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TRUE RESOLUTIONS

We are now three weeks from having made our New Year's resolutions. For some these resolutions have already been long discarded, for others the need remains to inaugurate what often are lightly made resolves. The difficulty with New Year's resolutions is that they are seldom driven by any eternal mandates, but rather by simple, wishful thinking. Consequently, resolutions are usually begun with difficulty and abandoned with relief.

Do you remember in the year 2000 when Pope John Paul II declared it to be a year of Jubilee? In his encyclical *The Coming of the Third Millennium* he explained, that the Jubilee was a time dedicated in a special way to God, that takes place every fifty years. Because in Bible times people's welfare was closely tied to the agrarian culture and to the possession of land by which they could make a decent living, these years of jubilee freed people from indebtedness and returned to them their ancestral lands. So we read in Leviticus 25:10, *And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family.* Pope John Paul II suggested that the Jubilee year should become a year of the Lord's favor, a year of the remission of sins and of the punishments due to men, a year of reconciliation between disputing parties, a year of manifold conversions and of sacramental and extra-sacramental penance, commemorate the event of the Redemption: the Cross of Christ, his death on Golgotha and the Resurrection. Now that is a resolution we can get our teeth into!

Imagine what would transpire in our life, in the life of the Church, and in the life of this nation if each of us experienced the full meaning of forgiveness, and each of us granted the full measure of forgiveness to others. Imagine what it would be like for reconciliation to again exist in families, and among individuals and groups of individuals who have previously been at odds with one another. What would take place if reconciliation was to become a reality within Christ's body? Would we not experience such a massive scale of conversions that we would be overcome with joy? Would we not truly experience the joy of Jubilee?

We are still only in the beginning years of this millennium, this new springtime of evangelization, of which Pope John Paul II spoke. No lightly made resolve can turn this millennium, or even this coming year, into a Jubilee-like experience. Only a genuine time of reflection, penance, and surrender to Christ the Lord will enable us to make this both an immediate and a lifelong commitment to action. Only by recalling Jesus' advent and mission can we reproduce in our lives individually and collectively the forgiveness, reconciliation and renewed freedom Jesus brought in the past, and promises for the future. Consequently, as we release others from their guilt by granting them our forgiveness, we experience afresh, and magnify the joy of our own forgiveness as we remember how Jesus releases us from our guilt.

Perhaps now, this coming week, we should set aside a time of reflection to nail down a real Jubilee-like resolution, driven by eternal values which will be life changing not only for us but also for others. Until we forgive we cannot be free. Until we forgive we are enslaved, in chains to the past, in bondage to hurtful memories. We can only be healed through forgiveness, and we can only gain freedom through forgiveness.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm.
Sunday 9:00 and 11:00 am.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am.
Wed @ 6:30pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
First Sunday of the Month 2:pm-3:00pm

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 pm. 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 am. to 2:00 pm.
Bookkeeper
Tracy Piggott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church



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Telephone: 289-956-0221
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www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Jan 27/28

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Louie Madzo
11:00 am - Justin & Deanne Long

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

Children's Liturgy
Deanne Long

Next Hospitality Sunday
February 4th

Jan 21, 2018

The 3rd
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
#2 - Kelly Staples
9:00 am #1 - Tom Richardson
#2 - Mary Pikula
11:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger

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

Stewardship Counting
Halina Gryzbek & Antonella Presta

January 21, 2018

The 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	Jan 22	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Archie Dell	by Vern & Josie Dell
Tuesday	Jan 23	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Marnie Kervin	by Martha Devlin
Wednesday	Jan 24	St. Francis De Sales 6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Paul Massad	by the Newman family
Thursday	Jan 25	The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle 9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck	by the Lupien family
Friday	Jan 26	St. Timothy and St. Titus 9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Mary Fedorik	by family
Saturday	Jan 27	The 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time 5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Regina Newman	by her Grandchildren
Sunday	Jan 28	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by Heather Belmont
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of Joan and Bob Hignett	

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

The January 2018 topics are:

Welcoming the New Year - on January 8th
Who Am I Now - on January 22nd

Kathryn McMorro is the presenter for both sessions. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

PARISH PASTA DINNER

St. Martin's Parish Events Group (PEG) will be hosting their Annual Parish Pasta Dinner with light entertainment Saturday February 3rd. Tickets will go on sale starting January 7, after all masses until January 28th. There will be no tickets sold at the door the night of the event. Thank you.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD DINNER

Our parish is now hosting the weekly Thursday dinner in the parish hall for the month of January from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Dinner served at 5:30pm. Please pass this invitation on to anyone you feel would enjoy the program. Free-will offerings will be accepted.

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.

Representatives from CWL, Knights, PEG, Lay Ministries will be helpful at this time. More detailed information coming. We need to begin the dialogue early and get organized. Thank you.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2017

Are now available for pickup at main entrance. Thank you for your faithful tithe/stewardship. God Bless.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPE SYSTEM 2018

Please mark the first few envelopes with your full name and address. Please notify office of a change of address. Those seeking to use the offertory envelope system are kindly asked to call the parish office. Thank you.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: JANUARY 18-25, 2018

Ecumenical Service Sunday, January 21 (3:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria 3 Lyman St., St Catharines -- Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding The Second Vatican Council's Declaration on Christian Unity expresses the Church's heart on this issue: "The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ himself were divided. Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature." (Unitatis Redintegratio; introduction) The theme for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity comes to us from the Caribbean region: "Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power" (Exodus 15:6).

LENT 2018

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the feast of the sacred season of Lent, will be on the 14th day of February. If you have pastoral ideas for Lent, please email or speak with Father Christopher.

ST.MARTIN SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

The next Catholic School Council meeting will be held on **January 30, 2018 at 6:00pm**. All parent (s), guardians (s) are welcome to attend.

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER 60TH DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY

This was published in the diocesan newspaper The Vineyard. 299 copies handed out at Christmas. Father Christopher has made available extra copies which can be obtained at the front foyer. Diocesan website has also posted the letter. www.saintcd.com. Please read this important Pastoral Letter from Bishop Gerard Bergie. Thank you.

DIOCESAN SHARE LENT LAUNCH

All are invited to St. Alfred's Parish, Saturday February 3, 2018. Mass at 9:30am with Bishop Bergie presiding. Workshop to follow in the parish hall. A complimentary lunch will be served. Call St. Martin's parish office to register. Thank you.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

January 14, 2018
Sunday Offering (76 Env): \$1,525.00
Loose: \$284.20

Late Facility Maintenance Offering (5 Env): \$50.00

Late New Years Offering (2 Env): \$70.00

Late Initial Offering (3 Env): \$15.00

Thank you for your tithe/stewardship. God Bless.

RETRouvaille

You Can Help Your Marriage – Are you frustrated or angry at each other or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped tens of thousands of couples. 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: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

PARISH SURVEY 2018

The Survey you find in today's bulletin will help us to move forward. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. We truly value the information you will provide. We will share these results with you the weekend of February 11th. Please place your survey in the collection basket.

BULLETIN ADVERTISEMENT ADS

Bulletin Advertiser's pay a small stipend yearly. \$50.00 small and large \$100.00. This needs to change.

A weekly bulletin is costly. Present stipends don't pay for bulletin. We need to have a conversation about this before we submit invoices to Advertiser's for 2018. Thank you.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Rebecca Cossitt – Jan 21
Doug Joyner/Nancy Zavarella – Jan 22
Thea Ridland/ Joe Turcic/Meghan Valeri – Jan 23
Maria Mallia/Barry Scott – Jan 24
Gary Patey/Kevin Messier – Jan 25
Edward Perry – Jan 26
Carolyn Vaughan/Olivia Whitaker – Jan 27
Rebecca Joyner – Jan 28

Anniversaries:

Jonathan & Melissa Bruzzese – Jan 27