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OBEDIENCE TO THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Obedience is not an end, but a means - a means to express our love to God and to increase our love for God. It is a catalyst in the process of loving God and becoming more like Jesus.

Obedience, or the lack thereof, always reveals where our heart is in relationship to God and the direction our heart is moving, either toward or away from God. Obedience is never neutral, for to not obey God is to disobey his will. Inaction to God's known will is simply a passive form of rebellion. Fortunately, God looks at the entire process of obedience and not simply at our first response, so we have hope and an opportunity to make right a wrong initial response to disobey.

For many of us our initial response to God's will is negative, either because we are so needy or because we have developed habits of disobedience. But, fortunately, as we linger over the implications of obeying or not obeying, our heart is softened by the warmth of his love and we say, "Yes!" as we allow ourselves to be molded to his will. Others of us are always ready with a resounding, "Yes!" only later to find our resolve weakening, and our will cooling into an icy, "No!" And all the while God is watching the process and looking at our heart. Not only is our initial response important to God, but also our resolve to follow through on our commitment to obey.

Obedience is dependent on our knowing what God wants and expects from us, and it pre-supposes a desire and willingness to do his will once we know it. Consequently, God has promised to reveal his will to us, both in general terms and in more specific personal ways, through sacred Scripture, the Church's teaching, prayer, godly counsel, etc. Interestingly, obedience also becomes a means of knowing his will, for many times God only reveals the first steps and then unfolds more of his will as we respond in obedience. Once we know his will, further illumination comes into play as we choose to either obey or not obey the aspects of his will that we already know. One of the benefits of obedience, is that God's grace and help become a reality to us as we respond to his enablement to do his will. The promise of John 14:21 is that when we love Jesus by obeying his revealed will that he will abide with, or dwell, with us and show us even more of his love. Why would any of us, knowing this to be true, decide to live disobedient lives and deny ourselves this promise?

Jesus who came as Immanuel, God with us in the flesh, was faced with the humility of becoming human when he was divine, with taking on our sins when he was sinless, and with dying when he was eternal and immortal, yet he did not shy away from obediently doing the Father's will. The Father in turn exalted Jesus, giving him a name and honor that are above all creation. He, the perfect example of obedience to his Father's will, shows us the joy that comes from obedience. We too are children who are faced with a decision regarding whether we will obey our heavenly Father in word only, or in the spirit of obedience. What will you choose to do?

Emmaus Journey Reflections



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

Pastor
Father Christopher 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

Benediction and Exposition
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.

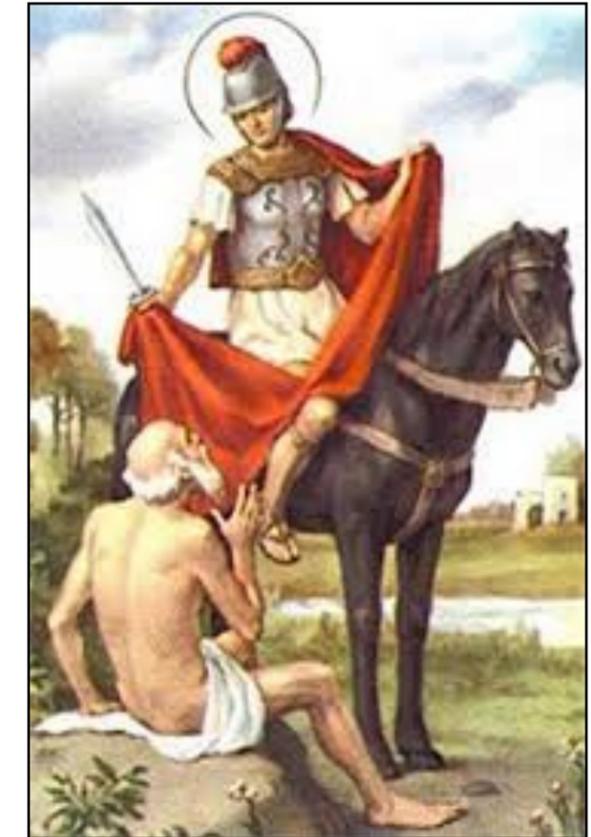
St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

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
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Oct 7/8

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Zanni & Tom Shields
9:00 am - Alfons & Bea Blokhuis
11:00 am - Mike & Mary Hornak

Altar Servers
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy
No Children's Liturgy Today

Next Hospitality Sunday
November 5 - 9:45 - 11:00

Oct 1, 2017
26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
THE WILL OF THE FATHER

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples
#2 - Tom Shields
9:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
#2 - Tom Richardson
11:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger
#2 - Caroline Steger
Ministers of Communion
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tony
9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Tom
11:00 am - Helen, Andy & Barb
Counting
Needed

October 1, 2017

The 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



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

Monday	Oct 2	The Holy Guardian Angels 9:00 am In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous & Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Tuesday	Oct 3	9:00 am For God's blessings upon John and Riky Mulder 10:00am Diocesan Misconduct Seminar - Father attending	by John and Riky Mulder
Wednesday	Oct 4	St. Francis of Assisi 6:30 pm +For the repose of the soul of James Flaherty	by Maureen Flaherty
Thursday	Oct 5	9:00 am For a Mass of thanksgiving and special intentions of Koshy Kanjooparampil	by Koshy Kanjooparampil
Friday	Oct 6	9:00 am For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar	by John and Riky Mulder
Saturday	Oct 7	Our Lady of the Rosary 9:00 am ****AVAILABLE****	
Saturday	Oct 7	The 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	Oct 8	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Stefano Antonietta Carbonara 11:00 am For the special intentions of Anita Duggan on her birthday	by Vern and Josie Dell by Joan and Bob Hignett

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.

COUNTERS NEEDED

We are in dire need of counters. If you have counted in the past and wish to offer your services again or if you have never counted before and would like to offer your services, please see Fr. Christopher after Mass or Sandy in the office.

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.

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

RETROUVAILLE

A Lifeline for Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille has helped 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For information or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **Nov. 3, 2017**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

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 Bill Amodeo 289-456-7888, Albert Craig 905-988-1222, Chuck Johnston 905-646-5099, Christopher Turner 905-643-3375 and Martin Marko 905-401-5646

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.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Offering: \$993.15
Bishop's Collection for the Needs of the Canadian Church: \$486.00
Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.
The Parish bank balance as of September 23, \$2,802.77
The Parish Debt \$35,451.43

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)

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Maria Jones/Sheri Harkin – Oct 1
Kayla Grant – Oct 2
Paul Altobelli/Giulliana Bruzzese – Oct 3
Juno Evans – Oct 3
Patrick Porzuczek/Alex Joyner – Oct 4
Tom Shields/Adam Pereira – Oct 5
Jamie Hayward – Oct 6
Joshua Dayboll – Oct 7
Kristina Brajer/William Deavu – Oct 8

Anniversaries:

Doug & Sylvana Oliver – Oct 1
John & Riky Mulder – Oct 3