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CHALLENGE ACCEPTED

In today's Gospel, taken from the sixth chapter of Luke, Jesus offers a very challenging, seemingly impossible approach to daily life. "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak do not withhold even your tunic." It makes one want to say, "Seriously, Lord?" And He doesn't stop there. Jesus adds, "Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back."

It seems so unfair! That is, unless we look at this way of life from a stewardship point of view. Then, not only does it seem doable (though challenging), but it also actually makes perfect sense. A steward understands clearly that all he has and all that he is - his very life - is a gift from God given to him from an unfathomable abundance of love. This changes everything! This means "my" cloak, "my" tunic, "my" money, and time - all of it ultimately belongs to God. He has entrusted these things to each of us in love to use for His purposes and His glory.

Does this mean we are to be passive "doormats" to anyone who wants to take advantage of us? Certainly not. Jesus explains this in the next verse of this passage when He says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you." There is nothing wrong with loving oneself since God loves us and has made us in His own image and likeness. Jesus is simply asking that we also approach others, and the sharing of our gifts, with this same attitude. He is giving us a definition here of real love, a steward's love!

reflections@catholicsteward.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen
P.P.

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 Tomascini
heathertomascini@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



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www.stmartinsparish.com
E-transfer: st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

February 20, 2022 - Year - C
The 7th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

February 20, 2022

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

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

Mon	Feb 21	NO PARISH MASS CELEBRATED TODAY 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Diocesan Council for Development & Peace Zoom Meeting Fr. Christopher	
Tues	Feb 22	Chair of St. Peter 9:00 am +John & Regina Newman	by the Newman Family
Wed	Feb 23	St. Polycarp 9:00 am +Sean Robinson 10:30 am - 12:pm Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions	by Marg & Dick Van Geest Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Feb 24	9:00 am For the special intentions of the children of Marg & Dick Van Geest 9:30 am - 10:30 am Bible Study Group in the Crying Room	
Fri	Feb 25	7:30 am - 8:15 am That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei -Men's Rosary Group 9:00 am +Jose Martins 10:30 am - 12 Noon Pastoral Home Visits for those who registered. 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher by Maria Martins Fr. Christopher Fr. Christopher
Sat	Feb 26	The 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time 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	Feb 27	10:00 am For the special intentions of Helen Lipiec	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.

A GENTLE REMINDER

Masks must be worn at all times when in our buildings. That includes all gatherings and meetings. Food & Drinks are not permitted. Thank you.

2021 PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT

We thank the Parish Financial Council for approving the Financial Report for 2021. Again, thank you for your stewardship. The Report was made available last weekend and can still be requested by email.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

CARITAS CANADA

"People and Planet First."

In the fall, Canadians learned how environmental and human rights activists in the Global South are often criminalized when they oppose powerful business interests. A petition was signed calling on the government to enact a law compelling companies to prevent and remedy human and environmental rights violations across their global operations. This Lent, let us stand in solidarity with our sisters and brothers in the Global South who have long suffered the effects of the climate crisis.

SHARE LENT is Development and Peace's moment of solidarity, when we raise funds in parishes across Canada to support our mission.

THE SYNOD 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 [Sign Up Link](#) 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.**

MASS INTENTIONS

An individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or, as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one's soul.

We have only a few Mass Intentions for March and going forward. Please consider requesting a Mass for a loved one. Call the office or leave your requests in the collection basket. Thank you

UPCOMING BAPTISM

February 20, - Charlie McClanahan

FIRST HOLY 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

FEBRUARY 14, 2022 - COVID-19 UPDATE

The Government of Ontario announced changes to COVID-19 restrictions so that:

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 17, 2022

- The capacity limit is removed for religious services, rites and ceremonies only where proof of vaccination is required. For churches in the Diocese of St. Catharines, there is no change to capacity limits at this time.
- Capacity for indoor weddings, funerals or religious services, rites, or ceremonies is limited to the number of people who can maintain two metres physical distance.
- For parish social, public events and gatherings, including Synod discussion group meetings, capacity will increase to 50 people indoors and 100 outdoors.
- Contact tracing for churches and parish offices/ events will no longer be required.
- Masks and physical distancing are still required for all church services and in office settings.
- Holy water fonts are to remain empty until such time as a further direction is issued to allow for their use.

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.

SEASON OF LENT

- For our Lenten observances, including Ash Wednesday Masses and liturgical services, all churches can be open to full capacity for the first time in two years.
- Ashes will be placed on foreheads.
- Palms can be distributed
- Reconciliation services can be celebrated according to usual customs and procedures.
- Clergy visits to schools and school Masses in the church may be planned, with the permission of school principals