  
9:00 am - Vern, Marcel & Dick  
11:00 am - Helen & Andy  
6:30 pm - Needed

**Stewardship Counting**

Beth Davis & Marg Van Geest

# February 4, 2018

## The 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	Feb 5	<b>St. Agatha</b> 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Tuesday	Feb 6	<b>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</b> 9:00 am In thanksgiving of Mary Mojeski	by Pauline Lewis
Wednesday	Feb 7	6:30 pm For the special intentions of Ron & Linda Ardito	by Martha Devlin
Thursday	Feb 8	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad	by Joyce & Rodney Ross
Friday	Feb 9	9:00 am For the special intentions of Joan Hignett	by Pauline Lewis
Saturday	Feb 10	<b>The 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	Feb 11	9:00 am In thanksgiving of St. Martin's Prayer Circle 11:00 am For the special intentions of Mary Lang	by Pauline Lewis by Pauline Lewis

### FROM THE BOOKKEEPER

Dear Parishioners of St. Martin's:

I would like to apologize for the error that I made on the 2017 Financial Statement. I inadvertently recorded the 2016 Meridian Loan Balance under 2017 and vice versa.

I can appreciate that this oversight was upsetting for some parishioners to read, thinking that somehow the loan amount had increased rather than decreased. Rest assured that Fr. Christopher is doing a great job of chipping away at the balance owing on the loan.

This oversight was my error and I take full responsibility. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via the church email address.

**Extra copies of the corrected 2017 Financial Statement are available at the front foyer of the church.**

**Parish debt is \$32, 530.70**

Sincerely, Tracy

### RIGHT TO LIFE DINNER

The St. Catharines Right to Life Dinner will be held on Saturday, February 24, 6:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Parkway Conference Centre, 327 Ontario St., St. Catharines. The Guest Speaker will be Josh Brahm, founder of the Equal Rights Institute. Join us for an excellent dinner, fellowship and an outstanding pro-life speaker who will inform, inspire and encourage us. To reserve tickets (\$50, \$25 for students), call our office 684-7505 or email: [info@chooselife.ca](mailto:info@chooselife.ca). More info at [ChooseLife.ca](http://ChooseLife.ca)

### HOLY HOUR THIS SUNDAY 2pm-3pm

**An opportunity for Lay Ministers to renew their ministry. A time of prayer, reflection and Benediction.**

### 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.

### ANNUAL VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION

**Sunday, February 11 (4:00-7:00 p.m.)**

Fr. Michael Wastag, O.Carm., invites you to celebrate your love during a special evening together. The celebration begins at 4:00 p.m. with the Eucharist. Afterwards, guests will gather in the monastery's main dining room for a candlelight "Surf and Turf" buffet supper; desserts and refreshments conclude the evening celebration. The cost is \$55/person; advanced reservations are required by February 5. This is not just for married couples, but for all friends, families, and loved ones. Come, renew and deepen your love in the presence of the Lord!

### FACILITY MAINTENANCE MEETING

Committee will gather Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00pm Rectory Dinning-Room.

### SOLIDARITY CALENDAR

**Development and Peace - Share Lent 2018**

The Lenten theme is year:

**"TOGETHER FOR PEACE"**

Please use the enclosed calendar for your Lenten Journey. Lent calls us to be peacebuilders...together. Three actions" Praying, Fasting, And Almsgiving.

### ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2018

9:00am Parish Mass

1:00pm Para-Liturgy at School

6:30pm Parish Mass.

### **Blessing and distribution of Ashes at all Services.**

This year the holy season of LENT begins on February 14, 2018 and will end 46 days later on March 31, 2018. Lent is a time of fasting, praying and simple living. The parish and diocesan focus is Development and Peace - Share Lent.

**The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of Lent, but not during Easter Triduum. Beginning the First Week of Lent, Friday, February 23, at 6:00pm.**

Palm Sunday falls on March 25, 2018 and marks the beginning of Holy Week. April 1, 2018 is Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the most joyous and important liturgical celebration of the year.

### RETROUVAILLE

**Married Singles Lifestyle** –The Married Singles Lifestyle describes couples that may have lost a sense of closeness they once had as marriage partners and are living more like roommates. Retrouvaille has helped thousands of couples experiencing difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 16, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamilton-retrovaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamilton-retrovaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrovaille.org](http://www.retrovaille.org).

### PARISH SURVEY 2018

The Survey was presented 2 weekends ago. Extra surveys are made available at front foyer. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We truly value the information you will provide. We will share these results with you next weekend, February 11th. Please place your survey in the collection basket.

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

**Sunday Offering (83 Env): \$3,245.00**

**Loose: \$78.65**

**Late Facility Maintenance Offering (1 Env): \$80.00**

**Late Initial Offering (1 Env): \$5.00**

**Donations in Memory: \$105.00**

**Nora Franko Estate Donation: \$1000.00**

**Baptism Donation: \$100.00**

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

**ZUMBA FITNESS Continues in the parish hall each Tuesday evening from 7:00pm - to 8:00pm**

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #16421

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or contact Angela: [angelabraun@live.com](mailto:angelabraun@live.com) or Annette: [loeffenlife@gmail.com](mailto:loeffenlife@gmail.com) or phone 905-931-0363.

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

**St. Joseph Parish Grimsby is hosting a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** in the Blessed Trinity High School in the Cafeteria. Date - Tuesday February 13, 2018 Place - Blessed Trinity High School Times - 3 seating times (4:30, 5:30 & 6:30pm). Tickets \$5 each (children under 3 eat for free)

### BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

**Birthdays:**

Linu Alex/Melissa Brajer - Feb 4  
Kyle Tomm/Andrew Pouliot – Feb 5  
Maureen Flaherty – Feb 6  
Andrew Steger/Micheal Urban – Feb 7  
Diane McSweemeu/Alfons Blokhuis- Feb 8  
Riky Mulder/Pat Wirth – Feb 9  
Maeve Devlin/Paul Zdichavsky - Feb 10  
Ron Nardini – Feb 10  
Ethan Diletti/Hannah Whitelaw - Feb 11  
Jack Tracey – Feb 11

**Anniversaries:**

Zoli & Deborah Rakonjac – Feb 5  
Scott & Daniela Pearson – Feb 6