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PRODUCING FRUITS

Fertilizing, weeding and watering the garden was a nuisance I preferred to leave to others. As a youngster it was a responsibility thrust on me, and a job which I unwillingly carried out with diligence, if not with a positive attitude. To my chagrin when guests visited, my Dad would take them down to show them his garden and share some of his vegetables with them. These occasions produced within me both a spirit of satisfaction and of disappointment; A spirit of satisfaction because my work had resulted in real fruitfulness, a spirit of disappointment because my Dad took all the glory.

The parable in this week's Gospel reading deals with similar unfulfilled expectations, and with disappointments. It implies that God had expectations for the people of Israel, and that Israel's response was disappointing. The landowner's legitimate expectations for his tenant farmers were thwarted, even when he sent his son to see that they were carried out. Not unlike the treatment our Lord received, they responded with hostility resulting in the violent death of the householder's son. In Jesus' case the rejection of his rightful claim as Lord, first took subtle forms; behind the back conversations against him, hostile questioning, judgmentalism, and foot-dragging reticence to follow and respond to him. Eventually this hostility burst forth into overt opposition, conspiracy, and murder.

Does God have expectations for you and for me? Most of us today are concerned with our own expectations of others, and with avoiding disappointment, but perhaps we should expend our energies more fully on the opportunity we have to fulfill our Lord's expectations. Will we be faithful stewards, tending the vineyards he has entrusted to us? When we reject him, either subtly by trying to avoid his claim on our lives, or overtly by resisting his will, we suffer by not fully sharing in his life and the good he has for us. Perhaps there can be no fuller joy than to hear Jesus, 'Well done.'

As we labor in the vineyard he entrusts to us, our heavenly Father wants to rejoice in the fruitfulness of our lives. He not only affirms us but also shares with us his glory, even though we know that it was he who worked and produced the results, and that we were only a willing tool in his hand.

Gardening is the first job that Adam was given in the garden of Eden; it is the symbol of what everybody's job is: shoveling manure to make the unfruitful fig tree (us) bloom. It will never bloom because of the manure, but God, touched by our persevering efforts and patient endurance, may make the thing blossom anyway - not because of our efforts and patience, but because of God's most tender love for us. Gardening requires both a spirit of diligence and faithfulness, it also involves the contrasting aspects of dependence and rest. We should faithfully do all we can to produce fruit, but ultimately we must recognize that it is God who gives increase. Knowing this should enable us to relax and work peacefully leaving the outcome to him who works his will through us.

Perhaps it is time for us to get our hands dirty tending our Lord's vineyard. When we do, we will experience growth in our lives and see fruitfulness in the lives of others.

Emmaus Journey Reflections



Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

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 Friday @ 8:00am

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
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.

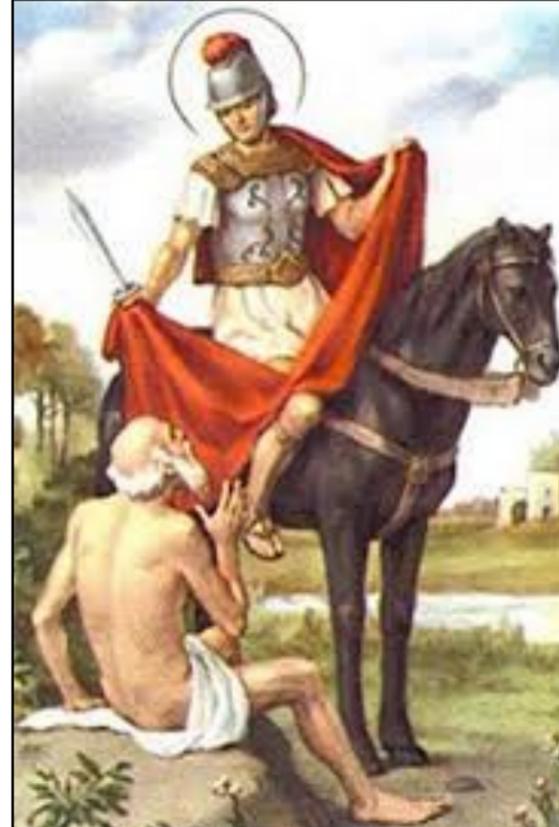
St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
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www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Oct 14/15

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Mous & Dossen S.
9:00 am - John Mataseje, Louie Madzo & Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - George Yakowenko & Justin L.

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

Children's Liturgy
Deanne Long

Next Hospitality
Sunday November 5

Oct 8, 2017

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time

WILL YOU TEND THE GARDEN?

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
#2 - Mitch Pogoda
9:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascin
#2 - Mary Pikula
11:00 am #1 - Alex Joyner
#2 - Deanne Long

Ministers of Communion
5:00 pm - Doug & Maeve
9:00 am - Vern & Marcel
11:00 am - Barb & Sherri

Counting
Needed

October 8, 2017

The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



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

Monday	Oct 9	9:00 am	****AVAILABLE****	
Tuesday	Oct 10	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar	by John and Riky Mulder
Wednesday	Oct 11	6:30 pm	****AVAILABLE****	
Thursday	Oct 12	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
		12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Deanery Meeting St. Patrick's Caledonia	
Friday	Oct 13	9:00 am	For private intentions	by Anonymous
Saturday	Oct 14	The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
		5:00 pm	For the health and healing of Ted Wisniewski	by Joan Wisniewski
Sunday	Oct 15	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Fred Bell	by Sherri deWilde

CWL CORNER

The CWL are still selling Giant Tiger Gift Cards in the following denominations: \$10, \$25 and \$50. All the proceeds will go our parish CWL. There will be a CWL member at each of the Masses selling these cards.

Join us on Wednesday October 11th at 7 pm. Renee Rebello from Life Coach Financial will talk about estate planning and how it affects wills and powers of attorney.

The event is free and you do not have to be a CWL member to attend. Watch for a flyer in next weeks bulletin.

The CWL Memberships are now due for 2018. It would be appreciated if you can please drop the \$20.00 membership into the collection basket marked for the CWL.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Parish has available dates over the next weeks and months. Please fill out the **Mass Intentions** envelope located at the entrance of the church and place them in the collection baskets.

RETROUVAILLE

Thinking about Separation or Divorce? – Is your marriage or that of a relative or friend heading for divorce? Retrouvaille is designed to help marriages regain their health. The Retrouvaille program is highly successful in saving marriages. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **November 3, 2017**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

This Fall, Development & Peace invites Canadians to learn more about the vital role women play in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.



Fall Action Launch in the Diocese of St Catharines
 Saturday, October 14th, 2017
 At St Julia's, 251 Glenridge Ave,
 St Catharines,
 10 am to 12 pm
 (Lunch to follow after workshop)

For more info please contact Frank Fohr at ffohr@cogeco.ca

BISHOP'S CHARITIES DINNER

The Bishop's Charities Dinner is being held on Saturday, October 21 at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines. The reception begins at 6pm followed by dinner at 7pm.

All proceeds will be going to the Diocesan Catholic Charities. The tickets are \$50 each, payable to Knights Bishop's Charity Association. Door prize is a Smart TV. For information contact John Mataseje or Pierre Paradis at 905-957-4591

DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS & DINNER

Married couples celebrating a 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th anniversary in the year 2017 are invited to the Diocesan Anniversary Mass on Mon. Nov. 27, 2017 at 5:30pm at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria, St. Catharines. To register and receive a formal invitation from Bishop Bergie, contact the parish office to fill out a registration form by October 13. A dinner will be held at Club Roma in St. Catharines at 7:00pm. Details of dinner cost will be included in the formal invitation.

REGENERATE(D) 2017

Sponsored by Branches Catholic Ministries, **Regenerate(d) 2017** will take place again at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls on Saturday, November 18th. This year's theme is based upon one of the most important questions of our time, "What is Truth?" and how and where do we find it?

In a culture that promotes that truth is relative how do we as Catholics respond? Keynote speakers: Jennifer Fulwiler, Trent Horn, Dr. David Anders and Steve Weidenkopf will address atheism, relativism, the divisions in Christianity bringing Protestantism and how to discuss this with family and friends.

For the first time **Regenerate(d) Youth 2017** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18 years.

Early-bird tickets are available now! To purchase tickets and more information about these conferences visit www.branchesoftheword.org or call Branches at 905-685-7000.

12 DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Egypt & the Holy Land – February 15-26, 2018
 led by Fr. Rico Passero

Deepen your Lenten Spiritual experience by participating in a pilgrimage to **Egypt and the Holy Land along with Fr. Rico Passero from February 15-26, 2018**. We will be walking in the footsteps of Moses and the people of Israel, culminating with a spiritual reflection on the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pilgrimage will take us to Cairo, Mount Sinai, Eilat & the Red Sea, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Masada, Mount Carmel, Cana and the Mount of Olives.

Come for this significant experience – a pilgrimage not to be missed. Price is \$3,690 CDN per person (double occupancy, single supplement \$690), includes air fares, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, taxes and fees. For detailed information and to secure your spot, contact Edgar Tetelbaun (905-889-1681; edgar@gateways-international.m) or Fr. Rico Passero (905-945-2661; ricopassero@gmail.com)

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Offering: \$2,125.10

Facility Maintenance: \$ 572.80

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

The Parish Debt : \$35,451.43

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

- William Deavu/Sils Smith – Oct 8
- Anita Duggan – Oct 9
- Brenda Malevich/Sherri O'Keefe – Oct 10
- Mark & Douglas Mous – Oct 10
- Elizabeth Staples/Maria Dunder – Oct 10
- Mary Vieira/Jonathon Zonruiter – Oct 11
- John Cackovic – Oct 12
- Melissa Bruzzese – Oct 13
- Ryan Mirco/Drew Pouliot – Oct 14
- Kayla Raposo – Oct 14

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of all blessings,
 source of all life,
 giver of all grace.

We thank for the gift of life:
 for the breath that sustains life,
 for the food of this earth,
 that nurtures life.

For the love of family and friends
 without which there would be no life.

We thank you for setting us in communities: for families who nurture our becoming, for friends who love us by choice, for companions at work, who share our burdens and daily tasks.

We thank you for thanksgiving, and all our blessings, we give thanks, eternal and loving God. Amen!

