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FILLED WITH JOY AND PEACE

The Christian steward approaches life with an "Easter vision" rooted in gratitude for the salvation our Lord has won for us through His death and Resurrection. Today's readings on this Divine Mercy Sunday teach us how this approach plays out in daily life and remind us that we can have complete trust in the mercy of God to lead us, step-by-step, to heaven.

Certainly, it is challenging to live for heaven when the things of the earth - job stress, family crisis, health troubles, political strife - loom large on the horizon. We can find ourselves becoming cynical like the Apostle, Thomas, in our Gospel passage today - until he had an encounter with the merciful Savior. We all recall the famous line from Thomas, who was not present with the other Apostles during Jesus' first appearance after the Resurrection. Beaten down by the events of the last several days, Thomas refuses to believe that the others had indeed "seen the Lord" as they claimed.

Thomas stubbornly declares he would not believe their story about the Lord unless he placed his finger into the nail marks and his hand into His side. Yet, these doubts did not repel our Lord. Our merciful Lord saw that beneath the hubris in Thomas' statement were pain and disappointment. Our Lord is mercy itself. And so He did not condemn Thomas, but calmed his doubts and fears, and allowed Thomas to actually touch those Sacred Wounds. What amazing grace.

When we are tempted to give in to doubts to the faith for whatever the reason, all we need to do is seek the Lord - in prayer, in the sacraments, through the encouragement of our Christian communities - and just as He did for Thomas, our Lord will mercifully restore our Easter vision and fill us with His joy and peace.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm Sunday 10:00 am

Weekday Masses
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am

Office hours
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Sandy Johnson

Financial Recorder
Tracy Piggott

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Carolyn Vaughan
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy. Youth Ministry
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
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 19, 2020
The 2nd Sunday of Easter - Year A
Divine Mercy

April 19, 2019

The 2nd Sunday of Easter - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS

Mon	Apr 20	9:00 am	Intention available	
Tues	Apr 21	9:00 am	Intention available	
Wed	Apr 22	9:00 am	Intention available	
Thurs	Apr 23	9:00 am	In memory of all the past benefactors of St. Martin's Parish	by St. Martin's
Fri	Apr 24	9:00 am	For the salvation of the Lewis Family	by Pauline Lewis
Sat	Apr 25	The 3rd Sunday of Easter		
		5:00 pm	+Jose Cordeiro & deceased Family Members +Domenica D'Agostino	by Mr & Mrs Melo by the DeFilippis Family
Sun	Apr 26	10:00 am	For the special intentions of Anthony & Mateo Notarianni	by Tony & Julie Notarianni

MASS INTENTIONS

An intention should be present for each Mass. If you require an intention or mention of a deceased loved one please email in your request.

Thank you.

ONLINE DAILY EUCHARIST

With no public weekday or weekend Masses we offer the following:

We continue to keep Holy Sabbath.

In an effort to continue the practice of our faith in these trying times, I would like to invite you to [join us online](#) for daily Mass.

Vision TV Sun - 8:00 am
Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm
Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

Salt + Light Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm
Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,
3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

yesTV Sun - 10:30 am
Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

Internet www.dailytvmass.com
www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

Mass this Sunday is streamed live from our Cathedral at 11:30 am.

Visit the diocesan website for viewing:
www.saintcd.com

PARISH ONLINE STEWARDSHIP IN COVID 19

It has been highly recommended that we discontinue posting our weekly revenue online/parish website. We kindly ask you to mail in your church offering. We would ask you to discontinue dropping off your offering in the rectory mail box unless you call ahead and let Father Christopher know that you are dropping them off. The risk is too high leaving envelopes with cash in the mail box. Unfortunately, this self-isolation and physical distancing will remain for months to come. Layoff of parish staff is not an action we wish to take at this time. We will re-address it again at the end of April.

We thank you for your cooperation with these new procedures. Thank you and God bless.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are all challenged now with our personal finances. People have now lost their jobs and others are being laid off. Many are now worrying about food and rent. We stand in solidarity with all during this period of COVID - 19 Pandemic.

We don't doubt that our regular parishioners and those who use our offertory envelope system will continue to support us financially. Our commitment and responsibility to our Faith Community remains.

Although we are unable to celebrate public Masses, the parish expenses for salaries, heat, electricity, maintenance, etc, all continue. We are extremely indebted to those who continue to support our parish weekly through your stewardship. Together, we make a difference!

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

April 3, 2020

My dear brothers in Christ,

This will be a Holy Week like none other. Our churches will be empty as we celebrate the most significant liturgies of the liturgical year. This is truly unprecedented. Today, I have sent you an update that speaks about Palm Sunday and the Triduum liturgies. I encourage you to celebrate these liturgies according to the liturgical directives provided. I would also suggest that if it would be difficult for you to celebrate alone, two or three priests may choose to gather in one church to celebrate these private liturgies together.

Another dramatic effect that the coronavirus is having on our parishes involves finances. With very limited income and ongoing expenses, parishes are facing significant financial challenges. Early next week I hope to send you some information regarding this situation. Practical suggestions and guidelines will be offered to help parishes respond to the financial challenges that they face at this time.

Due to all the uncertainty, it is very easy to feel overwhelmed and anxious when faced with this ongoing crisis. Even those who put all of their trust in science can feel discouraged. Medical experts admit that, when faced with this new virus, they do not have all the answers. There is still so much about this virus that is unknown. For some this is difficult to accept. For those who trust in God, the unknown is simply part of the great mystery of faith. We do not have to 'know' in order to believe. As scripture reminds us, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). We put our trust in God and pray for protection, healing, and a quick end to this pandemic.

The Holy See has just approved a votive Mass "in time of pandemic" that can be celebrated daily with some restrictions. A link to the Proper of this Mass and Readings can be found in the update that accompanies this letter.

The opening prayer for the Mass is quite powerful, "Almighty and eternal God, provident refuge in every danger, kindly turn your gaze toward us, who with faith implore you in tribulation, and grant eternal rest to the deceased, comfort to those who weep, health to the sick, peace to those who are dying, strength to healthcare providers, a spirit of wisdom to civil authorities, and a heart to draw near to everyone with love so that together we might glorify your holy name." I encourage you to celebrate this Mass whenever possible.

The coronavirus continues to impact our lives. I know that it is also affecting each one of us. Despite our own limitations and fear, we must never forget our calling to be an 'alter Christus'. We will be given the graces necessary to serve like Christ. This simple fact should give us confidence in this time of great uncertainty.

I would also like to propose something to you that comes from the rich tradition of the Church regarding times of pandemic. On Holy Thursday we focus on the gift of the priesthood and the Eucharist. On this day, I ask that you consider exposing the Blessed Sacrament on the altar. After a brief time of adoration and prayer, take the monstrance outside and bless the four directions with the monstrance praying for divine protection for your parish. If it is possible, you may also wish to process around the church. This should be done privately and not with a group. I will be doing this at the Cathedral at six o'clock in the evening. If this was done at the same time, it could be a powerful blessing for our diocese.

I pray that Our Lord will continue to strengthen you and that Our Blessed Mother will wrap you in the mantle of her love and protect you from all harm. Despite the uncertainty and disruption to daily routines, let us remain faithful to our call and bring the love and hope of Christ to the people we serve.

Oremus pro invicem.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D. Bishop