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**ACCEPTING THE MISSION**

The nativity of St. John the Baptist reminds us that God calls each of us for a special purpose which only we can fulfill. In some cases, like John the Baptist, Isaiah, David, and the twelve disciples of Jesus, the call and task are extraordinary within the history of salvation. For most of us the call and task are more ordinary. Additionally, within the fulfilling of that calling these extraordinary lives convey a message, and provide an example which can be instructive to those of us who live ordinary lives of faith.

For many people John the Baptist is simply depicted as a hermit who found nourishment in a weird diet (locust and honey) and made an outlandish fashion statement with his camel's hair and leather clothing. Unfortunately, many people see him as an angry person, ranting "Repent" and condemning people to Hell - which really does not describe John the Baptist, but simply reflects the way some have interpreted the message "Repent," either reflecting their own attitude toward sinners, or that of non-Christians media as they tried to interpret that which they did not understand.

John's message was actually a message of hope; that mankind can in fact change the downward spiral of their lives (repent, or turn), and in turning to Christ can know God who has come to his people to set them free, God has raised up for us a mighty Savior, who would set us free from the hands of our enemies including Satan, free to worship him without fear, making us holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our lives. This is not a message of damnation but of salvation.

His birth was miraculous inasmuch as his parents, like Abraham and Sarah of the Old Testament, conceived John when they were well past the age when people could normally have children. In addition, Zechariah, John's father, was struck dumb for months until John's birth, because he failed to believe the angel who told him that Elizabeth would conceive and give birth to a son. John the Baptist was unique in that he was filled with the Holy Spirit while still in the womb, and upon being in the presence of Mary the Mother of our Lord, and sensing his Lord's presence in the womb of Mary while he himself was yet within the womb of Elizabeth, he leaped for joy. His uniqueness portended our own experience upon becoming believers in Christ, we are filled with the Holy Spirit, experiencing the joy that comes from recognizing Jesus, and responding in kind.

His calling was to go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins, until the tender compassion of our God shall break upon us. He fulfilled his calling marvelously and humbly, directing his disciples to leave him and follow Jesus the Lamb of God by stating, "He must increase but I must decrease." John's life also portends our mission - to be vanguards among those who do not yet know the Lord, living in such a way that they are made aware of the salvation that is available in Jesus, and doing so in such a way that Jesus increases in importance to them, rather than we ourselves.

Do you want a new sense of importance, an importance which will in turn motivate you and humble you? Then simply realize that like John the Baptist you have been called to be an ambassador for Jesus Christ, as St. Paul points out; "So we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We beseech you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God" (2 Corinthians 5:20), and as St. Peter points out, we are people with a mission; "you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1Peter 2:9). What a calling! The world still needs people to follow John's example. Will you be one of them?

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese  
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.  
Pastor  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.  
Diocesan Social Justice Rep

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  
Returning in September

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  
Please call the office

Secretary  
Sandy Johnson  
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper  
Tracy Pigott

St Martin School  
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations  
Catholic Women's League  
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups  
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy  
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

**St. Martin of Tours  
Roman Catholic Church**



**THE NATIVITY  
of John the Baptist**

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**Ministry Schedule - June 30/July 1**

**Hospitality Ministers**

5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S  
10:00 am - Pat & Andy Wirth

**Altar Servers**

5:00 pm - Needed  
10:00 am - Needed

**Children's Liturgy**

No Children's Liturgy until Sept 9th

**Next Hospitality Sunday**

September 3rd

**June 24, 2018**

**The Nativity  
of St. John  
the Baptist**

**Lectors**

5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero  
#2 - Tom Shields  
10:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin  
#2 - Tom Richardson

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**

5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom  
10:00 am - Nick, Marcel & Sherri

**Stewardship Counting**

Lisa Poort & Antonella Presta

June 24, 2018

# The Nativity of St. John the Baptist - Year B



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

|           |         |   |  |                          |
|-----------|---------|---|--|--------------------------|
| Monday    | June 25 | 9:00 am                                 | +For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck   | by the Lupien family     |
| Tuesday   | June 26 | 9:00 am                                 | +For the repose of the souls of departed loved ones  | by Norrie Franko         |
|           |         | 6:00pm                                  | Graduation Mass/ Ceremony/Dance to 10:30pm   |                          |
| Wednesday | June 27 | 10:30 am                                | Mass at Gethsemane Centre Wellandport  |                          |
|           |         | 6:30 pm                                 | +For the reposes of the souls of Jena & Alex Finlay  | by Marg & Dick Van Geest |
|           |         |   | Knights of Columbus Installation of Grand Knight and Officers. Executive Meeting to follow |                          |
| Thursday  | June 28 | <b>St. Irenaeus</b>                     |  |                          |
|           |         | 9:00 am                                 | +For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis   | by Pauline Lewis         |
|           |         |   | For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar   | by John & Riky Mulder    |
|           |         | 1:00 pm                                 | Year End School Mass - School Gym - families invited to attend.                            |                          |
| Friday    | June 29 | <b>Sts. Peter &amp; Paul</b>            |  |                          |
|           |         | 9:00 am                                 | +For the repose of the soul of Gemma Gillen  | by Doug & Maeve Devlin   |
| Saturday  | June 30 | <b>The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> |  |                          |
|           |         | 5:00 pm                                 | +For the repose of the soul of Matthew Johnston  | by Nancy Johnston        |
| Sunday    | July 1  | <b>10:00 am</b>                         | For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family                                   |                          |

## FREE ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH PICNIC Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> after 11am Mass

Please join us for food, fellowship and fun for the entire family. An attendance sheet along with a volunteer list will be located in the church foyer after mass until June 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated for the day of the event. We hope to see everyone there. Blessings for a safe and enjoyable summer holiday. This event is sponsored by PEG.

Please remember to bring your lawn chair.

Thank you, Parish Events Group.

## ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### SEPTEMBER 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

#### Upcoming School Events:

- Graduation Mass, Ceremony and Dance. Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00pm.
- Year End School Mass Thursday, June 28, 1:00pm.

## VACATIONAL BIBLE STUDY

### "Maker Fun Factory:"

July 23-27 from 9am - 12am

St. Martin of Tours will once again be running the Summer Vacation Bible School. This program is free for children between the ages of 5 to 10 years.

The Registration Forms are available at the St. Martin's Elementary School and here at the front church foyer.

**The deadline for registration is June 25.**

"Maker Fun Factory" gives the children: Bible-learning experiences, team-building games, cool Bible songs, creative crafts, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities. Children will discover how to see God in everyday life! Save the dates and come, experience the joy.

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- Graduation Mass, Ceremony and Dance. Tuesday, June 26, at 6:00pm.
- Year End School Mass Thursday, June 28, 1:00pm.

## DIOCESAN PASTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Bergie has announced the following nominations, to take effect August 1 unless otherwise indicated:

### Appointment of Pastors:

Fr. Michael Basque -- Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish, Thorold

Fr. Philip English -- St. Stephen Parish, Cayuga

Fr. Robert Hetu -- Paroisse Saere-Coeur, Welland, Paroisse Saint-Jean-de-Brebeuf, Port Colborne, and Paroisse Immaculee-Conception, St. Catharines. (November 1, 2018)

Fr. Stanley Ksciuk -- St. Elizabeth Parish, Wainfleet

Fr. Krzysztof Szczepanik - St. Helen Parish, Beamsville

Also, Seminarian Daniel Corso has begun his internship at St. Joseph Parish, Grimsby (May 1, 2018 - August 19, 2019).

## GRIMSBY LIFE CENTRE

### 2018 LIFE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

As we continue to collect baby bottles, we wish to thank you for your contributions. We are grateful that God continues to use the ministry at 18 Elm Street, Grimsby and 6518 Smithville Road, Smithville to help hurting families and individuals. Every day at the Life Centre we simply strive to be the hands of Jesus offering hope and help to anyone who walks through our doors. Thank you for bringing hope and change to your neighbors.

**To God be the glory!**

## BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

### Birthdays:

Brook Gingras/Audrey Pogoda – June 24

June Scime/Amber Davis – June 25

Stephen Bray – June 27

Rebecca deWilde/Vincent Fracchioni - June 29

Brandon Pereira – June 29

Ava Bruculieir/Chris Ohlhoss – June 30

Brenda Cossitt/Kieran Persaud – July 1

### Anniversaries:

Mike & Marta Pereira – June 28

Frank & Donna DeFilippis – July 1

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP JUNE16/17, 2018

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Sunday Offering (Env 63 ):             | \$1,490.00 |
| Loose:                                 | \$ 103.00  |
| Ed. Of Seminarians & Clergy (Env 41 ): | \$ 461.00  |
| Loose:                                 | \$ 66.00   |

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

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP IN THE SUMMER

### **Please remember us throughout the Summer.**

While we take vacations, remember that our bills do not. Weekly and consistent stewardship we rely on to keep within our 2018 budget and our monthly payment on parish debt. Please consider making up for weeks you are not present

Thank you for your financial stewardship.

## FATAL FLAWS

"FATAL FLAWS" FILM SCREENING: THE DANGERS OF MEDICAL 'AID' IN DYING LAW. Are assisted dying laws leading society down a dangerous path?

It's time to learn about the issue as it is experienced in lived reality. Local filmmaker, Kevin Dunn, has spent the past three years travelling throughout Canada, the Netherlands, Belgium and the USA to learn more about the answer to this important question. Critics say "FATAL FLAWS" 'is a must-see for every patient, person or medical caregiver who wants to understand the difference between medical killing and medically-responsible caring.' The film is produced by DunnMedia in association with the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition. Join us and learn more on Monday, June 25 at 7pm at Silver City Hamilton Mountain Cinemas. Tickets can be purchased online, or/and to find out how to bring the film to your area contact: FatalFlawsFilm.com or by emailing: [margaret@dunnmedia.ca](mailto:margaret@dunnmedia.ca).

## WEEKEND MASSES SUMMER HOURS

On the weekend of July 1st we will begin our Summer Weekend Mass Time Schedule:

**Saturday at 5:00 pm**

**Sunday at 10:00 am**

## WEEKDAY MASSES

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00am**

**NO MASS WEDNESDAYS**