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UNLATCH YOUR DOOR

Over the years as we have observed the coverage of Princess Di, Prince Charles, William, and Andrew, and other royal personages we may conclude that people are enamored with royalty, even though kings, queens and the monarchy are really foreign to the political and social structure of America. At least they have been ever since we threw off English rule and demanded independence and the right of self-rule.

We probably did not realize during the revolutionary process that we were not simply determining our future political structure but were also injecting a spirit of independence and individualism into the very DNA of the American people. Consequently, as various political and social scientists examine our culture they find personal independence and individualism deeply engrained in our psyche. We see this trait expressed by our preoccupation with personal rights and freedom to the exclusion of personal responsibility and corporate well-being. Many, many people in this country are not only comfortable demanding their rights but in fact are committed to defending their rights at all cost, even at the cost of others' freedom.

Does this independence and individualism spill over into our Christian life? Does it infringe on Christ's rule as King. Undoubtedly it does! We frequently see examples of people believing in their personal infallibility regarding both their value system and their behavior choices. Many are committed to the concept that, "I will determine what I believe, and I will judge what is the acceptable behavior I will pursue." And if we are honest we would readily admit that many Christians, sometimes even we ourselves, live under the rule of a personal trinity of "I, me, and my" enthroned in their heart.

Most of us are not fighting the battle of whether Jesus is the Savior or not. We know and believe that he is. Furthermore, we welcome the grace of having him pay for our sins. The battle we are fighting is the one of who will rule in our lives, who will call the shots on how we will live. Many have not yet bowed the knee in loving surrender and welcomed Jesus as both Christ and King. Consequently, an internal battle often goes on over every issue of Christian spirituality and behavior, "Do I give in on this issue, or keep control? Resist or surrender?" "Obey God, or obey my passions?" With these battles raging inside of us it is no wonder that we often experience little of the joy promised to us as Christians and members of Christ's Kingdom. But the promised joy primarily comes to those who willingly submit to his rule.

In the secret recesses of our soul dwells a throne room, and we alone hold the key that controls the door to this room and the right to sit and rule there. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen explains it well, "The best introduction to it may be told in the story of a painting. It is a picture of Christ standing at the side of an ivy-covered door and knocking. Holman Hunt, its artist, was criticized because there was no latch to be seen on the outside of the door. The answer of the artist was that the latch is on the inside—we open it. Heaven knocks down no doors." On this coming Christ the King Sunday we need to recognize Jesus standing at the door to our heart and knocking. Let's willingly unlatch the door and ask him to enthrone himself in our heart to rule for evermore. This is indeed the way to honor Christ the King.

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
To Be Re-SCHEDULED

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
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
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Dec 2/3

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Altar Servers

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

Children's Liturgy

Needed

Next Hospitality Sunday

December 3

Nov 26, 2017

Our Lord
Jesus Christ,
King of the
Universe.

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Tom Shields
#2 - Katrina Shields
9:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
#2 - Tom Richardson
11:00 am #1 - Mary Pikula
#2 - Deanne Long

Ministers of Communion

5:00 pm - Mitch & Deb Pogoda
9:00 am - Caroline & Andrew Steger
11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

Counting

Antonella Presta & Cheryl Dell

November 26, 2017

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - Year



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

Monday	Nov 27	9:00 am	For the special intentions of the ACTS team	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Tuesday	Nov 28	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis & family
Wednesday	Nov 29	6:30 pm	+For the repose of all souls in purgatory	by Anonymous
Thursday	Nov 30	St. Andrew 9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar	by John & Riky Mulder
Friday	Dec 1	9:00 am	For the special intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children, and grandchildren	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Saturday	Dec 2	9:00am	+For the repose of the soul of Antonio Borges	by Maria Borges
Saturday	Dec 2	1st Sunday of Advent 5:00 pm	+For the repose of the souls of Andy & Eddy Sawchuk	by his daughter Paige
Sunday	Dec 3	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by Vern and Josie Dell
		11:00 am	For the God's blessings upon Maria and Felice Biancaniello	

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE FALL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

Development and Peace launches a new campaign called **Women at the Heart of Peace**. This campaign invites all Canadians to learn more about the vital role women play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Join us in paying tribute to the women who build peace in communities around the world.

Sign the Development and Peace - Caritas Canada Action Card today! (Enclosed with today's bulletin).

Together, let's call on the Canadian government to give women the resources they need to be at the heart of peace. You can also sign our Action Card online: Devp.org/act.

On behalf of all women who build peace in their communities, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada thanks you for your continued commitment. Together, we have the power to change things! Join a dynamic pan-Canadian movement that takes action for peace and justice- become a member of Development and Peace. Without your action, there's no change, no justice! For more information, please go to devp.org/membership.

ADVENT DAY OF RECONCILIATION FOR PRIESTS

Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at Mount Carmel
Spiritual Centre Niagara Falls.

Parish morning Mass will be celebrated at 8:40am.

JOURNEY'S PROGRAM FOR GRADES 7/8

On Tuesday, December 5, and 12 at Our Lady of Grace, Spiritual Centre, Ridgeway, Father Christopher will celebrate the evening Mass at 5:00pm followed by dinner with students, parents, principal and teachers.

PROFESSION OF FAITH AND RECEPTION INTO THE CHURCH

Congratulations and Welcome to:
Lucas Anthony Jones and Brielle Christine Jones.
Received Sunday, November 19, 2017.

FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

This feast brings to an end Liturgical Year A. Next Sunday, December 3rd, we begin Liturgical Year B. We also begin the season of Advent.

Join us for a Holy Hour on this Solemn Feast of Christ the King, Sunday, November 26. The Holy Hour will conclude with Benediction. We will gather at 3:00pm.

SUNDAY MISSALS

Sunday Missals are available and can be found in the church foyer. To cover the cost, a donation of \$5 would be appreciated. Thank you.

DIOCESAN SEPARATED & DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

This group meets every second and fourth Monday (7:00-9:00 p.m.) at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre. For info, call 905/356-4113 or 905/684-0154, or e-mail: separatedanddivorced@sainted.com. Monday topic for November 27 will be "Surviving the Holidays".

SCHOOL ADVENT CONFESSIONS Each Wednesday in Advent beginning at 9:30am.

A MASS OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Sickness is part of our human condition. The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick recognizes this reality and gives strength for body, mind, and soul. It is meant for those who are ill, regardless of age; for those who are about to undergo major surgery; and for those who have physical and emotional needs -- to receive the grace of this sacrament. If you would like to receive this sacrament on Saturday, December 2 (at the 9:00 a.m. Mass), please call the parish office to register as we need to record the reception of this sacrament. Thank you.

WINTER CLOTHING & FOOD DRIVE

St Martin's Elementary Catholic School will be having a Winter clothing drive that will preface our Food drive. The dates for clothing drive will be Nov. 24th - Dec. 1st. The Food Drive will start Dec. 4th.

Items that they are looking for, for the clothing drive are:

Gently used items we need include: Warm hats, water-proof mittens and winter coats - all sizes
New items: Warm socks and slippers.

SOCIAL JUSTICE WE NEED YOUR HELP

More than **1.2 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh** are completely destitute and living in abject poverty. They urgently need food, water and other basic necessities.

Your donation will have an impact on the lives of millions of people affected by this crisis and will allow us to strengthen our response amongst the most vulnerable by providing:

- **Material for shelters**
- **Sanitation facilities and hygiene kits**
- **Protection for children**

You can also make a donation by phone at 1 888 664 -3387. Give before November 28th and your donation will be matched by the Government of Canada. Information can be found at: <https://www.devp.org/en/emergencies/bangladesh>

Thank you for your generosity!

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Collection November 19, 2017
1, 310.10 - Envelopes (71)
\$52.50 - Loose

Deo Gratia / Retired Priests Collection
\$554.00 - Envelopes (39)
\$93.25 - Loose

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

LOAF OF BREAD OUTREACH

Thank you all for your generous support of the Loaf of Bread Outreach Program last year. For the fifth year, St. Martin of Tours Parish in conjunction with the local churches in the Smithville area has been hosting the Loaf of Bread Program for those disadvantaged financially, or in need of social support. This program starts in January and runs until the end of June. St. Martin of Tours will host the dinners in January and March. Home cooked meals are supplied every Thursday evenings during those time periods between 5 and 7pm for those invited guests. All participating churches are requested to financially support this endeavor. Therefore, St Martin's parish will have a special collection on December 17th to contribute to this service. Thank you again and may the Good Lord keep you ever blessed as you store up enormous treasures in heaven this way.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND CHURCH DECOR

There will be a special collection for Christmas Flowers on December 9/10. Envelopes for this collection will be in the December 2/3 bulletin. Thank you.



BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Sean LeBlanc/Sophia Couture – Nov 26
Mathew Raposo – Nov 27
Sue Augustin/JJ Burke – Nov 29
Rocky Sposato – Nov 29
Stephanie Chiarcos – Dec 2
Samantha Pouliot – Dec 3

Anniversaries:

Ted and Cathy Barnes – Nov 28