





PLEASE PATRONIZE THE SUPPORTERS OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

<p>Meester Insurance Centre </p> <p>T: 905.957.2333 800.465.8256</p> <p>F: 905.957.2599 E: info@meesterinsurance.com</p> <p>www.meesterinsurance.com The Village Square Reg. Rd. 20, P.O. Box 299 Smithville, ON L0R 2A0</p> <p>With So Much on the Line, You Can't AFFORD to Compromise</p>	<p>AD SPACE AVAILABLE</p>	<p>RICE MONUMENT WORKS </p> <p>1421 Highway #8, Winona 1.800.533.6102 Bus. 905.643.1027 Res. 905.957.6943</p>
<p>GarageDoorCanada.ca Area's Largest and Complete Garage Door Showroom</p> <p>Your complete Residential Showroom 905-957-4432</p>	<p>K9 KOUTURE GROOMING INC. Your K9 Spa 905-309-0047 Chantal: Owner/Groomer 45 Main St W. Grimsby K9KoutureGrooming@cogeco.ca</p>	<p>SEAN D. HEELEY, B.A. HONS, LLB Barrister & Solicitor SZPIECH, ELLIS, SKIBINSKI, SHIPTON 107 GRIFFIN ST. N., Smithville, ON. L0R 2A0</p>
<p>Cole's  www.colesflorist.ca</p> <p>Visit Cole's Garden Centre Full service florist 147 Main St. E. Grimsby, ON. 905-945-2219</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN CATHOLIC Elementary School  18 Streamside Dr., Smithville, ON L0R 2A0 905-957-3032</p>	<p>MERRITT FUNERAL HOME Inc. Serving Families For 4 Generations</p> <p>Thomas C. Merritt Managing Funeral Director 287 Station St., Smithville, On. L0R 2A0 Tel. 905.957.7031 Fax. 905.957.1371 1.800.461.9498 www.merritt.fh.com</p>

JOURNEY TO THE DESERT

And so, it begins - the holy and, for some, daunting, season of Lent. This is the season in our liturgical year when the Church encourages us to increase our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to help us enter more deeply into the mystery of our Lord's Passion and Death and to celebrate more fully His Resurrection.

Jesus, by His own example in today's Gospel, demonstrates the necessity of setting aside a period devoted especially to prayer and fasting as a means of strengthening our spiritual muscles. Just before the launch of His public ministry, He is "led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days, to be tempted by the devil." In imitation of Jesus, we should ask the Holy Spirit to lead us into the desert, too - the desert of our interior lives where our thoughts and desires reside.

While our Lord was strong enough to withstand the temptations of the devil on His own, we most certainly are not! We must turn to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to show us where we need to grow, and then rely on the Holy Spirit for strength and guidance throughout these 40 days of growth. Perhaps we will be led to take on a spiritual reading program, or a daily time of meditation on the Scriptures. Maybe we'll be inspired to fast from our favorite food or social media fix and find a project that serves the poor in this community.

If these spiritual exercises hurt a little, that means we are doing them right! At the end of this season, we will be prepared to enter into the grace-filled days of the Triduum and we will, through the power of the Holy Spirit, be resurrected as a new creation with our Lord come Easter. Let us begin!

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen
Parish Priest

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

Weekday Masses
See Schedule
on the inside of the bulletin

In Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Administrative Assistant
Financial Recorder
Sandy Johnson

Reconciliation/Confessions
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin Elementary School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery Management
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
President - Heather Tomascin
heathertomascin@bell.net

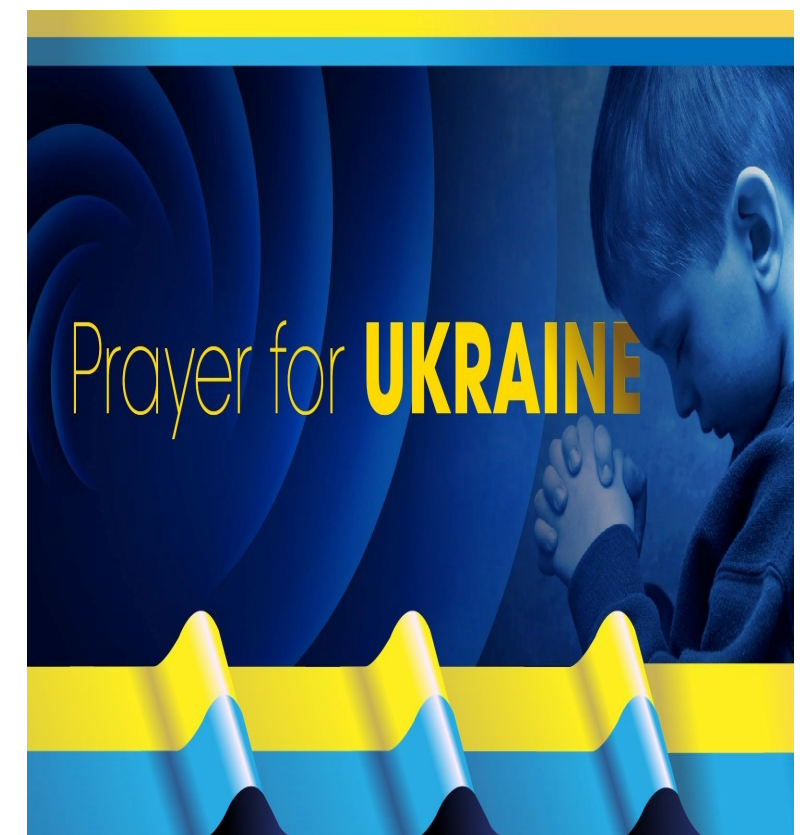
Knights of Columbus
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Chair Frank DeFilippis

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy.
Youth Ministry
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
E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

March 6, 2022 - Year - C
**The 1st Sunday
of Lent**

March 6, 2022

The 1st Sunday of Lent - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:35 am

Mon	Mar 7	9:00 am	For the People of Ukraine	by the Newman Family
Tues	Mar 8	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Paula Webber	by Norrie Franko
Wed	Mar 9	9:00 am	+John & Linda Cruz	by Maria Martins
		10:30 am	- 12:pm Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	Fr .Christopher
Thurs	Mar 10	9:00 am	+Bill & Maria Fonseca	by Maria Martins
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am Bible Study Group in the Crying Room	
		10:00 am	- 2:00 pm Diocesan Priests Lenten Day of Recollection Zoom Mt	Fr. Christopher
Fri	Mar 11	7:30 am	- 8:15 am That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei -Men's Rosary Group	Fr. Christopher
		9:00 am	+Martha Devlin	by Cathy & Marcello Desimone
		10:30 am	- 12 Noon Pastoral Home Visits for those who registered.	Fr. Christopher
		6:00 pm	- 7:00 pm Lenten Way of the Cross (Stations) Confessions and Private Prayer	
Sat	Mar 12	The 2nd Sunday of Lent		
		8:30 am	- 10:00 am That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei. Zoom Gathering	Fr. Christopher
		4:00 pm	- 4:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) available at this time.	
		5:00 pm	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Mar 13	10:00 am	For the health and healing of Pauline Lewis	by Heather Belmont

E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app. To transfer funds to St. Martin Parish e-Transfer to:

st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

Please do not enter a security question and answer. You will be informed that your transfer to: The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation has been completed.

Thank you for your stewardship.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Group 1 - Mrs Szabo and Mrs Clarke

Group 2 - Mrs DiPasquale and Mrs Smith

First Reconciliation - 10 am at school

- Group 1 - March 22

- Group 2 - March 29

First Holy Communion - 11 am at Church

- Group 1 - April 30

- Group 2 - May 14

All Registration Forms were due back by March 1st. Letter of acceptance and an invitation to begin attending Sunday Mass will be sent to the parent (s) guardians this week.

LENTEN WEEKDAY MASSES/DEVOTION

Weekday Masses will be Monday through Friday at 9:00am. The Way of the Cross (Stations) will begin the First Week of Lent on Friday, March 11, at 6:00 pm. Reconciliation (Confession) will be available following the Stations. The church will remain open until 7:00 pm for private prayer. If you require more devotions please let Fr. Christopher know.

THE SYNOD PROCESS AT ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

Synod invitation Reminder!

NOW is your chance to have your voice heard. Every Catholic's input is critical to move the Universal Catholic church in a direction that fosters the strongest Catholic Community. Sign up for a Synod Listening Session today. Spots are limited, so please sign up with the link here, or call or email the parish office.

To sign up, please click on the following:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AACA72BA6FCC52-synod>

and sign up for one session, or call the office at 289-956-0221 or email at st.martins@cogeco.ca

Parish Synod Facilitators are:

Lisa Poort, Paula Verrecchia, Sandy Johnson.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Feb 11, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ.

This year, as we approach Ash Wednesday and mark the beginning of Lent, let us remember that the liturgical season of Lent is a season of conversion, a time set apart for deepening our relationship with Christ and seeking inner transformation through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

As the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada, Development and Peace - Caritas Canada provides an ideal way to offer alms to those most in need through their annual *Share Lent* campaign. The theme of this year's campaign is *People and Planet First*, highlighting the work of their partners who, despite their challenges are finding ways to live in harmony with their environment. Let us join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Global South who are feeling the most significant impacts of the changing climate by opening our hearts to the message of this campaign.

Since 1967, the CCCB has set aside the fifth Sunday of Lent as Solidarity Sunday. At that time, we will have a collection in support of Development and Peace's *Share Lent* campaign in each parish and I encourage you to give generously.

Contributions can also be made online at :

www.devp.org/sharelent,

by mailing a cheque, or by calling 1-888-234-8533

Please consider contributing to the Share Lent Campaign this year.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Bishop of St. Catharines

Bishop Bergie's Lenten Letter

We have been unable to paste and post the Bishop's Lenten Letter. Please visit the diocesan website to read his Lenten message to us. Thank you.

[Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

CARITAS CANADA

Throughout the coming season of Lent one major focus is Development and Peace and the annual Share Lent Collection. Please visit the website. Devp.org. This Lent, let's put people and planet first! Let's be inspired by, and learn from, leaders around the world who are putting people and planet first! We look forward to your financial support, solidarity and prayer

SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Development and Peace is joining the Caritas Internationalis family, the CIDSE network and organizations like the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in responding to Caritas Ukraine's call. We have made an immediate **allocation of \$75,000** to help with the provision of food, shelter, medical care and transport to safe locations.

President Brenda Arakaza said, "We also stand in solidarity with Canada's Ukrainian Catholic bishops and all Canadian Ukrainians and invite people to join them in praying for peace."

The situation in Ukraine is already quite serious. Media reports citing United Nations sources indicate that some [100,000 Ukrainians fled their homes](#) yesterday alone. In harsh winter conditions, thousands of terrified civilians have amassed at the Polish border. Worryingly, the Migration Policy Institute [estimates](#) that more than 1 million Ukrainians could end up being displaced to nearby countries.

As the conflict goes on, much more funding will be required to meet Ukrainians' needs. Development and Peace therefore calls on Canadians to give generously.

Donations can be made [on our website](#), by calling 1 888 664-3387 or by mailing us a cheque drawn in favour of Development and Peace and marked Emergency Ukraine.

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 - COVID-19 UPDATE

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2022

Tentatively, provided public health and health system indicators continue to improve:

- Capacity limits in all indoor public settings, including churches, will be lifted
- Proof of vaccination requirements for all settings, including churches, will be lifted.
- **Masking requirements will remain for all public spaces, including churches and office settings.**
- **For those who are sick, have a compromised immune system or feel uncomfortable returning to church at this time, the dispensation for Sunday Mass remains.**

**“Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all”
(Gal 6:9-10)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Lent is a favourable time for personal and community renewal, as it leads us to the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. For our Lenten journey in 2022, we will do well to reflect on Saint Paul’s exhortation to the Galatians: “Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity (*kairós*), let us do good to all” (*Gal 6:9-10*).

1. Sowing and reaping

In these words, the Apostle evokes the image of sowing and reaping, so dear to Jesus (cf. *Mt 13*). Saint Paul speaks to us of a *kairós*: an opportune time for sowing goodness in view of a future harvest. What is this “opportune time” for us? Lent is certainly such an opportune time, but so is our entire existence, of which Lent is in some way an image.^[1] All too often in our lives, greed, pride and the desire to possess, accumulate and consume have the upper hand, as we see from the story of the foolish man in the Gospel parable, who thought his life was safe and secure because of the abundant grain and goods he had stored in his barns (cf. *Lk 12:16-21*). Lent invites us to conversion, to a change in mindset, so that life’s truth and beauty may be found not so much in possessing as in giving, not so much in accumulating as in sowing and sharing goodness.

The first to sow is God himself, who with great generosity “continues to sow abundant seeds of goodness in our human family” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 54). During Lent we are called to respond to God’s gift by accepting his word, which is “living and active” (*Heb 4:12*). Regular listening to the word of God makes us open and docile to his working (cf. *Jas 1:21*) and bears fruit in our lives. This brings us great joy, yet even more, it summons us to become God’s co-workers (cf. *1 Cor 3:9*). By making good use of the present time (cf. *Eph 5:16*), we too can sow seeds of goodness. This call to sow goodness should not be seen as a burden but a grace, whereby the Creator wishes us to be actively united with his own bountiful goodness.

What about the harvest? Do we not sow seeds in order to reap a harvest? Of course! Saint Paul points to the close relationship between sowing and reaping when he says: “Anyone who sows sparsely will reap sparsely as well, and anyone who sows generously will reap generously as well” (*2 Cor 9:6*). But what kind of harvest are we talking about? A first fruit of the goodness we sow appears in ourselves and our daily lives, even in our little acts of kindness. In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no “generous effort” will ever be lost (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 279). Just as we recognize a tree by its fruits (cf. *Mt 7:16, 20*), so a life full of good deeds radiates light (cf. *Mt 5:14-16*) and carries the fragrance of Christ to the world (cf. *2 Cor 2:15*). Serving God in freedom from sin brings forth fruits of sanctification for the salvation of all (cf. *Rom 6:22*).

In truth, we see only a small portion of the fruits of what we sow, since, according to the Gospel proverb, “one sows, while another reaps” (*Jn 4:37*). When we sow for the benefit of others, we share in God’s own benevolent love: “it is truly noble to place our hope in the hidden power of the seeds of goodness we sow, and thus to initiate processes whose fruits will be reaped by others” (*Fratelli Tutti*, 196). Sowing goodness for the benefit of others frees us from narrow self-interest, infuses our actions with gratuitousness, and makes us part of the magnificent horizon of God’s benevolent plan.

The word of God broadens and elevates our vision: it tells us that the real harvest is eschatological, the harvest of the last, undying day. The mature fruit of our lives and actions is “fruit for eternal life” (*Jn 4:36*), our “treasure in heaven” (*Lk 12:33; 18:22*). Jesus himself uses the image of the seed that dies in the ground in order to bear fruit as a symbol of the mystery of his death and resurrection (cf. *Jn 12:24*); while Saint Paul uses the same image to speak of the resurrection of our bodies: “What is sown is perishable, but what is raised is imperishable; what is sown is contemptible but what is raised is glorious; what is sown is weak, but what is raised is powerful; what is sown is a natural body, and what is raised is a spiritual body” (*1 Cor 15:42-44*). The hope of resurrection is the great light that the risen Christ brings to the world, for “if our hope in Christ has been for this life only, we are of all people the most pitiable. In fact, however, Christ has been raised from the dead, as the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep” (*1 Cor 15:19-20*). Those who are intimately united to him in love “by dying a death like his” (*Rom 6:5*) will also be united to his resurrection for eternal life (cf. *Jn 5:29*). “Then the upright will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father” (*Mt 13:43*).

2. “Let us not grow tired of doing good”

Christ’s resurrection enlivens earthly hopes with the “great hope” of eternal life, planting the seed of salvation in our present time (cf. *BENEDICT XVI, Spe Salvi*, 3; 7). Bitter disappointment at shattered dreams, deep concern for the challenges ahead and discouragement at the poverty of our resources, can make us tempted to seek refuge in self-centredness and indifference to the suffering of others. Indeed, even our best resources have their limitations: “Youths grow tired and weary, the young stumble and fall” (*Is 40:30*). Yet God “gives strength to the weary, he strengthens the powerless... Those who hope in the Lord will regain their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; though they run they will not grow weary, though they walk they will never tire» (*Is 40:29, 31*). The Lenten season calls us to place our faith and hope in the Lord (cf. *1 Pet 1:21*), since only if we fix our gaze on the risen Christ (cf. *Heb 12:2*) will we be able to respond to the Apostle’s appeal, “Let us never grow tired of doing good” (*Gal 6:9*).

Let us not grow tired of praying. Jesus taught us to “pray always without becoming weary” (*Lk 18:1*). We need to pray because we need God. Thinking that we need nothing other than ourselves is a dangerous illusion. If the pandemic has heightened the awareness of our own personal and social fragility, may this Lent allow us to experience the consolation provided by faith in God, without whom we cannot stand firm (cf. *Is 7:9*). No one attains salvation alone, since we are all in the same boat, amid the storms of history;^[2] and certainly no one reaches salvation without God, for only the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ triumphs over the dark waters of death. Faith does not spare us life’s burdens and tribulations, but it does allow us to face them in union with God in Christ, with the great hope that does not disappoint, whose pledge is the love that God has poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom 5:1-5*).

Let us not grow tired of uprooting evil from our lives. May the corporal fasting to which Lent calls us fortify our spirit for the battle against sin. *Let us not grow tired of asking for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation*, knowing that God never tires of forgiving.^[3] *Let us not grow tired of fighting against concupiscence*, that weakness which induces to selfishness and all evil, and finds in the course of history a variety of ways to lure men and women into sin (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 166). One of these is addiction to the digital media, which impoverishes human relationships. Lent is a propitious time to resist these temptations and to cultivate instead a more integral form of human communication (ibid., 43) made up of “authentic encounters” (ibid., 50), face-to-face and in person.

Let us not grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbours. During this Lent, may we practise almsgiving by giving joyfully (cf. *2 Cor 9:7*). God who “supplies seed to the sower and bread for food” (*2 Cor 9:10*) enables each of us not only to have food to eat, but also to be generous in doing good to others. While it is true that we have our entire life to sow goodness, let us take special advantage of this Lenten season to care for those close to us and to reach out to our brothers and sisters who lie wounded along the path of life (cf. *Lk 10:25-37*). Lent is a favourable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 193).

3. “If we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time”

Each year during Lent we are reminded that “goodness, together with love, justice and solidarity, are not achieved once and for all; they have to be realized each day” (ibid., 11). Let us ask God to give us the patient perseverance of the farmer (cf. *Jas 5:7*), and to persevere in doing good, one step at a time. If we fall, let us stretch out our hand to the Father, who always lifts us up. If we are lost, if we are misled by the enticements of the evil one, let us not hesitate to return to God, who “is generous in forgiving” (*Is 55:7*). In this season of conversion, sustained by God’s grace and by the communion of the Church, let us not grow tired of doing good. The soil is prepared by fasting, watered by prayer and enriched by charity. Let us believe firmly that “if we do not give up, we shall reap our harvest in due time” and that, with the gift of perseverance, we shall obtain what was promised (cf. *Heb 10:36*), for our salvation and the salvation of others (cf. *1 Tim 4:16*). By cultivating fraternal love towards everyone, we are united to Christ, who gave his life for our sake (cf. *2 Cor 5:14-15*), and we are granted a foretaste of the joy of the kingdom of heaven, when God will be “all in all” (*1 Cor 15:28*).

May the Virgin Mary, who bore the Saviour in her womb and “pondered all these things in her heart” (*Lk 2:19*), obtain for us the gift of patience. May she accompany us with her maternal presence, so that this season of conversion may bring forth fruits of eternal salvation.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 11 November, 2021, Memorial of Saint Martin, Bishop. FRANCIS