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**REJOICE AND BE GLAD**

The great feast of Easter has begun, Christian stewards. Let us rejoice and be glad! Just as we embraced the discipline and fasting of Lent, let us fully embrace the joy and feasting that the next 50 days offer. We are called to be good stewards of the Easter season.

Our first reading, from Acts, gives instruction on how to do this. Here, St. Peter says that our Lord, "commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead... that everyone who believes in him will receive forgiveness of sins through his name."

How do we ordinary people preach and testify to all the God has done? By the way we live our ordinary lives - through the intentional use of our time, talents and treasure for the kingdom of God. Putting God and others ahead of ourselves in every aspect of our lives is the most eloquent preaching we can do. Boldly and joyfully embracing a stewardship way of life is our most powerful testimony.

As Christian stewards, we are the modern-day witnesses of an incredible miracle prompted by unfathomable love - the death and Resurrection of our Savior for us. Let us rejoice and be glad and let's make sure our lives are a testimony to this amazing grace!

reflections@catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

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

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

**Office hours**  
Tuesday and Thursday  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Administrative Assistant**  
Sandy Johnson

**Financial Recorder**  
Tracy Piggott

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

**Requesting Sacraments**  
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**St Martin School**  
Phone 905-957-3032

**Cemetery**  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Carolyn Vaughan  
Knights of Columbus  
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy. Youth Ministry  
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
Parish Events Group  
Parish Financial Council  
Responsible Faith Ministry  
ACTS Retreat Teams

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

**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

**April 12, 2020**  
**Easter Sunday of the Resurrection  
of the Lord - Year A**

April 12, 2019

# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Apr 13	9:00 am	Available	
Tues	Apr 14	9:00 am	+Ruth McCleary	by Tracy Piggott
Wed	Apr 15	9:00 am	Available	
Thurs	Apr 16	9:00 am	Available	
Fri	Apr 17	9:00 am	+Daciel Medeiros	by the Melo & Mikhail Families
Sat	Apr 18	<b>The 2nd Sunday of Easter</b> 5:00 pm	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Apr 19	10:00 am	+Rick Malaryk	by Mike & Mary Hornak

Join Father Christopher from your home as he celebrates Holy Week and our beautiful liturgies alone, but with YOU in his mind and heart. Remember our church building is closed. But WE as CHURCH are OPEN. Please also go online for the celebrations of Holy Week liturgies. Be safe, be prayerful. Keep your social distance. God bless you all!

## SHARE LENT 2020

We continue with our Share Lent collection for Development and Peace. Some have mailed in their donations and for this we are extremely grateful. You can also give online to this annual collection.

Thank you.

<https://www.devp.org/en/campaign/forourcommonhome>

## MAY GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO OUR PARISH IN LIGHT OF COVID -19 AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

April 5, 2020

### Dropped Off Collection / Mailed In - Thank You!

Envelopes (16)	\$ 1,035.00
Share Lent (4)	\$ 210.00
Holy Land (1)	\$ 50.00
Easter (1)	\$ 50.00
Facility Maintenance (6)	\$ 130.00
Cathedral Pledge (1)	\$ 25.00

## PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are all challenged now with our personal finances. People are losing their jobs and others are being laid off. Many are now worrying about food and rent. We stand in solidarity with all during this period of "EMERGENCY".

We don't doubt that our regular parishioners and those who use our offertory envelope system will continue to support us financially. Our commitment and responsibility to our Faith Community remains. We thank you in advance for your solidarity at this difficult time.

You may wish to send in your stewardship monthly by mail or when this crisis is over we can make up for the collection not given at this time. Thank you and God bless.

## ONLINE DAILY EUCHARIST

With no public weekday or weekend Masses we offer the following:

- Please share our online bulletin with others.
- Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League please send out the bulletin link to all your members. Thank you!

We continue to keep Holy Sabbath.

In an effort to continue the practice of our faith in these trying times, I would like to invite you to [join us online](#) for daily Mass.

**Vision TV** Sun - 8:00 am  
Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm  
Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

**Salt + Light** Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm  
Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,  
3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

**yesTV** Sun - 10:30 am  
Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

**Internet** [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)  
[www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass)

Mass this Sunday is streamed live from our Cathedral at 11:30 am.

Visit the diocesan website for viewing:  
[www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He has Risen!**  
**Easter Sunday Pastoral Letter - April 12, 2020**  
**Rev. Fr. Christopher Gerard Gillen**

**My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.**

Firstly, I extend my heartfelt greetings to each and every one of you on this great feast of the Lord's Resurrection.

As we wake up on this Easter Sunday morning, we may find ourselves feeling a bit disoriented and even lost without our regular routines of getting ready to gather with our church family for the celebration of our Eucharist. Finding ourselves in unprecedented times, we gather in a different way today. Trusting that by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit we are always connected as Christ's Church. "He is before all things, and in him, all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)

How are you holding up? Its been quite a few weeks, as we seek to find a new normal with the regular routines of life being taken away. Perhaps it feels like time is standing still. Or perhaps time suddenly feels all-encompassing as our online platforms for communication seem to take over and we wonder if it's ok to disconnect. And even if we did disconnect, what would we do? Where would we go?

In these times when we are asked to practice physical distancing (not social distancing because we are using social media) and self-isolation, we must remember we are not alone. We are in this together and "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress of hope."

The challenge of Easter with COVID -19 Pandemic is to decide whether we want to live in the Risen Christ or not. The life and joy and peace of Easter are ours for the asking. Let us ask God today to move us to accept the Easter message into our hearts. Let us ask Him to make us Easter people - people who are God-centered, people who follow Jesus, people who serve the Church.

We need this Easter Sunday now more than ever because we need to concentrate on the values, the faith and the truth that Easter reveals to us. We need to know them, be convinced of them and live by them. We should not allow this pandemic and challenges of this life to destroy our hope in life guaranteed to us by the Easter Good News.

While we struggle to make this world respond to God's expectation for its injustice, development and peace, and while we struggle to banish oppression, hunger, disease and war from the face of the earth, we must always nourish, through prayer and service to others, the hope we have through the Risen Christ for achieving His "new life" (Cor 1,15:15).

This is hope in the true and real promise of the Gospel, the possession of everlasting life in joy and peace with God.

Let us ask the Lord to make us peacemakers in our homes and in our society. Let us ask Him to make us true Christians who live the Gospel, who love the poor and care for the needy. Let us be people whose primary purpose is to build up the Kingdom of God, which is "justice, love and peace," so that the true meaning of Easter will be realized in the lives of humankind.

I recognize that it is likely that some of us will fall ill. Some of you live alone, and so, I urge you to monitor your own health and err on the side of caution. When you feel in the least bit unwell, practice self-care. Stay home. Ask for help. Call on your family and friends, neighbours to assist you. Call me at anytime of the day or night if you need a listening ear.

(289 956-0221) [fr.christopher@hotmail.com](mailto:fr.christopher@hotmail.com)

In a time of heightened anxiety, I am deeply grateful for your faithfulness and financial support that continues to maintain our parish of St. Martin. However, we need one, and all, to continue to manage our stewardship efforts and a thousand other little things. We are finding new ways to serve a very old mission: to be salt for the earth and light for the world.

God works in mysterious ways. Through the cancellation of Masses and other ministries, we may bring our parish family even closer together. I *hope everyone will view this experience as a fallow time. Life should not return to the same place as it was before this crisis.* Surely, the Easter Resurrection will have a new meaning this year during this apocalyptic exile. Even now, my eyes are opened in a new way to the depth of faith and commitment of the world community. My eyes are opened to new ways of connecting with each other, of being the Church for one another. My eyes are opened in a new way to the presence of God in our midst. God is, right now, doing a new thing in our midst. It's not what we expected, it's not what we would have chosen for ourselves, but here it is for all to see. It's wondrous to behold.

On this Easter Sunday, the Risen Lord says to each of us, "Peace be with you" (John 20:29). May we know and cherish that peace and love in its vision every day of our precious and fragile lives.

For now, this is what you can do: serenity in the storm. "Keep Calm and Carry On." Every day, establish a routine to meet the sacred every day. Good things emanate, what you emanate now is the most important thing. Our need for prayer is more urgent than ever, and our vigilance in caring for each other must remain intentional and strong. Please keep each other in prayer. Pray for me. A blessed Easter to you; and loved ones all.

Shalom, Christopher+