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 General Inquiries - attn: Grand Knight

**FORGIVNESS AND MERCY**

In this world of chaos, where murder and mayhem against the innocent is becoming increasingly commonplace, it is not surprising that revenge and retribution in many forms are also becoming increasingly commonplace. Occasionally, a ray of light penetrates the darkness and chaos of our world and shines forth as a beacon of light, though seemingly unnatural and unexplainable to many.

This ray of light is seen when a father visits the formerly deranged, now imprisoned, murderer of his middle son who was killed while working; or when a mother arranges a three hour encounter with the murderer of her young daughter, who finally after 15 years of imprisonment admits to the crime; or when parents confront the drunken driver who was responsible for taking the lives of their son and daughter-in-law, leaving their grandchild parentless. The ray of light which astonishes us is that these visits and confrontations were not to berate and blame the ones responsible for the chaos but to say, "I forgive you". What would cause the pain, anger and loss these parents experienced, to evolve, not into revenge and retribution, but into mercy and forgiveness?

Their propensity toward mercy was not something that miraculously appeared overnight. Rather it was the natural culmination of a life-time of mercy, where forgiveness and grace were regularly extended on a daily basis to people who perpetrated little and big offenses against them. Their everyday faithfulness to be merciful with ordinary offenses prepared them to handle this extraordinary occasion with extraordinary mercy.

If you hope for mercy, show mercy. If you look for kindness, show kindness. If you want to receive, give. If you ask for yourself what you deny to others, your asking is a mockery. Let this be the pattern for all of us when we practice mercy.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

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

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

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
 See bulletin for schedule

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 am to 12:00 pm

Bookkeeper  
 Tracy Piggott

St Martin School  
 Phone 905-957-3032

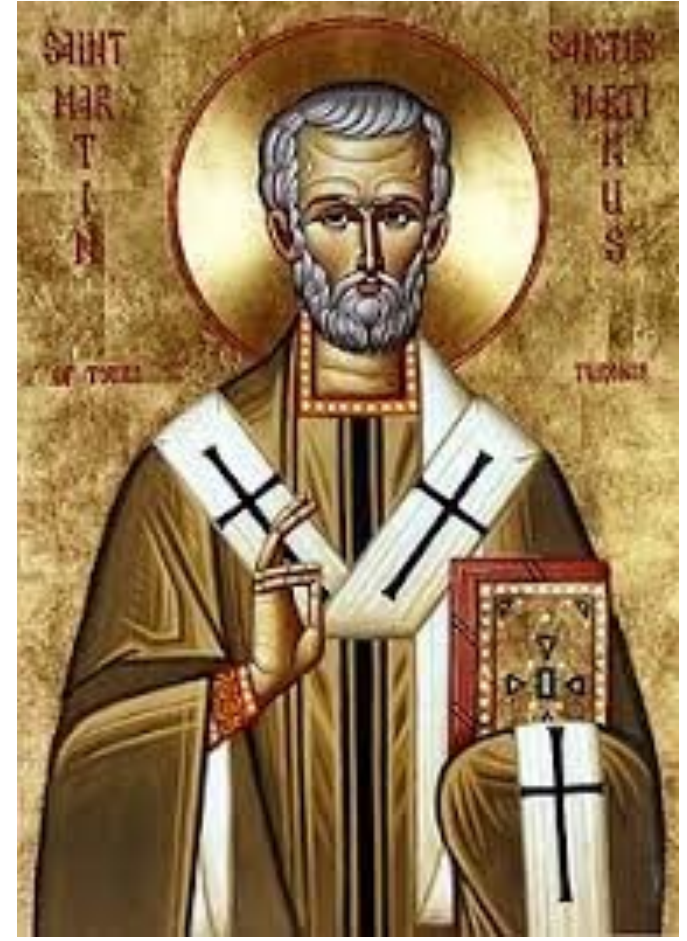
Cemetery  
 Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations  
 Catholic Women's League  
 Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups  
 Children's Liturgy. Youth Ministry  
 West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
 Parish Events Group  
 Parish Financial Council

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

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



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
 Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0  
 Telephone: 289-956-0221  
 Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca  
 www.stmartinsparish.com

**Ministry Schedule - March 2/3**  
**Hospitality Ministers**  
 5:00 pm - Tom Shields & Sharon R.  
 10:00 am - Anita D. & Joan Hignett

**Altar Servers**  
 5:00pm -  
 10:00 am -

**Children's Liturgy**  
 Alicia Tompkins

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
 March 3

**February 24, 2019**  
**The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Lectors**  
 5:00 pm #1 - Katrina Shields  
 #2 - Mitch Pogoda  
 10:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger  
 #2 - Caroline Steger

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
 5:00 pm - Yolanda & Tom  
 10:00 am - Marcel, Vern & Dick

**Stewardship Counting**  
 Antonella Presta & Lisa Poort



# February 24, 2019

## The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year C

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Feb 25	NO MASS. Father Christopher's Day Off	
Tuesday	Feb 26	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Harriet Ross +For the repose of the soul of Jose Martins 10:00 am - 11:00 am Father Christopher at Tai Chi	by the Chorley family by Maria Martins
Wednesday	Feb 27	9:00 am For the special intentions of Joan Moore	by Martha Devlin
Thursday	Feb 28	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis 10:00 am - 11:00 am Father Christopher at Tai Chi	by Pauline Lewis
Friday	Mar 1	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Aleksander Sedula	by Irene Liipiec
Saturday	Mar 2	<b>The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b> 5:00 pm ****AVAILABLE****	
Sunday	Mar 3	10:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm ALPHA COURSE Smithville Christian Reformed Church	

#### ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 6

**Distribution of Ashes**  
**Parish Mass 9:00 am**  
**School Liturgy 1:00 pm**  
**Parish Mass 6:30 pm**  
**Friday Stations / Way of The Cross**  
**will begin March 8th, at 6:00 pm**

#### (NEW) YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST.MARTIN'S

##### **Youth Group Ages 12-14**

Group will meet bi-weekly centered around the 5:00pm Mass and engage in a number of activities following Mass in the parish hall and in the community.

##### **Next Gatherings:**

- **March 9 Mass: Activities in the hall.**
- **March 23 Mass: Maple Syrup Outing**

#### DIOCESAN SEPARATED & DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

We meet every second and fourth Monday (7:00-9:00 p.m.) at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre, Niagara Falls. For information, call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email:

separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com.

The next meetings are on:

February 25, March 11, March 25

#### INVEST 1 HOUR TO SAVE A LIFETIME

##### **40 Days for Life**

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, March 6th – April 14th. We ask each church to adopt **ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm**, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion."

This is a prayerful, silent VIGIL.

To sign up: see the [sign-up table](#) at your church – or contact Annette: [loeffenlife@gmail.com](mailto:loeffenlife@gmail.com), or [905-325-1251](tel:905-325-1251), or Angela: [angelabraun@live.com](mailto:angelabraun@live.com)

#### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

The West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme will offer a fully home cooked meal and social every Thursday beginning January 3, 2019 to June 27, 2019 inclusive from 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Please pass this invitation along to anyone whom you feel would benefit from this programme.

Host Churches:

<b>March</b>	<b>St. Martin of Tours</b>
February & April	Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June	St Ann's Community Church
Fall of 2019 TBA	Smithville Christian Reformed

#### ST. MARTIN'S PARISH EVENTS GROUP

The Parish Events Group (PEG) would like to thank everyone that supported the **Feb.9<sup>th</sup> Annual Pasta Dinner**. Much effort was put forth to create a true home cooked Italian meal to be enjoyed by those with discriminating taste. We, also, would like to thank members from community churches that also came to join us eg Smithville United Church, St. Joseph's Church, Grimsby, St. Helen's Church, Beamsville, St. Kevin's Church, Welland, from Hamilton, the Presbyterian Church.

**Unfortunately there were some unexpected challenges** in spite of our very detailed preparations. However, with every challenge came a blessing. We received the necessary help at some unexpected critical moments. **Yes, things did not unfold as timely as we had planned and we want to express our heartfelt apologies to those that were affected by the extreme delays.**

Fortunately, many saw it as an opportunity to relax and enjoy the moment and socialize (they realized it was not a drive through buying a simple burger, fries & a drink for \$10.00). It was very significant to have received emails from visitors acknowledging how much they appreciated the evening. It helped to lift our heavy hearts and our exhausted bodies.

The next event which the Parish Events Group will be sponsoring will be **Father Christopher's 60th Birthday celebration, on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10:00 am Mass.**

A luncheon will be served to celebrate this special occasion. Please mark this date on your calendar. Other upcoming events which will be sponsored will be the First Communion reception followed by the Parish Picnic in June and the Confirmation reception in the Fall.

Yes, your support by attending our Pasta Dinner will keep on giving. Our sincere thanks for providing those opportunities for our St. Martin's Parish Community. God Bless you all.

<b>PARISH STEWARDSHIP</b>	
<b>FEBRUARY 16/17</b>	
<b>Sunday Offertory (74 Env):</b>	<b>\$ 1472.00</b>
<b>Loose:</b>	<b>\$ 58.15</b>
<b>Loaf of Bread (1 Env):</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Bulletin Ad:</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<i>Thank you for your faithful stewardship</i>	

#### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

##### **Everyone Welcome!**

Please join in this year's service prepared by the women of Slovenia being held at Smithville United Church, Friday March 1st at 2 pm followed by refreshments and fellowship in their downstairs hall. We will host in 2 years, so let's show our support!

Contact Heather Tomascin with any questions at 905 957-7805 or email:

[heathertomascin@bell.net](mailto:heathertomascin@bell.net)

#### LIFE JESUS HIGHER RALLY

Be inspired, encouraged and healed at the largest single-day Catholic event in Canada - the 27th annual Lift Jesus Higher Rally! Inspired talks by Ralph Martin, Peter Herbeck, and keynote guest speaker Fr Mark Goring (Food for Life, Companions of the Cross)

The adult high mass (with Sunday readings) will be celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Collins.

There will be a separate youth event (13-18 years) with great music, dynamic talks and inspirational skits The Youth Mass (with Sunday Readings) will be celebrated by Father Mark Goring. Tickets are \$25 each for adults and \$15 each for youth, plus \$10 for bus fare. Bus will be leaving St Joseph Parish in Grimsby. For more information call Domenic at (905) 945-7536.

#### JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT

The parish community of St. Joseph (Grimsby), in partnership with Blessed Trinity Catholic High School and the elementary schools of Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph, and St. John, will be producing Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat February 28 - March 3.

Proceeds from the production will go to support St. Joseph Parish Youth Ministry and the arts program at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children (12 & under), available at St. Joseph Parish office.

#### OFFICE CLOSED

The parish office will be closed Tuesday morning, Feb 26, but will be open after 12 noon.