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FINDING TRUE FREEDOM IN THE SPIRIT

At this point in our Lenten journey, it is tempting to grow weary of the spiritual disciplines we have taken on. Today's readings inspire us to remain faithful, in grateful response to a God who loves us so much.

In our first reading, the prophet Ezekiel speaks God's own words to us. "I will put my spirit in you that you may live... I have promised and I will do it, says the Lord." Our God wants to be so closely united to us that we are one with Him. And He has promised He will do it. But only if we make room for Him by making Him the priority of our lives. Putting God first is a grateful response that is very pleasing to Him.

How can we do this? Our second reading, from Romans, tell us, "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh... you are in the spirit if only the Spirit of God dwells in you."

The disciplines of Lent and a stewardship way of life are wonderful gifts that free us from too great an attachment to "the flesh." The sacrifices we make as Christian stewards are not meant to restrict our freedom and joy. Quite the contrary. They are tools to help us find the real freedom and joy that only come when we make room in our lives for God.

As we journey closer to the Passion of our Lord, let us intensify our Lenten resolutions and our stewardship way of life, inviting the Holy Spirit to take over more and more of our lives. By Easter, we will be freer to rejoice in Him and truly pleasing to God.

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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Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
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www.stmartinsparish.com

Mar 29, 2020

The 5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

March 29, 2019

The 5th Sunday of Lent - Year A

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Mar 30	9:00 am	For all Parishioners	by Father Christopher
Tues	Mar 31	9:00 am	+Peter Knott	by the Conway Cousins
Wed	Apr 1	9:00 am	+Geraldine Bell	by Sherri deWilde & Judy Terpstra
Thurs	Apr 2	9:00 am	+Teenie Morreale	by Jake & Judy Sulyma
Fri	Apr 3	9:00 am	+Rick Malaryk	by Bruce & Cheryl Dell
Sat	Apr 4	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord		
		5:00 pm	Cancelled publicly - but celebrated privately by Father Christopher	
Sun	Apr 5	10:00 am	Cancelled publicly - but celebrated privately by Father Christopher	

Father Christopher will continue to celebrate Mass each day and at weekends privately.
Church is OPEN during the day (9:30 am - 4:00 pm) for private prayer.
Keep 2 metres apart from one another.

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL

CONTINUES IN 2020

www.saintcd.com/appeal

As of March 4, 2020, just 10 months into our 18 month Cathedral appeal, we, as a diocese have raised \$1,010,360.54 in cash donations and \$86,247.32 in outstanding pledges. This brings our total raised to \$1,096,607.86 or 91% of our \$1,200,000 goal.

THANK YOU FOR THE GENEROSITY OF SO MANY!

Already made your donation? Thank you for playing your part in the restoration of the mother church of our diocese. Still thinking about making a donation?

Visit www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

Host Churches

March: St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic
- cancelled
April: Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June: St Ann's Community Church

SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2020

First Holy Communion - May 3, 1:00 pm.

My Dear Friends :)

In the course of a few days, our entire work, life and church just went digital. I know...talk about whiplash. I'm currently retreating in my home and our church. I shall continue to celebrate the Holy Eucharist each morning for the parish and intentions requested.

Chances are, before COVID-19 goes away, it will hit even closer to home. It is in many of our cities. It is making its way into our churches. It may well enter some of our families and the lives of those we love. Be careful. Be cautious. Be wise and practical in what you do. But do not live in fear.

What I fear, more than COVID -19, is that we will forget who we are and to whom we belong. As a church, we need to take preventive measures and commit ourselves to prayer. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice and entrust our lives to Christ. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. And then we need to step back and stay centered and remember and remind each other that we belong to Christ.

Know that I am praying for you and for our church body. I am praying for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. I am praying for my bishop, my brother priests, and for our people and for God's Holy Spirit to protect us as a church. I am praying and I will continue to pray until the coronavirus is over, and beyond, but I am not afraid.

The apostle Paul says it well. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:6-7 ESV

We should be concerned. The coronavirus is real. But we cannot and we will not be afraid. We are the Church and, together, we belong to Christ. "Be not afraid, I am with you always" (Matthew 14:27).

Keeping you all in thought and prayer. Be kind to each other, and look after one another. Pray, rest, and be safe; spring clean the house.

Shalom, Christopher+

MAY GOD BLESS YOU
FOR YOUR FAITHFUL
STEWARDSHIP!

March 21/22, 2020

Dropped Off Collection - Thank You!

Envelopes (7) \$610.00
Share Lent (2) \$ 75.00

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are all challenged now with our personal finances. People are losing 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 "EMERGENCY".

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. We thank you in advance for your solidarity at this difficult time.

You may wish to send in your stewardship monthly by mail or when this crisis is over we can makeup for the collection not given at this time. Thank you and God bless.

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Lord God, I pray for all who have been sickened or died by the Coronavirus

that has been spreading around the world.

In your mercy and compassion,
deliver us from this disease.

In your holy wisdom,
guide all who are working to contain the outbreak.

In your steadfast love,
bring healing to all your children

who have been sickened,
Welcome into your arms the ones who have died,

and comfort the ones they left behind.

In faith, I place my trust in you.

In hope, I turn to you in my time of need.

In love, I give glory to your name.

In gratitude, I will praise you with my life.

In your Son's name I pray. Amen.