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DYING TO ONE'S SELF

During WW II a Franciscan priest, Saint Maximilian Kolbe, while being held a prisoner in the starvation bunker of Auschwitz, was confronted with an extraordinary call to sacrifice. Much of his life had been spent proclaiming and celebrating the sacrifice of Christ, and as a missionary, inviting others to follow Jesus' life and example. Suddenly he was asked to lay it all on the line as he was confronted with a life-giving decision. Would he draw back and seek to save his life as many others did or would he follow Jesus' example and lay down his life for another?

Franciszek Gajowniczek, a fellow prisoner, a husband and father had no choice. His name was randomly called, along with the names of nine other prisoners, to step forward and be executed. But his walk to certain death was suddenly interrupted and his life was given back to him, as Kolbe spoke up asking permission to take his place. In cold indifference, the commandant granted Kolbe his request, Kolbe's life in exchange for Gajowniczek's. By this singular act of courage Saint Maximilian Kolbe brought the light of Christ into the midnight darkness of Auschwitz.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe is only one of a myriad of Christians who chose to follow Jesus' example of sacrificial living. As we read these accounts, and today's Gospel text, we stand in awe and wonder. How can a person who loves life and loves people, so willingly and confidently step forward, and with forethought, choose to sacrificially lay down their life? John's Gospel text mentions three times that Jesus knew that "the hour" had arrived, meaning that the time appointed for his sacrifice and death was here. He fully knew of the suffering that lay ahead of him. The fact that he was both human and divine in no way diminished the impending suffering, but rather magnified it, adding a dimension to his cross that we cannot humanly fathom. Yet he did not falter and went to the cross in obedient submission with committed resolve.

Neither sacrifice nor martyrdom are accidental responses which unexpectedly find a home in our lives. Rather they are the natural, or should we say supernatural, response to a lifetime of seemingly little acts of obedience. Daily as we say "no" to our world and our will, and "yes" to the Kingdom of God and His will, we appropriate the grace of dying to self. These daily acts of self denial are the dress rehearsals that prepare us to step forward and answer that occasional, ultimate, call to follow Christ in a major act of sacrifice or even martyrdom. Suddenly, Lent and our various Lenten sacrifices take on a new dimension. They can and should be a short course in self-denial that not only reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf, but also encourages us toward a life-style of self-denial, as we bring Christ's light into this darkened world.

The truth about the drama of the moral life and about freedom is revealed, John Paul concludes, by the example of those prepared to die rather than do what they know is wrong. The witness of martyrs is a powerful counter to the claim that the dignity of freedom lies in doing things my way. The martyr teaches us that freedom is truly personal and truly liberating when it seeks the good and rejects evil, even to the point of death. Not everyone is called to be a martyr. Everyone is called to be a witness to moral truth, and 'witness' is the original meaning of the term martyr.

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
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group.
Childrens' Liturgy

Diocese of St. Catharines

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



**DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE
SOLIDARITY SUNDAY**

**SHARE LENT
COLLECTION BEGINS**

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

Ministry Schedule - Mar 24/25

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Louie Madzo
11:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Filled

Children's Liturgy

Tanya Jones

Next Hospitality Sunday

May 6

Mar 18, 2018

**The 5th
Sunday in
Lent**

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
#2 - Tom Shields
9:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
#2 - Tom Richardson
11:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
#2 - Deanne Long

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic
Ministers**

5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Vern
11:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa

Stewardship Counting

Elaine Parry & Sandy Johnson

March 18, 2018

The 5th Sunday in Lent - Year B



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

Monday	Mar 19	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Lou Zych	by Anne Fedorik
Tuesday	Mar 20	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Marg & Dick Van Geest & family	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
Wednesday	Mar 21	6:30 pm	+For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman	by the Newman family
Thursday	Mar 22	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Grace Tye	by Joan & Bob Hignett
Scripture Study in the parish hall 9:30am-11:00am. Come, join us.				
Friday	Mar 23	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Brian Kosczuk	by Josie & Vern Dell
		6:00 pm	Way of The Cross - Stations!	
Saturday	Mar 24	<i>The Passion of the Lord</i>		
		5:00 pm	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	Mar 25	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck	by the Lupien family
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of the Lewis children and spouse, grandchildren and great grandchildren	by Pauline Lewis

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH GRIMSBY

Form II of Reconciliation/ Penitential Service with Individual Confession, Tuesday March 20, at 7:00pm.
All parishioners invited....

ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Lenten School Confessions each Wednesday in Lent beginning at 9:30am.

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The brown bag you kindly accepted can be returned on or before Holy Thursday! They will be picked up and taken to West Lincoln Community Care to help stock the shelves for Easter. If you have already received a bag through your child at St. Martin's school, please don't take another! We Thank You for your continued generosity!

LENTEN SEASON, 2018

The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of Lent, but not during Easter Triduum. School Stations 2:45pm and Parish 6:00pm.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD

Our parish is "host" for the month of March. We thank you the Parishioners for supporting this social justice outreach to the Community of Smithville. We acknowledge and thank our wonderful bunch of volunteers who serve a full hot meal every Thursday from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in the parish hall.

HOLY WEEK/ EASTER

Sat March 24:	Reconciliation 4:00pm - 4:30pm Passion Vigil Mass 5:00pm
Sun March 25:	Passion Sunday Reconciliation after 9:00am & 11:00am Masses
Mon March 26:	9:00am morning Mass Evening Holy Hour 6:30pm - 7:30pm Reconciliation at this time. Benediction at 7:30pm
Tues March 27:	Morning Mass 9:00am Chrism Mass Cathedral 7:30pm
Wed March 28:	Parish Holy Hour 5:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30pm - 6:15pm Mass at 6:30pm

SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Thursday March 29:	Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30pm (12 Volunteers needed for Washing of Feet) Prayer at Adoration Chapel until 10:00pm
Good Friday March 30:	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm
Saturday March 31:	Easter Vigil with Baptisms 8:00pm
Easter Sunday April 1:	9:00am & 11:00am Masses.

PARISH DISCERNMENT

Bishop Bergie has invited the Halimand Deanery, Group V, to begin the Parish Discernment Process Saturday **April 14, 2018**, at the Gethsemane Centre, 84008 Wellandport Road from **9:30am to 12 noon**. Sr. Margaret Kane, CSJ, will be the facilitator.

The Parish Team has now been discerned and confirmed. We thank those individuals willing to accept this wonderful opportunity as we move the parish forward and into the "New Evangelization"...

The Diocese of St. Catharine has informed us that due to space, we need to reduce the number of people on the Team. The TEAM for St. Martin of Tours is:
Father Christopher G. Gillen. Josie and Vern Dell. Elaine Parry. Lisa Poort. Heather Tomascin. Andrew and Caroline Steger.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

SOLIDARITY SUNDAY

March 18, is Solidarity Sunday. Our annual Share Lent Collection will take place at all the weekend Masses. This Special Collection will remain **OPEN** until the Second Sunday of Easter. Thank you for supporting the good works of Development and Peace.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. 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 - 40 Days for Life." To sign up: www.wpcprolife.com, and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or contact: Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363

ST. MARTIN'S WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website. You can find the bulletin, the Ministry Schedule and upcoming events there. It is updated every Thursday.

SUNDAY (WEEKEND) MINISTRIES

We kindly remind you to please find a replacement if you cannot server your scheduled ministry. We also require all ministers and altar servers to arrive 15mins prior to Mass. We must begin Mass at the proper scheduled time. Thank you.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP MARCH 10/11, 2018

Sunday Offering (75 Env) \$1,825.00

Loose \$42.75

Late Facility Maintenance (4 Env) \$40.00

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

DIOCESAN "RESPECT FOR LIFE"

Solemn Mass: Annunciation of the Lord Monday, April 9 (7:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria -- Bishop Gerard Bergie presiding (reception following, hosted by the C.W.L.) The Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Isabella, and other groups are invited to send representatives and carry banners in the procession. For info, call Elise Mathie (905/684-7569) or Martina Flatman (289/686-6122).

Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education:

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[+ Niagara Catholic Education Award of Distinction] ~ Bishop's Gala ~ Do you know that one in five students goes to school hungry every day? Many need daily necessities of life. Your support of the Bishop's Gala can help. Join us on Friday, April 20 (cocktails 5:30 pm, dinner 7:00 pm) Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines. Tickets \$80 each, with a \$30 tax receipt upon request; includes one drink ticket and two bottles of wine on each table during dinner (must be purchased by April 13). For tickets, call Sherry Morena at (905-735-0240 x213)

THE SERRA CLUB ST.CATHARINES

Promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life presents Trivia Night on Friday, April 27. Dinner served at 6:00 pm, trivia starts at 7:00 pm St. Alfred Church, St. Catharines (tickets \$20/person or \$160/table of 8) Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, coffee, dessert, and a door prize ticket For tickets, contact Jodi Di Domenico (905/353-0158) didoms99@msn.com or Mike Lettieri (289/296-5485)

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

- Heather Belmont - Mar 18
- Anthony Notarianni - Mar 19
- Rachel Sills - Mar 20
- Sylvana Oliver - Mar 23
- Christian Pearson/Sara Scime - Mar 24
- LoTrenzo Joyner - Mar 24
- Cheryl Dell/Alessandra DeFilippis - Mar 25