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BEAR BEAUTIFUL FRUIT

Today's Gospel passage reminds us that life is precious and the gift of time on this earth is just that — a gift. None of us knows how much time will be granted to us, so we must use this gift intentionally to glorify God and serve our neighbor.

Jesus offers the parable of the fig tree to further illustrate this truth. The owner of the orchard came searching for fruit on a fig tree he had planted in his orchard. Finding no fruit on the tree after three years, he told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener intercedes and asks for one more year to cultivate and fertilize the tree in hopes it would bear fruit in the future. The fig tree was not dying; it simply wasn't doing much of anything at all. Can this be said of us and our lives as well?

The season of Lent is a time to carefully reflect on the way we spend our time. Do we make God our first priority, tending to our spiritual growth and sacramental life with diligence? Do we give the next priority to our loved ones, focusing intentionally on them each day without distractions from phones, screens, or thoughts of work? If not, now is the moment to repent of our waste of time or of misplaced priorities on our use of time. God is merciful but just. Let's turn to Him and ask Him to make our lives fruitful while we still have time to do so.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen
P.P.

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

Weekday Masses
See Schedule
on the inside of the bulletin

In Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Financial Recorder
Sandy Johnson

Reconciliation/Confessions
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin Elementary School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery Management
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Heather Tomascin
heathertomascin@bell.net

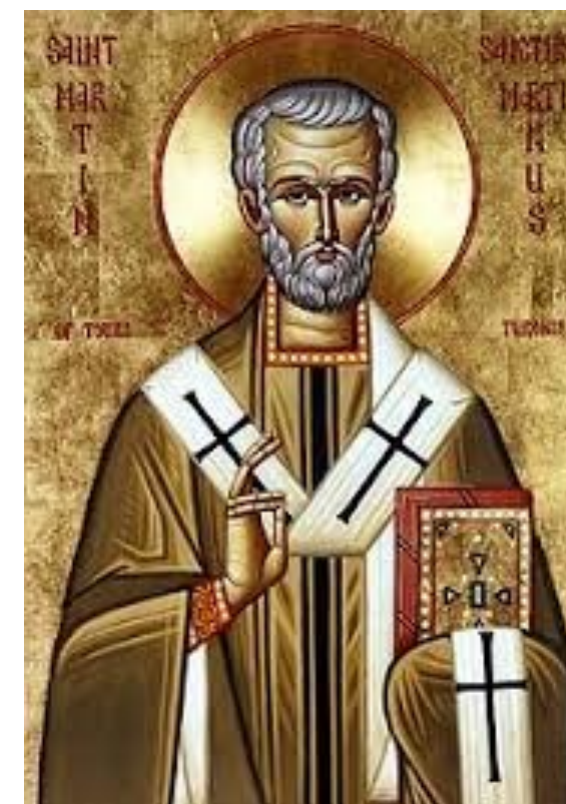
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Chair Frank DeFilippis

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy.
Youth Ministry
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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E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

March 20, 2022 - Year - C
The 3rd Sunday
of Lent

March 20, 2022

The 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:35 am

Mon	Mar 21	9:00 am +Geraldine Bell (4 year anniversary) 6:30 pm Development & Peace meeting	by John & Judy Terpstra Fr. Christopher
Tues	Mar 22	9:00 am +John & Regina Newman 10:00 am - 12:00 noon 1st Reconciliation Group 1 at School	by the Newman family Fr. Christopher
Wed	Mar 23	9:00 am For the special intentions of Mike & Amy Urban 10:30 am - 12:pm Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	by Mike Urban Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Mar 24	9:00 am +George & Ina Newman 9:30 am - 10:30 am Bible Study Group in the Crying Room	by the Newman family
Fri	Mar 25	7:30 am - 8:15 am That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei -Men's Rosary Group 9:00 am For the health and healing David Robinson 10:30 am - 12 Noon Pastoral Home Visits for those who registered. 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Lenten Way of the Cross (Stations) Confessions and Private Prayer 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher by Marg & Dick Van Geest Fr. Christopher Fr. Christopher
Sat	Mar 26	The 4th Sunday of Lent 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) available at this time. 5:00 pm +Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Mar 27	10:00 am +Alan Joyner	by Mike & Mary Hornak

E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app. To transfer funds to St. Martin Parish e-Transfer to: **st.martinsdonation@gmail.com**

Please do not enter a security question and answer. You will be informed that your transfer to: The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation has been completed.

Thank you for your stewardship.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Group 1 - Mrs Szabo and Mrs Clarke
Group 2 - Mrs DiPasquale and Mrs Smith
First Reconciliation - 10 am at school
- Group 1 - March 22
- Group 2 - March 29
First Holy Communion - 11 am at Church
- Group 1 - April 30
- Group 2 - May 14

Bishop Bergie's Lenten Letter

We have been unable to paste and post the Bishop's Lenten Letter. Please visit the diocesan website to read his Lenten message to us.
Thank you.

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

LENTEN WEEKDAY MASSES/DEVOTION

Weekday Masses will be Monday through Friday at 9:00am. The Way of the Cross (Stations) will begin the First Week of Lent on Friday, March 11, at 6:00 pm. Reconciliation (Confession) will be available following the Stations. The church will remain open until 7:00 pm for private prayer. If you require more devotions please let Fr. Christopher know.

THE SYNOD PROCESS AT

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

Synod Invitation Reminder!

NOW is your chance to have your voice heard. Every Catholic's input is critical to move the Universal Catholic church in a direction that fosters the strongest Catholic Community. Sign up for a Synod Listening Session today. Spots are limited, so please sign up with the link here, or call or email the parish office.

To sign up, please click on the following:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AACA72BA6FCC52-synod>
and sign up for one session, or call the office at 289-956-0221 or email at st.martins@cogeco.ca

Parish Synod Facilitators are:
Lisa Poort, Paula Verrecchia, Sandy Johnson.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Feb 11, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

This year, as we approach Ash Wednesday and mark the beginning of Lent, let us remember that the liturgical season of Lent is a season of conversion, a time set apart for deepening our relationship with Christ and seeking inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

As the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada provides an ideal way to offer alms to those most in need through their annual *Share Lent* campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is *People and Planet First*, highlighting the work of their partners who, despite their challenges are finding ways to live in harmony with their environment. Let us join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are feeling the most significant impacts of the changing climate by opening our hearts to the message of this campaign.

Since 1967, the CCCB has set aside the fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday. At that time, we will have a collection in support of Development and Peace's *Share Lent* campaign in each parish and I encourage you to give generously.

Contributions can also be made online at :

www.dev.org/sharelent,

by mailing a cheque, or by calling 1-888-234-8533

Please consider contributing to the Share Lent Campaign this year.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Bishop of St. Catharines

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

CARITAS CANADA

Throughout the coming season of Lent one major focus is Development and Peace and the annual Share Lent Collection. Please visit the website. Devp.org. This Lent, let's put people and planet first! Let's be inspired by, and learn from, leaders around the world who are putting people and planet first! We look forward to your financial support, solidarity and prayer

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Ukraine. If you wish to make a financial contribution you can do so through the parish. Cheques should be made payable to St. Martin of Tours clearly marked Ukraine relief and funds collected will then be forwarded to the Chancery office by March 31.. The Chancery office will send all monetary donations to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)..

Donations can also be done through CNEW's website at <https://cnewa.org/ca/donate/>

CHURCH CAPACITY LIMITS

(& "ETIQUETTE")

While limits have been lifted in Ontario churches, including our own, likely this will be well received by some and reservedly by others. Given that the pandemic is not over, there are different perspectives on this.

It does mean that individuals will now be responsible for making their own decisions about what level of risk is acceptable. No one is exempt from wearing a face mask (except the presiding priest, readers, and extra-ordinary eucharistic minister). Even with the removal of the floor and carpet markings, all are encouraged to respect "distancing etiquette."

To be together again is special, yes, but only if hospitalizations trend downward can there be more relief (e.g., congregational singing, no requirements for indoor masking). In the meantime, churchgoers are asked to exercise respect, charity, and kindness towards others and to recognize the varying comfort levels of people, especially during these steps to transition. Each parishioner has to be able to plan according to their comfort level, and really for their own health. Thank you.

DIOCESAN SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

April 2 10 am - 2 pm

In every parish across the diocese a priest will be available to hear individual Confessions.

No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of reconciliation and healing.