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Council #16421 - St. Martin of Tours  
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General Inquiries - attn: Grand Knight



**FRUITFULNESS**

Jesus puts a premium on fruitfulness. He shows us this first by stressing the vineyard owner's severe judgment of the fig tree that has continued to bear no figs. The vineyard owner is ready to remove the fig tree because it is totally unproductive. Secondly, he focuses on the importance of being fruitful by underscoring the vinedresser's unusual concern and attention to try and insure the fig tree's future productivity.

This focus on bearing fruit takes on added importance when we recall Jesus' last conversation with his disciples; "You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." He stated also that this is the way his Father is glorified, "that you bear much fruit and become my disciples." As Jesus was preparing to leave his disciples and begin the ordeal of his crucifixion, he shared his very heart and soul. And at the heart of what he said was his expectations for their fruitfulness.

Opinions vary regarding what is meant by fruit. Some suggest that fruitfulness is simply Christian character, others that it is Christian deeds, and still others that it is Christian converts. To some degree it is inclusive of all of these because the three types of fruit mentioned are interdependent and interconnected.

When we study the nature of fruit, we discover that fruit always contains the seed of new life. So it is with both Christian character and deeds, they are never intended to dwell alone, but are the seeds of new life. Our Christian lives and deeds should result in non-believers' desiring to also become believers. If we as a community of believers are not seeing conversions take place through us, we need to be concerned.

How does all of this fit into Lent? Lent should be both a time of pruning and of cultivation. It is the time of year when we pay special attention to Christ and our relationship with him. As we focus on Christ and add to our lives disciplines that enhance our spiritual consciousness and receptivity to him, it allows the Holy Spirit to begin tilling up the hardness of our hearts. Lenten missions, more frequent attendance at Mass and personal prayer and reflection are all means which the Holy Spirit can use to rework the dry, hard ground of our hearts. As these stony portions are broken up, and turned over, our hearts become more receptive to the nourishing nutrients that bring about growth and fruitfulness.

We are faced with the same decision as the disciples, will we, or will we not go and bear fruit so that the Father is glorified. May this Lent be a time of preparation for just such fruitfulness, and may Easter be a time when we invite those who don't know Christ to "Come see!"

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese  
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.  
Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

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

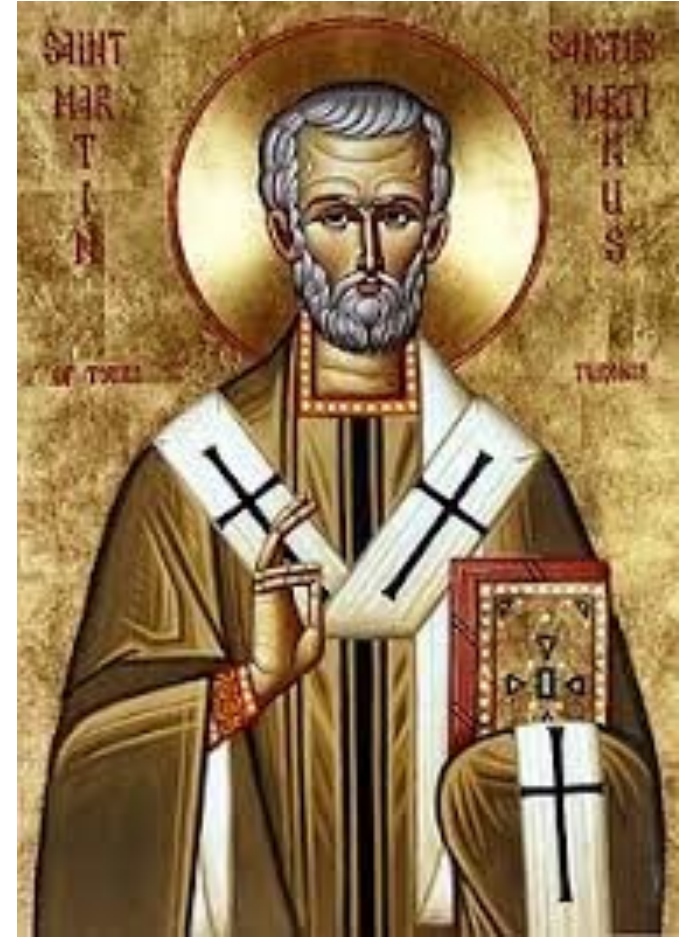
Cemetery  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

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  
Acts Retreat Teams

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 30/31**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Tom Shields  
10:00 am - Deanne & Justin Long.

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

**Children's Liturgy**  
Zoe Gunn

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
April 7

**March 24, 2019**

**The 3rd Sunday of Lent**

**Lectors**  
5:00 pm #1 - Caroline Steger  
#2 - Andrew Steger  
10:00 am #1 - Deanne Long  
#2 - Tom Richardson

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
5:00 pm - Yolanda & Tom  
10:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa

**Stewardship Counting**  
Adam Grzybek & Antonella Presta

# March 24, 2019

## The 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	Mar 25	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of John & Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Tuesday	Mar 26	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Henry Pikula	by Wanda Nowak
		10:00 am	11:00 am	Father Christopher at Tai Chi
Wednesday	Mar 27	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Martha Devlin	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
		9:30 am	11:30 am	Week Two Celebration of Reconciliation at School
Thursday	Mar 28	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ray Whalen	by Anita & Bernie Duggan
		10:00 am	- 11:00 am	Father Christopher at Tai Chi
		5:30 pm	- 7:00 pm	West Lincoln Loaf of Bread Dinner - Parish Hall
		5:00 pm	- 10 pm	Acts Retreat Team Meeting Mississauga
				Father Christopher
Friday	Mar 29	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
		6:00 pm	6:30 pm	Way of the Cross - Stations
Saturday	Mar 30	<b>The 4th Sunday of Lent</b>		
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Aleksander Sekula	by Irene Lipiec
			+For the repose of the souls of Escolastica & Jacinto Melo	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sunday	Mar 31	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

#### (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:**

**April 6** Mass, BBQ, Ball Hockey  
**April 27** Mass, Pizza, Craft

#### FIVE REASONS FOR ATTENDING DAILY MASS

1. Receiving Christ in the Blessed Eucharist gives us the strength to fight selfish pride and sin.
2. Praising God first thing in the morning is the most important thing on our daily calendar.
3. The Mass is our ongoing spiritual formation.
4. The Mass heals.
5. You meet your Creator, your friend, your love.

#### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

The West Lincoln Loaf of Bread programme offers a fully home cooked meal and social every Thursday beginning January to June 27, 2019 inclusive from 5 - 7 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>
April	Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June	St Ann's Community Church
Fall of 2019	TBA Smithville Christian Reformed

#### DIOCESAN SEPARATED & DIVORCES 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](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com).

#### DIOCESAN-WIDE RECONCILIATION / ADORATION

**Saturday, April 6**

In every parish church across the diocese, a priest will be available from 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m. to celebrate Reconciliation individually. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time.

No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing -- or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

#### ST. MARTIN'S KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BEEF ON A BUN FUNDRAISER

**Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus**

All proceeds raised support our Youth Ministry

Sunday March 31st: 2pm - 8pm

St. Martin's Parish Hall

Tickets in advance: Adult - \$10

12 and under - \$5

Licensed Event, Raffle Prizes, Kid Activities

#### LENTEN FOOD DRIVES

Here are two opportunities to help you fulfill your almsgiving during the time of Lent.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Annual Lenten Food Drive

Wednesday, **March 6th-April 17th**

Bags will be distributed after all Masses. Please return them to our Parish Foyer throughout the season Lent. Last collection is April 17. Thank you for your continued support. Vern Dell for Knights of Columbus

#### LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

**St Martin's School Community**

Bags will be sent home to each family to be filled with **just one more** item each time you go grocery shopping. The bags are to be returned before Holy Thursday (April 18).

#### PARISH STEWARDSHIP

March 16/17

Sunday Offertory (67 Env): \$ 1,720.00

Loose: \$ 75.75

Late Facility Maintenance (1 Env): \$ 30.00

Bulletin Ad: \$ 300.00

Memorial Donation (Henry Pikula) \$ 165.00

*Thank you for your faithful stewardship*

#### DIOCESAN "RESPECT FOR LIFE" MASS

Annunciation of the Lord

Monday, March 25 (7:00 p.m.)

Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria

Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding.

Reception following.

Let us pray together for the protection of life in all its stages; for greater respect for God's gift of life; for those wounded by abortion.

#### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Share the journey with members of the Umuechem community in Nigeria. In 1990, a peaceful community in the south of Nigeria became the victim of what has been recognized as the first crime committed by an oil company. Traumatized by a massacre of unparalleled violence, a large majority of the members of this community fled to neighbouring communities, never to return home again.

To make sure that their story is never forgotten and to combat impunity, Development and Peace's partner Social Action is supporting the Umuechem community in their legal action against the oil company. Discover the story of people forced to flee their homes, and ways for each one of us to act in solidarity with them: [devp.org/lent](http://devp.org/lent).