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**SET FREE IN CHRIST**

Even as the Church uses the seasons of the liturgical year to make us conscious of Christ's presence, so in the Old Testament, God established the Sabbath, the Sabbath Year, and the Jubilee Year to interject his presence into the calendar of our lives. The Sabbath cycle of working six days and resting on the seventh, and the Sabbath Year cycle of working six years and allowing the land to lay fallow during the seventh year, are reminders not only of God's creation process but also God's creation purpose; to have a people lovingly devoted to him.

In a similar way, the Jubilee Year, celebrated every fiftieth year was designed to remind people of God's covenant of atonement. On the Day of Atonement, in the fiftieth year, the people's hearts were awakened with the blaring blast of trumpets announcing the Jubilee. The chief characteristic of this Jubilee Year was the proclamation and experience of freedom. People who had lost their ancestral lands had their lands restored; people who had become enmeshed in debt had their debts totally forgiven; people who had become enslaved through indentured servitude were released and set free to return to their homes and families; the land was left fallow for the year and people were free, free, free to turn their attention to God and his liberating deliverance.

Lent also calls us from the busy occupations of our lives to consider afresh not only the circumstances of our enslavement but also the liberating deliverance we have through Jesus' death and resurrection. The message of the Jubilee year both clarifies and amplifies the purpose of the Lenten Season. Jubilees were also times of repentance. The deepest form of human liberation - liberation from the grip of sin and its effects - requires the acknowledgement and confession of sins. Confession leads to forgiveness, and forgiveness gives birth to the joy characteristic of the jubilee years. These freedoms, restoration to the home land, debt forgiveness, and release from captivity, were all intended as a foreshadowing or sign of the future atonement and deliverance we would have as followers of Christ. Through him we can be restored to our intended homeland, the Kingdom of God; all the debt we owe because of our sinfulness is totally forgiven; in him, and through his power, we can be released from every enslavement.

Recently a prisoner was released from false imprisonment after serving twenty years for a crime he didn't commit. One can only imagine the joy he and his family experienced to have his supposed guilt wiped clean, his good name restored, to be united once again with his family, and to walk as a free man. What we would not be able to imagine would be his refusal to accept release and restoration, that would be beyond comprehension. Yet many of us foolishly refuse to accept restoration in exchange for estrangement. We refuse the joy of forgiveness in exchange for the weight of guilt. And we refuse the freedom and power of life in Christ in exchange for enslavement to sinful habits. Christ sets us free and Lent calls us to his life of freedom, liberty, and release. "Freedom," as John Paul II told an audience in Baltimore in 1995, "consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." Let's pray that God will enable us to fully grasp the meaning of his liberating sacrifice on our behalf, and exalt in learning to live a restored relationship with him.

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 Friday @ 8:00am

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.  
Bookkeeper  
Tracy Piggott

St Martin School  
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

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**Ministry Schedule - Feb 24/25**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Janet & Ron Roscovich  
9:00 am - Bea & Alfons Blokhuis  
11:00 am - Anita Duggan & Joan Hignett

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Tanya Jones

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
March 4th

**Feb 18, 2018**

**The 1st  
Sunday of  
Lent**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples  
#2 - Yolanda Baldasaro  
9:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson  
#2 - Maeve Devlin  
11:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort  
#2 - Heather Tomascin

**Extra-ordinary Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom  
9:00 am - Vern, Marcel & Dick  
11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

**Stewardship Counting**  
Elaine Parry & Jennifer Fife

# February 18, 2018

## The 1st Sunday of Lent - Year B



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

Monday	Feb 19	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Don Kirkwood	by the Newman family
Tuesday	<b>Feb 20</b>	<b>8:40am</b>	For the special intentions of Pauline Lewis	by Mary Mojeski
		<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>3pm</b> Diocese of St Catharines Priests Lenten Day of Reflection	<b>Fr. Christopher</b>
Wednesday	Feb 21	6:30 pm	For the repose of the soul of John & Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Thursday	Feb 22	<b>Chair of St. Peter</b>		
		9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Frank Modizejewski	by family
Friday	Feb 23	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ron Kirkwood	by the Newman family
		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	Feb 24	<b>The 2nd Sunday of Lent</b>		
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman	by family
Sunday	Feb 25	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck	by the Lupien family
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

### PEG THANKS YOU

"The Parish Events Group (PEG) would like to thank all those that participated & supported our Annual Parish Pasta Dinner

The generous hours of work by many enabled this event to happen. Much thanks to the kitchen volunteers, servers, bar tenders, photographer and St. Francis students who gifted us with their musical talents. It is always a blessing when we could celebrate together as a parish community. All proceeds **\$1,488.63** from this event will be used to financially support other parish community building functions."

### LENTEN SEASON, 2018

**The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of Lent, but not during Easter Triduum. Beginning the First Week of Lent, Friday, February 23, at 6:00pm.**

Palm Sunday falls on March 25, 2018 and marks the beginning of Holy Week. April 1, 2018 is Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus. It is the most joyous and important liturgical celebration of the year.

### ZUMBA FITNESS

Zumba fitness continues in the parish hall each Tuesday evening from 7:00pm - to 8:00pm.

Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #16421

### INVITATION TO JOIN BIBLE STUDY

Please come out and join us Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for a Bible Study. It is very informal and we study the readings for the following Sunday. Coffee and cookies are served. If you have any questions, speak with Marg Van Geest or Maeve Devlin. Thank you.

### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Thanks to money donated annually by Catholics during "Share Lent," Development and Peace can support 170 partners and 202 projects in 36 countries around the world! There are many ways to be part of "Share Lent." Use the Solidarity calendar, you received in the bulletin, with your family. You can make a donation on "Solidarity Sunday", March 18. Thank You!

### SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

This month's topics are: Finding Peace with Deacon Gunther Presenter – Feb 26. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Preregistration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154 or email [separatedanddivorced@sainted.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@sainted.com)

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: [www.wpcprolife.com](http://www.wpcprolife.com), and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or contact:

Angela: [angelabraun@live.com](mailto:angelabraun@live.com) or  
Annette: [loeffenlife@gmail.com](mailto:loeffenlife@gmail.com) or  
phone 905-931-0363

### 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 mornings at the Catholic Centre from 9:00am to 12:00 noon, beginning April First and continue until November 2018. A group meeting about one per month at the Catholic Centre. The rest of the meetings and the real work takes place in the parish.

### RETROUBAILLE

**Thinking about Separation or Divorce?** – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Retrouvaille is designed to help marriages regain their health. The Retrouvaille program is highly successful in saving marriages. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 16, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [hamilton-retrovaille1@cogeco.ca](mailto:hamilton-retrovaille1@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrovaille.org](http://www.retrovaille.org).

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**Day of Reconciliation + Adoration**  
**Saturday, March 17 (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.)**  
**(In every parish in the diocese, a priest will be available to celebrate the sacrament of penance).**

### PARISH STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 10/11, 2018

**Sunday Offering (62 Env): \$1,862.00**  
**Loose: \$57.25**

**Memorial Donation (Bernard Thraba): \$100.00**

**HST Rebate: \$1,322.74**

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

### CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In advance of the June 2018 provincial election in Ontario, we have the opportunity to ask candidates from all parties three important questions:

1. Will you support legislation to protect doctors, nurses, and other health care providers who are being forced to participate in assisted suicide / euthanasia through making a referral?
2. How will you protect facilities from being forced to offer euthanasia / assisted suicide on their premises?
3. How does your party plan to address the lack of quality palliative care in our province?

To contact the electoral candidates in your riding, please visit:

[www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario](http://www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario)

### LENT MEANS

Lent is a special time of prayer, sacrifice and good works in preparation of Easter. The word *Lent* itself is derived from the Anglo-Saxon words *lencten*, meaning "Spring," and *lenctentid*, which literally means not only "Springtide" but also was the word for "March," the month in which the majority of Lent falls.

### BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

#### **Birthdays:**

Katrina Shields/Alison Tracey – Feb 19  
Melina Rakonjac – Feb 20  
Justin Long/Ron Roscovich – Feb 21  
Sherri deWilde/Alex Sills - Feb 22  
Crystal Smith – Feb 22  
Sarina DeMarchi – Feb 23  
James Gunn – Feb 24  
Steven Joyner – Feb 25