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MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS FORGIVENESS

Once again this week, we are reminded of what a loving and merciful God we serve. The theme of the readings for this fifth Sunday of Lent are summed up beautifully in today's Gospel passage from Luke, which recounts the story of the woman caught in adultery. After all those who would have stoned this woman leave the scene, Christ says to her, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore."

When we turn to God for forgiveness, He is indeed gracious and merciful. So much so, that not only will He forgive our sins without condemnation, He will make us completely new creations in Christ.

What is more amazing is that this all-perfect and holy God of ours draws so very near to us. Our sins do not drive Him from us, but rather to us so that He can set us free from them. Look carefully at Christ's actions and posture in the Gospel reading as He deals with both the crowd of people, the Scribes and Pharisees, and the adulterous woman. "All the people started coming to Him and he sat down and taught them." "He bent down and began to write with His finger." He "straightened up" when He confronted the Scribes and Pharisees about their own sins. And he "straightened up" when He assured the woman that He did not condemn her for her past. Like a skilled teacher, or loving "big brother," Christ bends down to where we are, He sits among us, He stands to confront us when needed and He stands to look us in the eye to remind us of our true dignity.

We're all unworthy of the great privilege of serving Him. But that, quite simply, is cause for greater joy in serving Him with all our hearts

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen
Parish Priest

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
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin Elementary School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery Management
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Heather Tomascini
heathertomascini@bell.net

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

Facility Maintenance
Chair Frank DeFilippis

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy.
Youth Ministry
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



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April 3, 2022 - Year - C
The 5th Sunday
of Lent

April 3, 2022

The 5th Sunday of Lent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:35 am

Mon	Apr 4	9:00 am	For the health of & God's blessings upon all refugees	by the Newman Family
Tues	Apr 5	9:00 am	+Silverno & Angela Giganti	by Bill & Janine Ostrynski
		7:00 pm	Cemetery Board Meeting - Crying Room	
Wed	Apr 6	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Fr. Christopher	
		10:30 am	- 12:pm Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Apr 7	9:00 am	+All the souls in purgatory	by the Newman Family
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Bible Study Group in the Crying Room	
Fri	Apr 8	7:30 am	- 8:15 am That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei -Men's Rosary Group	Fr. Christopher
		9:00 am	+John, Amalija & Bill Kump	by the Newman Family
		10:30 am	- 12 Noon Pastoral Home Visits for those who registered.	Fr. Christopher
		6:00 pm	- 7:00 pm Lenten Way of the Cross (Stations) Holy Rosary/Confessions	
		7:30 pm	- 9:00 pm Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher
Sat	Apr 9		Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord	
		4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) available at this time.	
		5:00 pm	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Apr 10	10:00 am	For the special intentions of Pope Francis	by the KOC

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.

Thank you for your stewardship.

CALLING ALL LADIES!

St Martin's CWL

Presents

A SPRING AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

Sunday, May 1, 2022

2:00 pm

\$10.00 per person

Don your favorite hats

and come join us for a fun afternoon.

Contact Pat at 905-957-3826 or

Elaine at 905-957-0673

to reserve your tickets by April 17, 2022.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Group 1 - Mrs Szabo and Mrs Clarke

Group 2 - Mrs DiPasquale and Mrs Smith

First Holy Communion - 11 am at Church

- Group 1 - April 30

- Group 2 - May 14

No Receptions are planned at this time.

With the high cost of food etc, we are being prudent.

THE SYNOD PROCESS AT ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

Synod Invitation Reminder!

NOW is your chance to have your voice heard. Every Catholic's input is critical to move the Universal Catholic church in a direction that fosters the strongest Catholic Community. Sign up for a Synod Listening Session today. Spots are limited, so please sign up with the link here, or call or email the parish office.

To sign up, please click on the following:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AACA72BA6FCC52-synod>

and sign up for one session, or call the office at 289-956-0221 or email at st.martins@cogeco.ca

Parish Synod Facilitators are:

Lisa Poort, Paula Verrecchia, Sandy Johnson.

INDIGENOUS HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Catholics across the country are invited to join in collective prayer as a delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and young people travel to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from March 28 - April 1, 2022. The journey, organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, represents an important moment in the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation. As announced in October of 2021, the delegation will also help inform the planned pilgrimage of the Holy Father to Canada at a future date.

For more information, please visit www.cccb.as

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE CARITAS CANADA

The annual Share Lent Collection is April 3/4 and will remain "OPEN" for another few weeks. Special envelopes are contained in the offertory/stewardship box. If you do not use offertory/steward envelopes please consider using a white envelope with your name and amount on the front marking Share Lent Collection. Thank you for your financial solidarity, support and prayer.

Please visit their website. Devp.org.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 11 - 17.

Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9:00 am.

TUESDAY

Chrim Mass, Cathedral of St. Catherine 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Reconciliation (Confessions)

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Eucharistic Holy Hour/ Ending With Benediction

HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

(Altar of Repose) Quiet prayer to 9:00 pm

GOOD FRIDAY

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 pm

HOLY SATURDAY

12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Foods

Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection 8:00 pm

(First Mass of Easter)

EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 am

CHURCH CAPACITY LIMITS

(& "ETIQUETTE")

While limits have been lifted in Ontario churches, including our own, likely this will be well received by some and reservedly by others. Given that the pandemic is not over, there are different perspectives on this.

It does mean that individuals will now be responsible for making their own decisions about what level of risk is acceptable. No one is exempt from wearing a face mask (except the presiding priest, readers, and extra-ordinary eucharistic minister). Even with the removal of the floor and carpet markings, all are encouraged to respect "distancing etiquette."

To be together again is special, yes, but only if hospitalizations trend downward can there be more relief (e.g., congregational singing, no requirements for indoor masking). In the meantime, churchgoers are asked to exercise respect, charity, and kindness towards others and to recognize the varying comfort levels of people, especially during these steps to transition. Each parishioner has to be able to plan according to their comfort level, and really for their own health. Thank you.

PONTIFICAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY

The Good Friday Collection, on April 15, 2022, is requested by the Holy See to help maintain the Christian sites of the Holy Land and to support the Church in the pastoral, educational, and social works that contribute to a sustained Christian presence in the land where Jesus the Christ once walked.

This Pontifical Collection will be taken in the parishes during the Good Friday celebration. Those who are unable to attend the service are still able to contribute online by going to canadahelps.org and searching for "Commissariat of the Holy Land", or by Interac e-transfers to terresainte@bellnet.ca. Receipts will be issued.

On behalf of the Custody of the Holy Land, I sincerely thank you for your support,

Fr. Robert Mokry, OFM

Commissary of the Holy Land in Canada

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

Five consecutive Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Parish will celebrate the First Saturday's of the month with Mass, beginning at 9:30 am, April 2. Future Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 am.

The practice of the First Saturday devotion was requested by Our Lady of Fatima, who appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, multiple times starting in 1917.

She said to Lucia, the oldest of the three children:

"I shall come to ask . . . that on the First Saturday of every month, Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world."

Years later she repeated her request to Sr. Lucia, the only one still living of the three young Fatima seers, while she was a postulant sister living in a convent in Spain:

"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at very moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me, and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."

CONDITIONS TO FULFILL THE FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION

On five consecutive first Saturdays of the month, one should:

1. Have the intention of consoling the Immaculate Heart in a spirit of reparation.
2. Go to confession (within eight days before or after the first Saturday).
3. Receive Holy Communion.
4. Say five decades of the Holy Rosary.
5. Meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary with the goal of keeping Our Lady company (for example, while in church or before an image or statue of Our Lady).

The Most Holy Rosary

Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation. Fruit of the Mystery: Humility
2. The Visitation. Fruit of the Mystery: Love of Neighbour
3. The Nativity. Fruit of the Mystery: Poverty, Detachment from the things of the world, Contempt of Riches, Love of the Poor
4. The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. Fruit of the Mystery: Gift of Wisdom and Purity of mind and body (Obedience)
The Finding of Jesus in the Temple. Fruit of the Mystery: True Conversion (Piety, Joy of Finding Jesus)

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony in the Garden. Fruit of the Mystery: Sorrow for Sin, Uniformity with the Will of God
2. The Scourging at the Pillar. Fruit of the Mystery: Mortification (Purity)
3. The Crowning with Thorns. Fruit of the Mystery: Contempt of the World (Moral Courage)
4. The Carrying of the Cross. Fruit of the Mystery: Patience
The Crucifixion and Death of our Lord. Fruit of the Mystery: Perseverance in Faith, Grace for a Holy Death (Forgiveness)

Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection. Fruit of the Mystery: Faith
2. The Ascension. Fruit of the Mystery: Hope, Desire to Ascend to Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit. Fruit of the Mystery: Love of God, Holy Wisdom to know the truth and share it with everyone, Divine Charity, Worship of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary. Fruit of the Mystery: Union with Mary and True Devotion to Mary
The Coronation of the Virgin. Fruit of the Mystery: Perseverance and an Increase in Virtue

Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan. Fruit of the Mystery: Openness to the Holy Spirit, the Healer.
2. The Wedding at Cana. Fruit of the Mystery: To Jesus through Mary, Understanding of the ability to manifest-through faith.
3. Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God. Fruit of the Mystery: Trust in God (Call of Conversion to the Messiah)
4. The Transfiguration. Fruit of the Mystery: Desire for Holiness.
The Institution of the Eucharist. Fruit of the Mystery: Adoration.

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into

hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day **our** daily bread; and forgive us **our** trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary, Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. **Holy Mary**, Mother of God, **pray** for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the **Holy Spirit**.

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Prayer After The Rosary: O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that, meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

V. May the divine assistance remain always with us.
R. And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

The Lightning bolt of solidarity

A subtle theme emerges through our readings on this Solidarity Sunday: God's deliverance of people from danger to celebration. Isaiah recalls the parting of the Red Sea, swallowing the army of Pharaoh. "I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert," God says (Isaiah 43:19). The psalmist celebrates the return of captives, saying "May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy" (Psalm 126:5). In the Gospel, we witness Jesus cleverly saving a woman accused of adultery from being stoned, giving her the liberating words, "Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again." (John 8:11)

From the dramatic miracle of Exodus saving a people who had been enslaved by the Egyptians, to Jesus's wisdom saving a single woman from violence, our readings give us the image of a God of

solidarity, one who sides with the oppressed and makes a way for them, even when it feels impossible.

The Scriptures are full of stories like these, where God transforms a moment of turbulence and uncertainty into a moment of liberation. But this transformation is never a one-way process, as though humans were passive playthings on God's cosmic chessboard. God does not teleport the Israelites away from Egypt, but works with Moses; Jesus does not hypnotize the crowd laying a trap for him, but offers them an opportunity to consider their own consciences. We are invited to participate in solidarity—with God, with each other, and with the planet—on the path to liberation.

I like to think of this participation as a lightning bolt. When we see lightning, we often imagine that it erupts from the roiling clouds above to strike the ground below.

Yet, the reality is much more interesting.

As water particles bump around in the clouds, they create invisible negative charges at the bottom of the clouds.

Since opposites attract, positive charges on the ground rise to meet the negative charges in the clouds. When the two charges meet, an electrical current flashes in an instant, producing the bolts of lightning that we are most familiar with. Remarkably, while this whole process begins with the gathering energy up above, the visible flash of lightning actually crackles up *from the ground!*

Solidarity is like that. As God's desire for justice churns in the heavens, our individual desires for justice stack on top of each other below, attracted to what the Spirit is doing. When the divine and human charges connect, a streak of light allows us to see, however briefly, our whole world in a new way.

It is only through our collective action that we can create enough energy on the ground for something remarkable to occur. On this Solidarity Sunday, Development and Peace invites you to participate in our global movement for solidarity. A single donation may not feel as powerful as lightning. But a multitude of donations, a multitude of positive charges, can change the horizon.

Like the charges accumulating in the clouds, God's desire for justice is not always visible, but it is nevertheless a constant, intensifying and attracting force. "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" God says in Isaiah. This Lent, let us perceive and gather to meet what new thing God is doing in these dangerous times. As God's justice springs forth, may it find a people charged and ready to meet it, responding with a lightning bolt of solidarity.

[Dean Dettloff, Animator for Central Ontario, Development and Peace – Caritas Canada](#)