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JESUS' DESCENDING INTO HELL

The Apostles' Creed states that Jesus *descended into hell* after his death on the cross on Good Friday. This phrase is often the source of wonder and discussion. In the previous presentation of the Apostles' Creed used in Mass, it said that Jesus *descended to the dead*. What is really being said here?

The following information is taken directly from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, published by the Publications Service, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa, Canada. It was copyrighted in 1994. Sections 632, 633, 634, 635 are presented here. The scripture texts have been referenced by name and number, rather than by the footnote.

632 The frequent New Testament affirmations that Jesus was "raised from the dead" presuppose that the crucified one sojourned in the realm of the dead prior to his resurrection. (Eph 4:9-10) This was the first meaning given in the apostolic preaching to Christ's descent into hell: that Jesus like all men, experienced death and in his soul joined the others in the realm of the dead. But he descended there as Saviour, proclaiming the Good News to the spirits imprisoned there. (1 Peter 3:18-19)

633 Scripture calls the abode of the dead, to which the dead Christ went down "hell" – *Sheol* in Hebrew or *Hades* in Greek – because those who are there are deprived of the vision of God. (Phil 2:10) Such is the case for all the dead, whether evil or righteous, while they await the Redeemer: which does not mean that their lot is identical, as Jesus shows through the parable of the poor man Lazarus who was received into "Abraham's bosom". (Ps 89:49) "It is precisely these holy souls, who awaited their Savior in Abraham's bosom, whom Christ the Lord delivered when he descended into hell. (Roman Catechism 1,6,3) Jesus did not descend into hell to deliver the damned, nor to destroy the hell of damnation, but to free the just who had gone before him. (Council of Rome in 745)

634 "The gospel was preached even to the dead." (1 Pet 4:6) The descent into hell brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfilment. This is the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission, a phase which is condensed in time but vast in its real significance: the spread of Christ's redemptive work to all men of all times and all places, for all who are saved have been made sharers in the redemption.

635 Christ went down into the depths of death, so that "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live". (Jn 5:25) Jesus, "the Author of life", by dying destroyed "him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and delivered all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage". Heb 2:14-15 Henceforth the risen Christ holds "the keys of Death and Hades" so that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth." (Rev 1:18)

Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

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 and Benediction
1st Friday @ 8:00 am
3rd and 4th Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confessions
Wed 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Fri 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
Fri 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office.

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website
www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



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March 26, 2017
4th Sunday of
Lent

March 26, 2017

4th Sunday of Lent - Year A

Monday	Mar 27	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
Tuesday	Mar 28	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis & family
Wednesday	Mar 29	6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
Thursday	Mar 30	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Mar 31	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
		9:30 am	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	
		10:30 am	School Lenten Mass in the Gym	
		6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
		7:00 pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	
Saturday	Apr 1	9:00am	****AVAILABLE****	
			5th Sunday of Lent	
		5:00 pm	For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	Apr 2	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of James Philip Todd	by Heather Belmont & family
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Antonio Borges	by Maria Borges

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1847.85 to our parish last week .

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available this week:

Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm
 Friday 8:15 am - 8:45 am
 Friday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm
 Saturday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm
 Or by request.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday, March 31st following both the morning and evening Masses.

This Friday the Stations are entitled "Stations according to Development & Peace".

GOOD FRIDAY'S POOR MAN'S MEAL

The Parish Events Group (PEG) will host a Poor Man's Meal. This is a simple meal in solidarity's with our disadvantaged brothers and sisters in the world. It will consist of a bowl of soup and a bun. It will take place after the Good Friday service. There will be a sign up sheet at the back of the church. It is important that we know how many will attend.

EVER WONDER ...

Have you ever wondered why in the Apostle's Creed it says that Jesus descended into hell? Find out on the back page of this bulletin.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

On Saturday, April 1, 2017 in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. to hear individual confessions. 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.



HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES APRIL 10 - 16

Monday - Mass at 9:00 am
 Tuesday - Mass at 9:00 am
 Wednesday - Mass at 6:30 pm
 Holy Thursday - Mass at 7:00 pm
 Good Friday - Service at 3:00 pm
 Saturday at 11:00 am - Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
 Easter Vigil - Mass at 8:00 pm
 Easter Sunday - Mass at 9:00 and 11:00 am

DIOCESAN COLLECTION

Next Sunday, on the fifth Sunday of Lent, the annual collection in support of the Canadian Catholic Organization of Development & Peace (D & P) will be taken up. D & P was founded by the Canadian bishops in the year 1967, as the official international development agency of the Roman Catholic Church in Canada. It's goal is to create active international solidarity between Canadians and the Global South.

Envelopes are included in your box set and at the back of the church. *If donating by cheque, please make it payable to St. Martin's Parish.*

Monies from this collection will be sent to the Diocesan Office and from there to the CCOOP.

WASHROOM REPAIRS

Recently new toilets were placed in the washrooms of the first floor and basement of the church. The time had come to replace them with ones that were energy efficient and working properly. The cost was \$873.12. Money for this work came from the monthly parish maintenance collection.

We thank Tony Notarianni and Dick Van Geest who volunteered their time and expertise to make these changes.

CHURCH PROJECT UPDATE

The computer and software used with the projector in the church was recently updated. The total cost for the new equipment was \$1256.20. Money for this work came from the monthly parish maintenance collection.

NOT RECEIVING COMMUNION?

Those who are not receiving Communion may receive a special blessing from those giving Holy Communion. The sign to request this blessing is to come in the Communion line, stand before the person giving Communion, and place your hands across your chest.

PALM BRANCHES

Palm branches from last year or previous years, may be brought to the church for proper disposal. Place them in the box in the foyer.

Since palms are blessed they should be burnt or buried, not put out in the garbage.

30 PIECES OF SILVER

Only Matthew gives the amount of money Judas was paid to betray Jesus - 30 pieces of silver. But Matthew's primary interest seems to be its symbolism more than the exact amount.

The Book of Exodus, in a section setting forth various laws and regulations, stipulates that if an ox gores a slave, the owner of the ox must pay the slave owner "30 shekels of silver." The parallel is clear. In the exchange of money between Judas and the chief priests, Matthew portrays Jesus as someone valued no more than a slave.

BISHOP'S GALA

The 14th Annual Bishop's Gala will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2017, 5:30 p.m. at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines. Tickets are \$80 per person; \$750 for a table of 10 and can be ordered through the Niagara Catholic website or by contacting Sherry

Morena, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 905-735-0240, ext. 213 or sherry.morena@ncdsb.ca.

DIVINE MERCY: IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD DVD SERIES

Are you interested in learning more about Divine Mercy and its message to the world? Introducing "Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told" from the Augustine Institute, based on the book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, and bringing to life the drama and splendour of God's merciful love revealed in Sacred Scripture, manifested in key moments in Church history, and realized in our present time of mercy. This 10 week program continues to take place on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm in our parish hall and will conclude on April 17th, just before Divine Mercy Sunday. If you would like to join us at this time, the DVDs are available for you to view to catch up. It is not too late to register so please add your name to the sign up sheets in the church foyer, or email the parish office at st.martins@cogeco.ca, or Yvonne at yvonne_divinemersey@outlook.com.

UPCOMING ACTS RETREATS

ACTS is an acronym for:

Adoration – God's Call, your acceptance and answer
 Community – love and caring for each other
 Theology – "studying" through scripture and our faith
 Service – to God and His people

It is these four themes that are the focus of the activities of the weekend and have become known as the "Pillars" or "Components" of the weekend. Come and renew yourself spiritually, to strengthen your faith and to apply it to your daily life. Reserve your spot as space is limited.



Women's Retreat – May 4 – 7, 2017

Men's Retreat – June 8 – 11, 2017

Contact Giulia Spadafora: 416-705-3153 (Women's Retreat) or Ray Pellerin: 905-327-1425 (Men's Retreat). For more info, please visit our website: www.actscanada.org

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Tom Diletti – Mar 26
 Marika Patey – Mar 27
 Scott Pearson – Mar 29
 Cathy Mous/Mike Perry/Caroline Steger – Mar 30
 Hailey Miller – Mar 31
 Cameron Cooney /Robert MacMaster – Apr 1
 George Yakowenko/Deanne Long – April 2

Anniversaries:

JJ & Caroline Burke – Apr 1