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LIVING BY FAITH

“Faith is first of all a personal adherence of man to God. At the same time, and inseparably, it is a free assent to the whole truth that God has revealed...It is right and just to entrust oneself wholly to God and to believe absolutely what he says.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 150).

This week we celebrate Holy Family Sunday. The Christmas story, the coming of Jesus the Son of God to earth to secure our redemption, is at the very least a testament of faith. As descendants of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus, Mary and Joseph have a rich heritage of faith. The Scriptures say, speaking of Abraham, “He did not doubt God’s promise in unbelief; rather, he was empowered by faith and gave glory to God and was fully convinced that what he [God] had promised he [God] was also able to do.” (Romans 4:20, 21) These four elements, the promises of God, being empowered by faith, being fully convinced, and God’s ability to do what he promised, make up the core of living by faith.

The predictions that a Messiah would come to Israel required lasting faith, because there was not immediate fulfillment. It involved continuing to believe that the promise came from God and that God would at some point provide a Messiah. The Holy Family demonstrated faith throughout the entire incarnation process. Mary exercised faith by believing that she was not delusional but that a real angel brought her a real message from the real God. It took faith to say, “Yes!” to God’s will, especially in the face of possible social and religious ostracism, by agreeing to bare an out of wedlock child. Joseph needed deep faith to accept these bizarre circumstances as coming from God’s hand. Then once the child was born it took faith to accept the homage of the shepherds, the magi, Simeon, Anna, and others. It took faith to ponder these things and raise this ordinary, yet extraordinary Christ child. Imagine how much faith it took.

“The Virgin Mary most perfectly embodies the obedience of faith. By faith Mary welcomes the tidings and promise brought by the angel Gabriel, believing that ‘with God nothing will be impossible’ and so giving assent replied: ‘Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be [done] to me according to your word’...It is for this faith that all generation have called Mary blessed. Throughout her life and until her last ordeal when Jesus her son died on the cross, Mary’s faith never wavered. She never ceased to believe in the fulfillment of God’s word. ...”(Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraphs 148, 149).

Today as descendants by faith of the Holy Family it requires us to live by faith if we are to also be holy families for Christ. We too are faced with the questions, “Will we listen and learn the promises of God? Will we really believe that they are from God?” and “Will we believe that they are true and right, and authoritative in our lives for today?” Like the examples of Abraham and Sarah, and Joseph and Mary, in this week’s readings, many of these promises fly in the face of human reasoning and require us to abandon a “seeing is believing” approach to life. Likewise, as seen in this week’s Scriptures, believing faith has a sure reward for which we also can wait expectantly.

This Holy Family, by their faith, cooperated wonderfully in God’s plan of redemption, and are in fact a model we should emulate. And perhaps the greatest lesson to emulate is that they were intimately acquainted with the person and promises of God, as we should be also.

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
First Sunday of the Month 2:pm

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 Roman Catholic Church



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Ministry Schedule - Jan 6/7

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

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

Children's Liturgy
Needed

Next Hospitality Sunday
January 7

Dec 31, 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero
#2 - Yolanda Baldasaro
9:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson
#2 - Marg Van Geest
11:00 am #1 - Sue Armstrong
#2 - Lisa Poort

Ministers of Communion
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Counting
Cathy Cartginese & Sandy Johnson

December 31, 2017

The Holy Family Of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Year B



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

Monday	Jan 1	The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God 10:00 am +In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Tuesday	Jan 2	St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Regine & John Newman	by the Newman family
Wednesday	Jan 3	NO MASS. A MUCH NEEDED BREAK FOR FATHER CHRISTOPHER	
Thursday	Jan 4	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Michael Tomascin	by Heather Tomascin
Friday	Jan 5	9:00 am For the special intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children and grandchildren	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Saturday	Jan 6	9:00 am For the special intentions of Marcello DeSimone	by family
Saturday	Jan 6	The Epiphany of the Lord 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Sunday	Jan 7	9:00 am For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family 11:00 am In thanksgiving for prayers answered 2:00 - 3:00pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Hour	by John & Riky Mulder

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE OF MASSES

New Year's Vigil Mass:

Sunday December 31, 5:00pm

New Year's Day Mass:

Monday, January 1, 2018: 10:00am

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

FALL EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

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

DIOCESAN PRIESTS

Diocesan Priests of the Diocese are receiving a 2% increase salary, January 1, 2018. The new year is always an opportunity to increase our weekly tithe. The cost for heating, hydro, staff wages and benefits, are increasing ever before us yearly. All our income is taxable to the Bishop's office of 8% twice a year and 3% one a year to Clergy Aid Retried Priests. Pension contribution for lay staff parish paying half. Annual parish priests health insurance due each February.

DID YOU KNOW?

Elevator phone \$59 per month just to have the emergency phone. Monthly maintenance on elevator every six months at a cost of \$818. Costly expenses that needs to be budgeted.

SEASOSAL OF FLOWER OFFERING FOR LOVED ONES

The parish prays for: Don & Catherine Brown, Edward & Ellen Doyle, Bill Sawchuk, Andy Sawchuk, Eddie Sawchuk, Joachim Urban, Rose Anne Barker, Ethel & Bill Mataseje, Violet & Nelson Cronin, Peter & Julie Yakowenko, Millie Breddy, Joseph & Dorothy Bering, Eunice Doucette, Ted Saunders, David McIntyre, deceased members of the Sorbara family, Andreas & Katarina Wirth, John Wisniewski, Lily & Frank Wisniewski, John & Freda Chambers, Ann & Doug Newton, Nancy Shields, Joe Mous, Suzanne Cizmar, Cecile Kotuza, Jan & Krystyna Szwedo, Margaret & Jim Flaherty, Robert & Margaret Lemmon, Jose Martins, Antonio Borges, Anthony Mego, Austin Davis, Jean-Claude Paradis, Joseph Savoia, Tho Chorley-Ross, Allen, family and friends, Mildred & Joseph Pikula, Joey Pikula, Tom Pikula, Frnak & Sophie Mo-drzejewski, William & Lillian Kent, Don Kent, Bill Kent, Cameron Galvin Sr, Cameron Galvin Jr, Anna & Andrew Hornak, Mike & Vera Pereima, Jean Mego,

Connor Eberhard, Deceased members of the Devlin family. Father Christopher's Family and Friends All.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

The January 2018 topics are:

Welcoming the New Year - on January 8th

Who Am I Now - on January 22nd

Kathryn McMorro is the presenter for both sessions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 of 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

TOO MANY TO THANK

"Barb Joyner and family would like to sincerely thank every one in the parish for all their prayers, food, flowers, mass intentions and well wishes during this time of illness. Special thanks to Sylvanna of CWL for introducing me to (and driving me to) the look good feel better program. The support has been overwhelming and so appreciated! Thank you all so much!"

ZUMBA FITNESS

Are you ready to make:

A New Year's resolution?

New friends?

Get into shape/lose weight?

Well, the Knights of Columbus Council #16421 has a remedy for you!

Starting January 9, 2018, Zumba will be held in St. Martin's parish hall where you can fulfill those resolutions. The cost will be \$5.00. Bring you water bottle and 2 pound weight (optional) and some will power.

DIOCESAN PARISH DISCERNMENT

The Haldimand Deanery (7 parishes) will begin the Diocesan Parish Discernment Process April 1, 2018. An assessment of needs and future direction of our parish will be done, moving the parish from maintenance to mission. A team of at least eight/ten peoples are required for this process. Saturdays aft the Catholic Centre from 9:0am to 12:noon., Beginning April First and continue until November 2018. A group meeting about one per month ant the Catholic Centre. The rest if the meetings and the real work takes place in the parish. Representatives from CWL, Knights, PEG, Lay Ministries will be helpful at this time. More detailed information coming....We need to begin the dialogue early and get organized. Thank you.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 23/24, 2017.

Offertory Envelope (72): \$1844.00

Loose: \$226.75

Parish Donations: \$1000.00

Christmas Eve/ Christmas Day 24/25, 2017

Family Mass Offertory Envelope (29): \$955.00

Loose: \$571.05

Midnight Mass Offertory Envelope (22): \$785.00

Loose: \$19.00

Christmas Day Mass (31): \$1025.00

Loose: \$140.00

Late Loaf of Bread: \$10.00

**Thank you for your stewardship.
Others carry us through a generous tithe.
We all need to be generous
with the Lord's generosity to us.**

PARISH PASTA DINNER

St. Martin's Parish Events Group will be hosting their Annual Parish Pasta Dinner with light entertainment Saturday February 3rd, 2018 Tickets will go on sale starting January 6, 2018 after all masses. There will be no tickets sold at the door the night of the event.

2017 DONATION FOR TAX RECEIPTS 2017

Donations credited to your 2017 tax receipt must be received by December 31/17. The Solemnity of Mary Vigil on the evening of December 31st will be applied to your 2018 receipt. Thank you.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Sarine & Shayla Cacilhas – Dec 31

Sandy Evans – Jan 3

Natalie Fracchioni/Luciano DiLeonardo – Jan 4

Adam Duliban/Mark Baldasaro – Jan 5

Jade Greenwood/Loretta Shields - Jan 6

Dylan McFadden/Elijah Mercer - Jan 6

Mary Jane Scott – Jan 6

Stephanie Gumieniak – Jan 7

Anniversaries:

Craig & Andrea Evans – Dec 31

Anthony & Julie Notarianni – Dec 31