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THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today's readings make very clear the demands that will be made of those wanting to be called disciples of Christ. We must be prepared to give our all to Him. But in the end, the life of discipleship - the stewardship way of life - is the only life that can truly satisfy.

In the Gospel passage from Luke, Christ says, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." Our Lord is speaking here not of emotions but rather of priorities. He must come first in all aspects of our lives. Period.

He goes on. "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." In other words, it's all or nothing. Compromise is simply not possible. Christ wants us to give all of ourselves, all aspects of our individual lives, our family life, our parish over to Him and to the pursuit of His kingdom.

And just when we think our Lord might soften His message to make it a little more palatable, He goes further! "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Why is our Lord being so demanding? Only because He knows us so well and loves us so much.

He knows that if we do not live by putting Him first before all else, we will easily be swallowed up by the earthly cares that weigh us down - our material things, our status, and our egos. He knows these things cannot satisfy us. He knows this because He is our Maker, and He made us for more.

We are made to be His disciples, to seek after Him and His Kingdom. Embracing stewardship as a way life allows us to count the cost, and then run after Him with all our might.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am

Office hours
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Sandy Johnson

Financial Recorder
Tracy Piggott

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

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

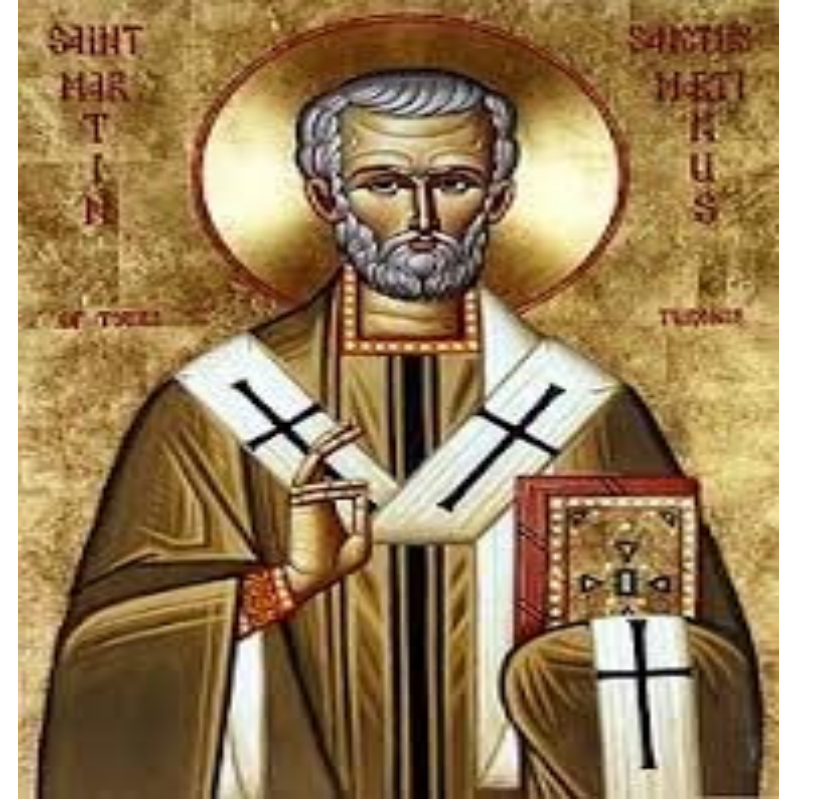
Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Sylvana Oliver
905-715-5779
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group
Parish Financial Council
Responsible Faith Ministry
ACTS Retreat Teams

Diocese of St. Catharines
Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

St. Martin of Tours Roman 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 - Sept 14/15

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S.
10:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

Altar Servers
5:00pm -
10:00 am -

Children's Liturgy
Begins September 15th.

Next Hospitality Sunday
October 6th

**Sept. 8, 2019
The 23rd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Heather Tomascini
#2 - Katrina Shields
10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom S. & Yolanda B.
10:00 am - Nick, Paula & Bianca

Stewardship Counting
Sandy J. & Mary Anne P.

September 8, 2019

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Sept 9	NO PARISH MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher's Day Off		
Tues	Sept 10	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon and health of Sebastian Chacko	by Rose Koshy
		7:00 pm	Parish Maintenance Committee Meeting	
Wed	Sept 11	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Maple Softtech	by Rose Koshy
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Centre Mass - Father Christopher	
Thurs	Sept 12	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ted Wisniewski For God's blessings upon the Wisniewski children, daughter in-law & grandchildren	by the Newman family
		11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Assembly of Ontario Bishops Social Affairs Commission Toronto Meeting	
		5:00 pm - 10 pm	ACTS Retreat Ministry Men Women Teams Mississauga	
Fri	Sept 13	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman For the health & healing of Natalie Belmont	by the Newman family by Joan & Bob Hignett
Sat	Sept 14	The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time Second Anniversary of Father Christopher's Pastoral Appointment to St. Martin. 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Angelina Medeiros +For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman		
Sun	Sept 15	10:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

www.saintcd.com/appeal

DIOCESAN UPDATE

After launching our appeal on the weekend of May 11/12 in our parishes, as of August 16, 2019, our appeal has raised \$337,789.09 in cash donations and \$69,439.20 in pledges. This brings our total raised to \$407,228.29 or 33.9% of our \$1,200,000 goal. We thank God for the wonderful start to our restoration project, and we thank you for prayerfully considering a financial contribution to this important project so that we can keep the momentum building!

PARISH UPDATE

UPDATE ON APPEAL FROM PARISHIONERS

Target Appeal Amount \$6,500.00

1 Pledge. \$300.00

18 Parish Donations. \$3,901.00

Catholic Women's League Donation \$500.00

We do encourage more to assist with this wonderful opportunity to Restore our Mother Church of the Diocese - Our Cathedral. Please respond by the end September if you are willing to donate or pledge as we need to finalize pledges in particular. We are trusting in God's providence to give our full target by the end of the year. Thank you.

TODAY SUNDAY EXPOSITION OF THE

BLESSED SACRAMENT

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Benediction will end this Holy Hour.

Please consider coming out for one hour of prayer. We pray especially for all parishioners and their families. A special prayer of remembrance and healing for those who are ill at present. For those battling cancer through their courage and determination. A prayer for those in their grief journey.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION STUDY

Join the SAINTCD group study of Pope Francis' latest apostolic exhortation, **Christ is Alive** and learn more about his message to Young People and their place in today's Church.

This study series will run from **7 - 9pm for five consecutive Thursdays beginning September 19th** at the **Catholic Centre**, 3400 Merritville Highway, Thorold.

Cost is \$25 with the book or \$10 if using a free and downloadable copy of Christ is Alive. Register by Sept. 13th by calling 905-684-0154, emailing

familyandyouth@saintcd.com

or online at:

<https://forms.gle/nneRz5FF6dw4W9Bj7>

BACK TO SCHOOL

Last Tuesday, September 3 was the first day of a new school year for the elementary (St. Martin) and secondary (Blessed Trinity) school children.

Hundreds of children within our parish have return to school this month. We pray that our children will experience the joy of learning both academically and spiritually. We pray for all parents presenting their children for the sacraments: Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. We engage, invite, and accompany those seeking to follow the Christian Way...

AT MOUNT CARMEL

"Life Changes: Who Am I Now?"

Saturday, September 21 (9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.)

Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre

Cost \$65 (includes buffet lunch)

Presented by Anna Racine

Put more joy and more meaning into your life through self-awareness and self-esteem. This is for anyone going through or anticipating a major change in their life. Explore how self-image is formed and affected across the lifespan; the components of self-esteem; the strengths which enable us to navigate change; the grieving which may accompany it; and the areas that may need healing in order to live fully who and where I am now. There will be mini presentations, personal reflection, and group work.

For more info and to register call 905/356-4113 or visit www.carmelniagara.com

RETRouvaille

Stress in Your Marriage? - Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, disillusioned, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. Most couples don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Retrouvaille can help. For confidential information, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend **October 25, 2019** at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email:

Teamrecine@gmail.com

or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP - Aug 31/Sept 1, 2019

Regular Sunday Offering (56 Env)	\$ 1,519.00
Loose Collection	\$ 109.00
Facility Maintenance (29 Env)	\$ 415.00
Loose Collection	\$ 27.96

Weekly budget: \$ 2,100.00

Registered Families:	186
Registered Sunday Envelope Users:	148

GETHSEMANE MINISTRIES

84008 Wellandport Rd.

First Saturday Marian Devotion This is held every first Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and includes Mass, adoration, confession, rosary, consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and intercessory prayers. Day Retreat Every third Saturday we offer a free day retreat from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It includes praise and worship, Mass, rosary, two talks, Divine Mercy chaplet, adoration, prayers for healing, and confession. We also offer a separate children and youth program (K to Gr. 10.) A light lunch is provided.

For more information about any of our programs, call: 905/386-1111, or email:

info@gethsemaneministries.com

UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

- Tues Sept 10 - 7pm - Parish Maintenance Committee Meeting
- Mon. Sept 16 - 6:30pm - Diocesan Council for Development and Peace New Fall season
- Tues Sept 17 - 5:30pm - Grade Eight Journey Retreat Mass at Ridgeway Spiritual Centre.
- Tues. Sept 24 - 10:30am - Opening School Mass
- TBD - Parish Discernment Meeting
- TBD - Financial Council Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD TO WORSHOPS

- Sat. Sept 28 - 9:30-12 noon - Development and Peace Fall Workshop at St. Alfred's
- Sat. Oct 5 - 9:30 - 12 noon - Diocesan/ Parish Discernment Workshop at St. Alfred's St. Catharines. In preparation for Diocesan Synod in 2020. Parish Reps: Lisa Poort, Vern and Josie Dell.