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Parent First Communion Meeting

In Grade Two, children have the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of First Communion**.

It is the custom of the Church, to have the parents inform the Church of their child(ren)'s desire to participate, and to help the parents know about the preparations.

Church Law treats every child as an individual, and so for each child the parents must express their desire to have their child receive this sacrament. I cannot assume that because a child is in a Catholic School that they will participate in the Sacraments.

So, I am hosting a Parent Meeting, for parents to let me know that their child(ren) will receive Holy Communion. At this meeting parents will complete the *Intention Form* for First Communion.

At least **one** parent is required to participate in **one** of the meetings. I offer four different dates, hoping that one will be convenient for you. This meeting will last less than an hour.

If you cannot attend any of these four meetings, you will have to arrange another time to meet with me. The child(ren) may attend with you.

Please attend **one** of these meetings:

- In St. Martin's Church** on Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 pm.
- In St. Martin's Church** on Sunday, April 2 after the 11:00 am Mass.
- In St. Martin's Church** on Monday, April 3 at 7:00 pm.
- In St. Martin's Church** on Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 pm.

I look forward to meeting with you.

Father Brian Bevan,
Parish Priest.
March 27, 2017.

First Communion is on Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 pm.

Bishop of the Diocese
of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

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 and Benediction
1st Friday @ 8:00 am
3rd and 4th Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confessions
Wed 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Fri 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
Fri 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office.

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
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
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Telephone: 289-956-0221
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Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.net

April 2, 2017
5th Sunday of
Lent

April 2, 2017

5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

Monday	Apr 3	9:00 am	+In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous & Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Tuesday	Apr 4	9:00 am	For the intentions of and God's blessings upon Shannon MacNiven	by Yvonne MacNiven
		10:45 am	Junior Class Mass	
Wednesday	Apr 5	6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
		7:00 pm	Exposition & Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday	Apr 6	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
		10:45 am	Intermediate Class Mass	
Friday	Apr 7	9:00 am	For the intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children and grandchildren	by Doug and Maeve Devlin
		9:30 am	Stations of the Cross	
		6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
		7:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	Apr 8	9:00am	****AVAILABLE****	
			Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	
		5:00 pm	+For the peaceful rest of Vincent & Elizabeth Mallia	by son, Winston & family
Sunday	Apr 9	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Fr. Obioma Anyanwu	by Vern and Josie Dell
			For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Fr. Obioma Anyanwu	by Martha Devlin

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; April 09

In the year 2011 we returned to calling this day Palm Sunday – between the years 1969 and 2011 it was called Passion Sunday. Palm Sunday takes its name from the palms that are distributed and blessed in memory of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. This celebration dates from the fourth century in Jerusalem, and is the first part of the day's Mass. Of Roman origin, the second part of the Mass remembers the Passion of Christ.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1770.25 to our parish last week .

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available this week:

Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm
 Friday 8:15 am - 8:45 am
 Friday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm
 Saturday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
 Or by request.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday April 7th following both the morning and evening Masses.

This Friday the Stations are entitled "A version of the Blessed Mother's Stations of the Cross".

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Over the next several weeks Father Brian will be inviting members of the parish - through the mail - to consider volunteering for a Parish Ministry. Father seeks help in ministries of the Eucharist, Lector & Reader, Hospitality, Money Counter and Adult Altar Server.

Please, if you receive an invitation, give it prayer and thought. Please do not be quick to say to yourself "they have so many already" because in fact our ministries are stretched thin right now. Instead say to yourself "the Lord needs my help and I will give it to him." Then decide if your talents match the ministry Father Brian has offered you.

All training is provided. You will be asked which Mass you will minister during, how often during the month you are available, and if there are family members in ministry you will serve together at your assigned Mass.

We live in a busy, hectic world. Ministry gives us a scheduled time and energy to give back to God.

If you do not receive an invitation from Father Brian, feel free to speak with him to let him know you want to be involved.

GOOD FRIDAY'S POOR MAN'S MEAL

The Parish Events Group (PEG) will host a Poor Man's Meal. This is a simple meal in solidarity's with

our disadvantaged brothers and sisters in the world. It will consist of a bowl of soup and a bun. It will take place after the Good Friday service. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church. It is important that we know how many will attend.

PALM BRANCHES

Palm branches from last year or previous years, may be brought to the church for proper disposal. Place them in the box in the foyer.

Since palms are blessed they should be burnt or buried, not put out in the garbage.

UPCOMING ACTS RETREATS

ACTS is an acronym for:

Adoration – God's Call, your acceptance and answer

Community – love and caring for each other

Theology – "studying" through scripture and our faith

Service – to God and His people

It is these four themes that are the focus of the activities of the weekend and have become known as the "Pillars" or "Components" of the weekend. Come and renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and to apply it to your daily life. Reserve your spot as space is limited.



Women's Retreat – May 4 – 7, 2017

Men's Retreat – June 8 – 11, 2017

Contact Giulia Spadafora: 416-705-3153 (Women's Retreat) or Ray Pellerin: 905-327-1425 (Men's Retreat). For more info, please visit our website: www.actscanada.org

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

APRIL 10 - 16

Monday - Mass at 9:00 am

Tuesday - Mass at 9:00 am

Wednesday - Mass at 6:30 pm

Holy Thursday - Mass at 7:00 pm

Good Friday - Service at 3:00 pm

Saturday at 11:00 am - Blessing of Easter Food Baskets

Easter Vigil - Mass at 8:00 pm

Easter Sunday - Mass at 9:00 and 11:00 am

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

George Yakowenko/Deanne Long – Apr 2

Tony Mous – Apr 3

Bea Blokhuis/Michele Altobelli - Apr 4

Jeanelle Russell/Shannon MacNiven - Apr 4

Mandy Tracey – Apr 4

Mary Ann Mulder – Apr 5

Krista Bliedung/Andy Wirth - Apr 8

Bill Zonruiter – Apr 8

Beau Fischer – Apr 9

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FATHER OBIOMA

May 10, 1964 - April 9, 2016

Ordained a Holy Ghost Father (Spiritans) in Nigeria, West Africa, on August 10, 1996.



He served as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Awo-Omamma, Imo State, Nigeria from August 1997 till 1999 when he moved to Canada in September of that year for missionary work. He lived in Gatineau, Quebec from 1999 to December 2004 where he served as the Pastors of triune parishes of Our Lady of the Annunciation, Hull; St. Elizabeth, Cantley and St. Stephen, Chelsea.

In January 2005 he moved to the Niagara region, and joined the diocese of St. Catharines, through the auspice of the then Bishop James Wingle. For a couple of months, he helped in the parishes of St. Thomas More, Niagara Falls; and St. Vincent the Paul, Niagara on the Lake before being appointed assistant pastor at Our Lady of the Scapular Parish, Niagara Falls from August 2005 to August 2006, and St. Denis Parish in St. Catharines from Sept 2007 till July 2008 with an intermittent one year recall to his home in Nigeria between those two assignments. He served as the Pastor of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Smithville, Ontario till August 2015 when he was appointed by our present Bishop, Most Rev. Gerard P. Bergie, as pastor to St. Patrick Parish, Port Colborne.

Fr. Obioma liked and played tennis, ping pong, and soccer. Chelsea Football Club in England was his favorite soccer team, just as Ottawa Senators and Toronto Raptors were his favourite hockey and basketball teams respectively. He loved spiritual reading and devotion. Steak was his favourite dish.

HE IS NOT DEAD

I cannot say, and I will not say
 That he is dead. He is just away.
 With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand,
 He has wandered into an unknown land
 And left us dreaming how very fair
 It's needs must be,
 Since he lingers there.
 And you - oh you who the wildest yearn
 For an old-time step, and the glad return,
 Think of him faring on, as dear
 In the love of There as the love of Here.
 Think of him still as the same. I say,
 He is not dead - he is just away.
 Rest in Peace Fr. Obi