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BE A WITNESS

During a high school shooting, one young victim was asked by the murderers, "Do you believe in Jesus?" She answered, "Yes," and was shot. At her funeral she was referred to as a present-day martyr. And so she was. No one probably told her two years earlier that by believing in Jesus she was choosing to share not only in his life, but also in his suffering. However, when she was called upon to do so, she did so bravely.

We all desire to share in the life of Christ, but we must understand that his is the life of a Suffering Savior. When Jesus called the disciples, they did not receive an explanation of what lay ahead. They experienced the dust and grime of his travels and the joy and amazement of his miracles. They delighted in the wisdom of Jesus' teachings, their increasing understanding, and in the glory that came with being a part of Jesus' entourage. But they also experienced the judgment and hostility leveled at Jesus by his malefactors, and eventually the threat of death associated with his crucifixion.

With Jesus' resurrection, and the subsequent indwelling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost they took on his life in new ways. No longer were they simply accompanying him on his journey of ministry, now they were providing the teaching and miracles as Jesus lived out his life through them. The hostility which was previously directed at Jesus was still directed at him, only now he was indwelling their bodies and the hostility had to go through them to get to him. Yet they never faltered, never thought of exchanging his life for escape. Rather they gloried that they were able to share in his suffering knowing that his power was resting on them. The following anonymous poem says it well.

"But as the Master so shall the servant be,
And pierced are the feet that follow me.

Can he have followed far, Who has no wound, no scar?"

Jesus prayed that we wouldn't be taken out of the world, thus escaping its misery and pain, but that we would be kept while in the world, making his life present to those experiencing the misery and pain of this world.

Jesus was given all authority in heaven and earth. From this position of Lordship and authority he tells his disciples, and subsequently those of us who have joined ourselves in baptism to them, to "Go ... and make disciples." This command is not known as the "Great Suggestion" but rather as the "Great Commandment." It is and should be authoritative in our lives.

Jesus not only faithfully calls us to various tasks in this mission of evangelization but he also provides the means for our accomplishing it. Jesus affirms that he will send to the apostles and to us, the promised Holy Spirit who will provide the power to live for him, to witness of him, and if necessary to die for him. The Holy Spirit's transforming power changes us from self-centered, self-preserving individuals into people whose ultimate purpose is to "serve the living and true God." (1 Thessalonians 1:10)

As we prepare for this "Ascension of the Lord" Sunday we need to picture ourselves standing there watching him ascend into heaven, and once again hear his voice, "You shall be my witnesses."

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
First Sunday of the Month
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**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
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Ministry Schedule - May 19/20

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tom Shields
9:00 am - Bea & Alfons Blokhuis
11:00 am - Chuck & Elaine Parry

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Katie & Laura
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy

Carolyn Tompkins

Next Hospitality Sunday

June 3

May 13, 2018

**The
Ascension
of the Lord**

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples
#2 - Mitch Pogoda
9:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin
#2 - Mary Pikula
11:00 am #1 - Deanne Long
#2 - Lisa Poort

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Yolanda
9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Dick
11:00 am - Nick, Paula & Victoria

Stewardship Counting

Elaine Parry & Jennifer Fife

May 13, 2018

The Ascension of the Lord - Year B



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

Monday	May 14	St. Matthias 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Geraldine Bell	by Vickie & Rick Beirmes
Tuesday	May 15	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Mary Fedorik +For the repose of the soul of Louie Madzo Sr.	by family by Norrie Franko
Wednesday	May 16	6:30 pm For a Mass of Thanksgiving	by Rose Koshy
Thursday	May 17	9:00 am +In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Friday	May 18	9:00 am For the special intentions of Cathy Cartaginense	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Saturday	May 19	Penecost Sunday 5:00 pm +For the repose of the soul of John Wisniewski	by Ted & Joan Wisniewski
Sunday	May 20	9:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family 11:00 am For the special intentions of & God's blessings upon Cathy Cartaginense	by Sandy & Treeva Johnson

OFFICE CLOSED MAY 22nd and 25th.

Please note that the parish office will be closed on May 22nd and 25th. If you need something from the office, please come in this week and I will be happy to serve you. The office will reopen on Tuesday May 29th. Thank you. Sandy.

HOLY HOUR

Will take place this Sunday beginning at 2:00pm. We encourage all to attend, but we do at times require Lay Ministers to show interest in praying as a preparation for ministry, especially Eucharistic Ministry.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL PRIESTLY RETREAT

Priests of our diocese will be on their annual yearly retreat from Monday, June 4th, Friday, June 8, 2018.

NO WEEKDAY MASSES.

WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS UPCOMING BAPTISMS

We will welcome into our parish family, Scarlette and Kendall Sarantakos and Seamus White, who will be baptized next Sunday, May 20th and Jake Lupton who will be baptized on Sunday May 27th. Congratulations to Nickoloas and Amber-Lee Sarantakos, Robert and Rachel White and Jason and Donna Lupton as they have Scarlette, Kendall, Seamus and Jake baptized.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday May 29, 2018 at 6:00pm will be the Official Blessing of the NEW St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, by Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D. Bishop of St. Catharines. We look forward to "showing off our "Little School That Grew" on this special evening. There will be entertainment provided by the school choir and band following the official program. Refreshments will be served in the school library. Should you have any questions feel free to contact the school at: **905 957-3032**

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED

Every day one in five students goes to school without proper nutrition. Several lack daily essentials such as warm clothing, shoes and personal care items.

Your donation of \$13.75 will provide a student with an early morning meal and a snack for a week. Cheques & credit cards accepted, donate on line at www.nfce.org Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario L3C 7C1 (905) 735-0247, extension 210.

We often associate poverty with developing countries. That is a far cry from reality. Poverty is right here at home in our own back yard and sometimes we may not realize that. As the message says, one on five students goes to school every day hungry here in our own backyard. Thank you.

ADULT CONFIRMATION

For adults who have made preparations to receive this sacrament on Pentecost Sunday, May 20 at the 11:30 a.m. Mass with Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria St. Catharines, there will be a short rehearsal at 11:00 a.m.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Dosseh Sassou-Messan/Grace Nardini – May 13
Owen Long – May 14
Bernard Duggan/Anne Marie Tomascini – May 16
Vern Dell – May 18
Louis Volpatti – May 20

Anniversaries:

Dan & Diane McSweeney – May 15
Frank & Kristina Brajer – May 18

PARISH STEWARDSHIP MAY 5/6 2018

Sunday Offering (76 Env):	\$1,670.00
Loose:	\$ 393.65
Pope's Pastoral Works (41 Env):	\$ 480.00
Loose:	\$ 137.55
Later Facility Maintenance (1 Env):	\$ 10.00

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

PARISH DISCERNMENT GROUP V

Haldimand Deanery Parishes

April through to November 2018.

Diocesan/Parish Team Meeting was Saturday, May 12, Gethsemane Centre, Wellandport. We presented the written and oral presentation of the "Parish Story".

Weekend of June 3/4 is the Parish Survey.

Further details will be posted soon. Thank you.

Discernment Prayer

God of mercy and source of all wisdom,
we ask your blessing on our
parish discernment journey:

May we be a place to encounter you in Word,
Sacrament, and Service.

May we be a "family of families," diverse and yet one.

May we embrace lifelong learning,
formed by Church teaching.

May we be people of charity, justice, and peace
authentic witnesses to the dignity of life
and the common good.

May we grow in holiness by sharing your Good News
with others and serving those who are most in need,
both within our parish and beyond its boundaries.

May we celebrate your abundant gifts
and be good stewards of all that you have given us.
May we be a community that exists not for ourselves,
but for your saving mission.

Most of all, may we embody your son Jesus,
alive in our midst.

As we seek to discern the spiritual
and material needs of our parish,
help us to pray fervently, listen attentively,
and decide where you are calling us to go.

We ask this through your son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen