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DISAPPOINTMENT TO DELIGHT

Easter, when delight was turned to disappointment, and disappointment was turned to delight. Surely Satan and the forces of evil must have thought they had won. And if the forces of evil could have danced, surely they must have been dancing in the streets. They thought they had killed the Son of God. Darkness seemed to have been reigning supreme from the time when Judas and an armed crowd, came to arrest Jesus under the cloak of darkness. Darkness provided the cover for their evil intentions and also for the shameful abandonment of Jesus by his disciples. Even Peter had to slink away into the darkness to hide his shame. How they must have rejoiced as "from noon onward there was darkness over the whole land," until at last Jesus "gave up his spirit."

How they must have believed that this darkness was just a foretaste of the spiritual darkness which would rule the earth unabated by the Light of the World. But God had another plan and turned their delight to disappointment.

For the followers of Jesus, for several days, disappointment had reigned supreme. Their leader, their Lord and teacher, the one they loved and left all to follow, had been arrested, brutalized, humiliated, and killed. Their lives were devastated, and they were left with only memories and questions. While this darkness still seemed to reign, Mary Magdalene and her companions, and later Peter and John, came "while it was still dark" only to find an empty tomb. Disappointment upon disappointment, or so it seemed at first. But when they realized that the face cloth was separate from the other burial wrappings, a ray of hope and light, pierced the darkness, never to be extinguished. Rather, it was a ray of hope and light which was to grow in brilliance as Christ's resurrection became known and its meaning understood. Praise God, disappointment was turned to delight!

The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits', the 'pioneer of life'. He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has opened.

Wherever, or whenever you are experiencing darkness of the soul, Jesus is there, just as John said in the beginning of his Gospel, a Light shining in darkness. We should no longer shrink into our fears believing the lie that evil will triumph, but follow the disciples' example and seek out the resurrected Christ. He is risen, he is triumphant, we are in him, full recipients of his victory. In Christ, you are a new creation, and can experience living as a new creation in the peace and power of Jesus. Like the disciple in today's Gospel reading, we must see and believe.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.
Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Rep

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 Pigott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

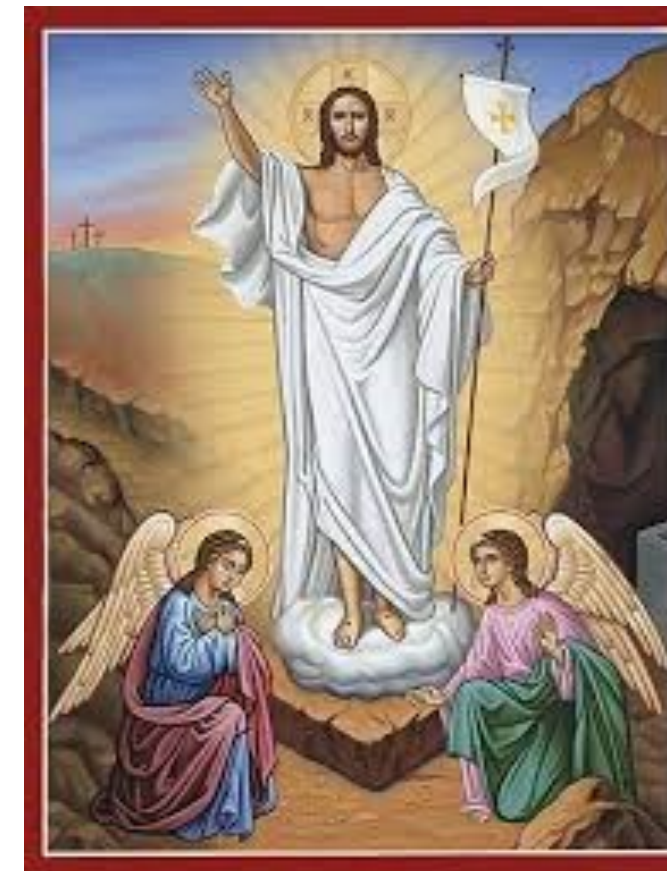
Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

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



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
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Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Apr 7/8

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Dosshe & Claudette M.
9:00 am - Ron & Janet Roscovich
11:00 am - Justin & Deanne Long

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

Children's Liturgy
Carolyn Tompkins

Next Hospitality Sunday
May 6

**Apr 1, 2018
The
Resurrection
of the Lord
Easter Sunday**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
#2 - Mitch Pogoda
9:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson
#2 - Andrew Steger
11:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort
#2 - Deanne Long

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Caroline, Marcel & Vern
11:00 am - Paula, Bianca & Victoria

Stewardship Counting
Cathy Cartagine & Sandy Johnson

April 1, 2018

The Resurrection of the Lord - Year B



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

Monday	Apr 2	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Tuesday	Apr 3	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Wednesday	Apr 4	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Thursday	Apr 5	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Friday	Apr 6	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Saturday	Apr 7	The 2nd Sunday of Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday	
		5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Vincent Mallia	by son, Winston & Maria
Sunday	Apr 8	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Rose Majpruz	by her daughter
		11:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

PARISH DISCERNMENT

Bishop Bergie has invited the Halimand Deanery, Group V, to begin the Parish Discernment Process Saturday **April 14, 2018**, at the Gethsemane Centre, 84008 Wellandport Road from **9:30am to 12 noon**. Sr. Margaret Kane, CSJ, will be the facilitator.

The Parish Team has now been discerned and confirmed. We thank those individuals willing to accept this wonderful opportunity as we move the parish forward and into the "New Evangelization"...

Father Christopher G. Gillen. Josie and Vern Dell. Elaine Parry. Lisa Poort. Heather Tomascin. Andrew and Caroline Steger.

REMINDER TO TEAM:

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 14, at 9:30am to 12Noon. Car pooling available with Father Christopher at rectory at 9:00am.

DIOCESAN "RESPECT FOR LIFE"

Solemn Mass: Annunciation of the Lord Monday, April 9 (7:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria -- Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding (reception following, hosted by the C.W.L.) The Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, and other groups are invited to send representatives and carry banners in the procession. For info, call Elise Mathie (905/684-7569) or Martina Flatman (289/686-6122).

SHARE LENT COLLECTION

We wish to thank you for your generosity to Development and Peace. Your donation will be used to help our sisters and brothers all over the world -- from Lebanon to Cambodia, to Nigeria and beyond! The theme of our Share Lent campaign, "Together for Peace," invites us to build peace through dialogue and reconciliation and to consider mercy as a source of hope for the future. This is what Pope Francis underlined on the occasion of the Jubilee of Mercy: "Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope." Thanks for helping us create a future filled with hope! Special envelopes are still available at church foyer. This collection remains "OPEN" until the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Thank you.

NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Supporting scholarships and students in need. [+ Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction] ~ Bishop's Gala ~ Do you know that one in five students goes to school hungry every day? Many need daily necessities of life. Your support of the Bishop's Gala can help. Join us on Friday, April 20 (cocktails 5:30 pm, dinner 7:00 pm) Club Roma, bring people to Christ? Perhaps it 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. Tickets \$80 each, with a \$30 tax receipt upon request; includes one drink ticket and two bottles of wine on each table during dinner (must be purchased by April 13). For tickets, call Sherry Morena at (905-735-0240 x213)

BISHOP BERGIE'S EASTER MESSAGE

My Dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

The scripture accounts of the Resurrection speak about the need for those who encountered the Risen Lord to share joyfully the good news with others. What made their message credible was the fact that they were witnesses - they had seen the Risen Lord.

There are so many ways that we are able to see the Risen Lord each day. We see Him most perfectly in the Holy Eucharist where Jesus is substantially present - body, blood, soul and divinity - under the appearance of bread and wine. Christ is also present in the Sacred Scriptures. In both the Old Testament and in the New Testament, Jesus the Word of God is present to strengthen our faith. Jesus is present in us and in the community of faith, as Jesus says, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them" (Mt. 18:20). We also know that the glory of God can be found in nature. As Genesis reminds us, God made all things and what He made was good. We can encounter Jesus in the beauty of creation.

If we have encountered the Risen Lord in so many ways, how do we witness to this fact? De we share the good news that we have 'seen the Lord' so that others may come to know, love and serve Him?

The theme for our Sixtieth Diocesan Anniversary is, "Put Out into the Deep" and it focuses on drawing people to Christ. We do this by joyfully witnessing to our faith and to the fact that we have seen the Lord. This is the heart of evangelization and something that we are called to do as followers of Jesus.

It is my hope and prayer that during the Easter Season we will take some time to consider prayerfully what it means to be a witness to the Resurrection. What am I doing to bring people to Christ? Perhaps it can begin by simply extending an invitation to someone to join you for the Sacred Triduum or Easter Mass. Do not be afraid to "Put Out into the Deep." You may be surprised by what you discover.

May the Risen Lord grant you a grace-filled Easter.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
+Gerard Bergie.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP MARCH 24/25, 2018

Sunday Offering (92 Env):	\$2, 405.00
Loose:	\$ 164.50
(Late) Development & Peace (8 Env):	\$ 215.00
Parish Donation:	\$ 500.00
Share Lent Collection to date	\$2, 042.60

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

FATHER CHRISTOPHER'S ABSENCE FROM THE PARISH

Please note that there will be no weekday Masses beginning Monday April 2nd to 13th inclusive. Weekday Masses will resume on Monday April 16th.

Holy Cross Fathers will cover the weekend Masses of April 7 and 8; including a Baptism at the 11am Mass. Fathers' Rico and Ron from St. Joseph's Parish in Grimsby, will be covering funerals. If you unfortunately find yourself in hospital and require a priest, the hospital chaplain will be available to you or call St. Joseph's parish in Grimsby. Thank you.

Father Christopher will leave April 2, and return from Ireland April 11. A special time with his dying Mother, and family and friends all as they gather to say farewell... Please remember Father's mother Gemma in your prayers. Thank you; and God bless.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

- Cameron Cooney/Robert McMaster – Apr 1
- George Yakowenko/Deanne Long – Apr 2
- Tony Mous – Apr 3
- Bea Blokhuis/Michele Altobelli - Apr 4
- Jeanelle Russell/ Mandy Tracey – Apr 4
- Mary Ann Mulder – Apr 5
- Krista Bliedung/Andy Wirth - Apr 8
- William Zonruiter – Apr 8

Anniversaries:

- James and Caroline Burke – Apr 1