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SET YOUR BAR TO HOLINESS

“So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Talk about setting the bar high!

This verse at the end of today's Gospel passage from Matthew sets the tone for all of the readings this week.

The stewardship way of life, giving away the best of our time, talents and treasure to God for His glory and for the sake of others, is the path to holiness. Yet, it appears utterly foolish in the eyes of many.

Our Lord gives us several illustrations today of this “foolish” concept: “When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand over your cloak as well ... love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” This is the kind of action and attitude that will make us “children of our heavenly Father.” This is the high bar of holiness to which our Lord is calling us.

If your lifestyle and your priorities look a little foolish to the world around you, know that you're probably doing it right in God's eyes. At the same time, you will be filled with a peace that the world around you desperately needs. And your stewardship way of life may just draw those around to the heavenly Father and a life of holiness, too.

So, with God's grace, we can confidently press on in the stewardship way of life, aiming to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect. Our all-holy God desires it and deserves nothing less.

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
 Must be registered and practicing
 Call office for details

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

Ministry Schedule - Feb 29/Mar 1

Hospitality Ministers
 5:00 pm - Tom S. & Tony Mous.
 10:00 am - Mike & Mary Hornak

Altar Servers
 5:00pm -
 10:00 am -

Children's Liturgy
 Maryann & Jenn E.

Next Hospitality Sunday
 March 1

Feb 23, 2020
The 7th Sunday
in Ordinary
Time
Year A

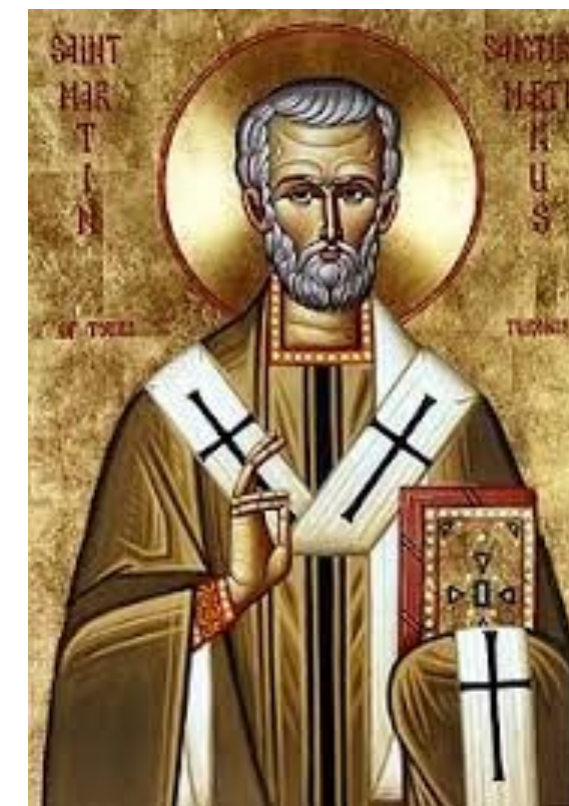
Lectors
 5:00 pm #1 - Heather Tomascin
 #2 - Katrina Shields
 10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
 #2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
 5:00 pm - Tom Shields
 10:00 am - Andy Lipiec

Stewardship Counting
 Beth Davis & Maryanne Paradis

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

February 23, 2019

The 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Feb 24	NO MASS TODAY - Fr. Christopher's Day Off	
Tues	Feb 25	9:00 am For the health & healing of Valerie Newman	by Joan Wisniewski
Wed	Feb 26	Ash Wednesday	
		9:00 am For the special intentions of Ray Richard	by Kathy Gallant
		1:00 pm School Mass at Gym	Fr. Christopher
		6:30 pm +Robert D'Agostino	by the DeFilippis Family
Thurs	Feb 27	9:00 am For God's peace and strength upon Martha Devlin	by Kathy Gallant
		9:30 am - 10:30 am Scripture Study Group in parish hall	
		3:30 pm Teachers meeting at the school: Lent, School Masses, Sacraments	Father Christopher
Fri	Feb 28	9:00 am For the special intentions of Andy Lipiec	by Vern & Josie Dell
Sat	Feb 29	The 1st Sunday of Lent	
		5:00 pm Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Mar 1	10:00 am For the special intentions of Bob Hignett	by Heather Belmont
		+Jose Martins	by Maria Martins & Family

CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL CONTINUES IN 2020

www.saintcd.com/appeal

Did you know that our diocese has been blessed with five bishops since being named a diocese in 1958? Looking back, the Most Reverend John Aloysius O'Mara was appointed the third bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines on February 2, 1994. He was installed in the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria on April 13, 1994 and faithfully served as our bishop until his retirement on November 9, 2001. Bishop O'Mara recently celebrated his 95th birthday. From installations to ordinations our Cathedral has been home to many blessed occasions in its 175 years. Restoration work continues and is on budget and on schedule. Thank you for prayerfully considering making a donation to this \$1.2 million appeal as we prepare for the future.

Visit www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.

SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2020

First Reconciliation - March 10, 7:00 pm

First Holy Communion - May 3, 1:00 pm.

Registration is now closed.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CARITAS CANADA

At this critical time, Pope Francis urges everyone to be engaged and informed from the light of faith. This is a time to be present in the world, to offer hope to others and be ignited with hope ourselves. When listening to the news, let's try to hear the voice of the marginalized. What are they saying? As a Canadian church entity, as people of faith, what should we be saying and doing?

Development & Peace and Caritas Canada invites us to join the great human family, knowing that we need one another. It depends on everyone's generosity through the annual Share Lent collection, involvement and education, to carry out its mission in Canada and around the world. Please read and reflect with the Solidarity Calendar presented to you today.

DIOCESAN WIDE RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday March 28, 2020

10:00 am to 2:00pm

In every parish across the diocese, a priest is available to hear individual Confessions. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation.

COUNTDOWN TO LENT

With the season of Lent on the horizon, here is what is planned so far:

- Mass will be celebrated Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 am.
- First Wednesday of the month the Knights of Columbus have requested Mass at 6:30 pm, prior to their meeting. We will keep the 9:00 am Mass each Wednesday for those who attend.
- The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 6:00 pm beginning the First Week of Lent, March 6.
- Bible Study each Thursday will continue after the morning Mass. Consider coming out to Bible Study for the season of Lent.
- Ash Wednesday begins February 26. Three Masses will be celebrated with distribution of Ashes. Parish 9:00 am, School 1:00 pm, Parish 6:30 pm.
- The focus in Lent is Development and Peace and our Share Lent Collection. Also our parish and school Food Drive for Community Care.
- Every Tuesday in Lent (beginning March 10) there will be school confessions from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

Let Each Of Us Do Our Part In Celebrating A Prayerful Lenten Season In Our Journey Towards Easter.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 6th, 2020 is World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical celebration on the theme "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk". Join with 170 countries from around the world in the prayers written by the women of Zimbabwe. A service will be held at:

Smithville Christian Reformed Church
6522 Smithville Rd. Smithville
Friday March 6th at 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact Heather Tomascini at 905 957-7805. World Day of Prayer is sponsored by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Everyone is welcome.

WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

Host Churches

March - St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic
February & April - Smithville Canadian Reformed Church
May & June - St Ann's Community Church

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February 15/16, 2020

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CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

PRAYER: *Lord God, I pray for all who have been sickened or died by the coronavirus that has been spreading around the world. In your mercy and compassion, deliver us from this disease. In your holy wisdom, guide all who are working to contain the outbreak. In your steadfast love, bring healing to all your children who have been sickened, welcome into your arms the ones who have died, and comfort the ones they left behind. In faith, I place my trust in you. In hope, I turn to you in my time of need. In love, I give glory to your name. In gratitude, I will praise you with my life. In your Son's name I pray. Amen.*

Here are examples of changes to our worship style to err on the side of caution during this outbreak: (1) Find another way to give the sign of peace than a handshake. (2) Consider receiving Holy Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue.

Let us each do our part to keep our parish safe!

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- Ash Wednesday, February 26,
- 9:00 am Mass and 6:30 pm Mass.
- School Mass 1:00 pm
Distribution of Ashes+ at all Masses
- Tuesday, March 3, Priests Lenten Day of Recollection Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre Niagara Falls.
- Tuesday March 10, First Reconciliation 7:00 pm
- March break - 16 to 20.
- Acts Retreat for Women - Team Meetings began February 20.
- World Day of Prayer Friday, March 6, 1:30 pm
- Parish Financial Council Meeting - Saturday, March 7, at 10:00 am (TBC)

You are great! Yes, we mean you! You are great because you are doing great things. They may appear to be little things, but your consistent ministry, and volunteering, week after week, is a great thing. "Thank you!"