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PASTOR'S EASTER MESSAGE

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ.

I greet you personally today as you read and reflect on my musings. I doubt any of us would ever say we like to experience defeat in our lives. At least for me, I would rather be a part of a winning team than a losing team. My friend, I pray that you remember it's because of Christ's Resurrection over 2,000 years ago that the victory WAS, IS, and WILL BE ours!

I have been wrestling with how we continue to serve those who are falling through the cracks of our social structures and safety nets, particularly those who live in precarious unemployment brought on by the pandemic, those grappling with food insecurity, mental health issues, substance abuse, addictions and domestic violence.

As we eagerly and sometimes fearfully face the ongoing challenges, I want to be sure to continually reach out to you during this challenging time for so many. While few of us are physically back at church, I realize many have chosen to stay away for a while longer. Please know that we certainly understand the desire to stay safe as we continue to go through this unprecedented pandemic. I have little doubt that the Easter season of 50 days, will continue to be quite a bit different watching services online, or quite possibly not at all if that's your choice. I do believe in the tremendous importance of being in church, yet it's different "for now."

I'm becoming more convinced that God continues to speak to us most powerfully in our times of suffering and loss, and particularly in this pandemic. In this time of suffering for the whole Church, we are all called to listen carefully to what God is trying to say to us. We are called to change. But many of us resist change. Throughout this time of the pandemic, we are doing more than just treading water ... we are growing. I believe we are growing in trust of one another, and deeper still, in trust that God has this whole situation in hand. And trust calls us to be faithful and to be prepared as we travel forward.

I'm asking myself these days, and others some uncomfortable questions all over again. Does the church still matter – even when it's online? When the world has been turned upside down? As our relationships fray and our rhythms are tossed about, we're hungry enough to enjoy whatever church we can get. Even if it's just scraps. When we're scattered across our region unable to fully gather in person while remaining at 30% capacity. How do we encourage others to continue with their weekly parish stewardship while physically absent?

But I'm also learning to embrace the limitations of this wilderness season. Maybe Covid is an opportunity to lean into our spiritual hunger – for connection, for transcendence, for meaning. We can turn our living rooms into sacred spaces, dimming lights, lighting candles and burning incense. We can pray with those we love, paying fresh attention to the faces of our family apart in body, but together in spirit. We can even carry one another's fears and grief, our anxieties and uncertainties, and hold them together before a trustworthy God.

This Easter, amidst all the suffering and anxiety of so many, I invite you, wherever you may be in terms of your faith journey, to take up that ever-present invitation; to turn around and walk with Christ – that, "He may 'enlighten the eyes of our mind so that we can see what HOPE - His call holds for us' (Ephesians 1:17-18)

Please be sure to contact me with your pastoral or personal concerns so that I may share the gifts of the Holy Spirit through presence and connection. I've most certainly felt that welcomed presence and connection with our ACTS brothers and sisters, my supportive Men's Fraternity (brothers) with our two programs: That Man Is You, and Into The Breach. My friends and colleagues at the Mental Health Centre in Hamilton, and Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport, Smithville Christian Reformed Church, Lakemont Evangelical Grimsby, Principal, Vice- Principal and Staff at St. Martin Catholic Elementary School. And last but not least you dear friends of St. Martin.

May God bless you and your loved ones with peace, strength, and good health. Pray for me, as I pray for you!

A Blessed Easter, to you.

YBIC, Christopher+ Parish Priest

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Rep.
Member of Ontario Bishops' Social Affairs Commission.
Spiritual Chaplain to Diocesan D&P
Spiritual Director to Acts Retreat Ministry Men & Women.
Intern to Mental Health/ Addiction Counselling Hamilton.

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

Weekday Masses
See Schedule on the inside of the bulletin

In Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Financial Recorder
Sandy Johnson

Reconciliation/Confessions
By Appointment Only in COVID-19

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin Elementary School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Carolyn Vaughan

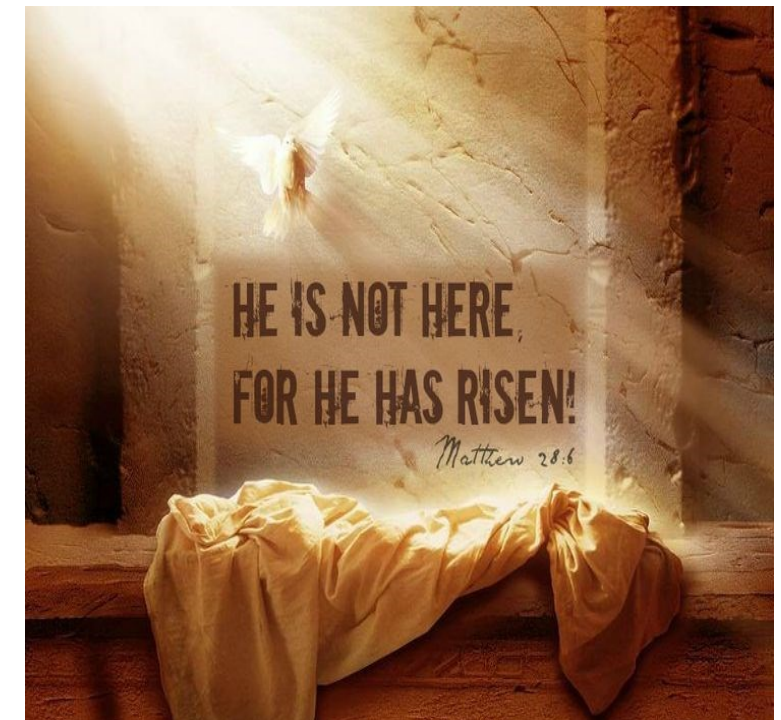
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@gmail.com

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



SPECIAL YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

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April 4, 2021 - Year -B
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - Year B MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Apr 5	9:00 am	+Sharon Klooster	by Helen & Andy Lipiec
Tues	Apr 6	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Andy Lipiec	by the Knights of Columbus
Wed	Apr 7	9:00 am	+James Mayhew	by Andrew & Verena Mayhew
		10:30 am	-Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	Father Christopher
Thurs	Apr 8	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Antonio Mancini	by the Knights of Columbus
		7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Centre for Mental Health & Addiction (CMAH) Zoom Meeting	Fr. Christopher
		8:30 pm	Into the Breach Zoom Meeting - last session	Fr. Christopher
Fri	Apr 9	9:00 am	+Fr. Obioma Anyanwu - 5th Anniversary (Former Pastor)	by John & Judy Terpstra
		7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre	Father Christopher
Sat	Apr 10	8:40 am - 10:00 am	That Man, Is You - Zoom Seminar/Program	Fr. Christopher
			The 2nd Sunday of Easter	
Sat	Apr 10	5:00 pm	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Apr 11	10:00 am	For the special intentions of Sandy Johnson & Family	by Vern & Josie Dell
			+ Gemma Halliday Gillen (Third Anniversary) Father's Mother.	by Fr. Christopher .

ONLINE EUCHARIST

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am.

Visit the diocesan website for viewing:

www.saintcd.com or on YouTube

St. Joseph Grimsby:

<http://www.facebook.com/StJoeGrimsby>

Vision TV: Sun - 8:00 am

Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

Salt + Light: Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm

Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,

3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

Yes TV: Sun - 10:30 am & Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

Internet : www.dailytvmass.com

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app.

To transfer funds to St. Martin Parish:

e-Transfer to: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

Please do not enter a security question and answer. You will be informed that your transfer to "The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation" has been completed.

"VIRTUAL" CHILDREN'S LITURGY "

Our Children's Liturgy, under the direction of Mrs. Noseworthy is posting videos, lessons and the parish bulletin every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., to our catholic education community. Thank you; and God bless! We appreciate your ministry immensely.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CARITAS CANADA

Do you know that over 10,000 Canadian Catholics like you are members of Development and Peace? **The "Share Love, Share Lent"** campaign invites you to pray for them and to honour their solidarity towards our sisters and brothers in the Global South. You can also become a monthly donor and have your year-long contribution matched, thanks to the support of religious communities across Canada. Not only will you double your impact, but you will also automatically become a member of Development and Peace! Learn more at devp.org/lent

Please support the good works of Development and Peace. This annual Share Lent collection will remain open for several weeks. A special envelope has been included in your stewardship box. Those envelopes are also available in the main foyer. Thank you.

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

Robert Hignett - April 11 at 1:30 pm

Jakob Pejic - April 18 at 2:00 pm

Ainsley Forster - April 25 at 2:00 pm

Profession of Faith

Reception into the Roman Catholic Church

Mia Cheeseman - April 20 at 7:00 pm

ATTENTIVE FIRST RECONCILIATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

For Grade Two - Roman Catholics Only.

Those children who have been baptized outside of the Roman Catholic Church can be welcomed through the Profession of Faith. This can only take place if at least one parent is Roman Catholic, registered as members of the parish and attending Sunday Mass. Those children requiring baptism may have to wait as proper instruction needs to be given.

Group One

Mrs. Catherine Jeffery & Ms. Katia DiPasquale

Group Two

Mrs. Lee-Anne Szabo & Sharlene Hayward

Group One First Reconciliation

Saturday, April 17, at 11:00 am

Group Two First Reconciliation

Saturday, April 24, 11:00 am

Group One First Holy Communion.

Saturday, May 8, at 11:00 am.

Group Two First Holy Communion

Saturday, May 15, at 11:00 am

Parent(s) Guardians - are invited to call or email the parish office to obtain the registration which will be emailed to you. Due to the strict Covid- 19 protocols we can only allow the student and his or her parents to attend all of these celebrations. We will maintain social distancing, and the wearing of masks. We ask that you honour the group that you belong to.

We ask that you return the registration form promptly (by April 5, 2021) so that we can prepare well for these Sacraments of Initiation. We do thank you for your cooperation, patience and understanding in what is unprecedented times. Thank you; and God bless You!

EASTER OCTAVE SCHEDULE

Easter Octave April 5-9

Weekday Mass Mon through Fri 9:00 a.m.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 11

Saturday Vigil Mass April 10 5:00 pm

Sunday April 11 10:00 am

Celebration of Divine Mercy

April 11, 3:00 pm Chaplet

BISHOP BERGIES EASTER MESSAGE

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ

One of the most meaningful scripture passages for me involves the mystery of the Resurrection of Jesus. It is about the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus.

On Easter Sunday morning, they are on the road leaving Jerusalem and returning to their home town. We are told that these disciples are dejected, discouraged and lacking any sense of hope. The reason is that, because Jesus suffered and died like an ordinary man, He could not possibly be the great Messiah. They felt foolish because they had believed in Him.

On the road they meet the Risen Jesus but they did not recognize Him. This encounter is transformational as the disciples walk with Him and listen to His words. It is only in the 'breaking of the bread', that their eyes are finally opened and they understand that this man is Jesus, the Risen Lord. This realization fills them with great joy and a renewed sense of hope.

This past year has been a long and difficult journey due to the ever present pandemic. So many are suffering from "COVID fatigue". We can identify with those disciples on the road, who walked with heavy hearts filled with discouragement. The needed some 'good news', and this is what Jesus offered to them. It is also offered to us.

Our good news is the Resurrection. Jesus has truly risen from the dead and this fact brings great hope. Just as this brought comfort and joy to the two disciples, it should also do the same for us on our own life's journey.

On Easter Sunday, may your participation in the 'breaking of the bread, the Holy Eucharist', open your eyes to the presence of our Risen Lord. Despite the difficulties we may be facing at this present moment, let us take comfort in the fact that the Lord walks with us and shares a message of love and new life.

May you have a grace-filled Easter

Yours sincerely in Christ
Bishop Gerard Bergie