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BEARING ABUNDANT FRUITS

Nothing can be more disheartening than to labor for weeks and months in anticipation of reaping the fruit of your labors, only to find that the seemingly healthy plant is failing to produce any fruit. We will go to great lengths inquiring about a remedy for the problem of a plant that doesn't produce. Why? Because the whole purpose of cultivating the plant is to enjoy its fruit. When we have a plant that is highly productive we go out of our way to show off its fruit to others. We enjoy some degree of glory from the healthy fruit our plant produces. Jesus is communicating that bearing fruit is included in his purpose for us and critical to our purpose of glorifying the Father.

The questions immediately come to mind, "About what kind of fruit is Jesus speaking? Is it the fruit of godly character or the fruit of new believers?" We know from Galatians 5 that character, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control, is the fruit of the Spirit. Could this be what Jesus is referring to since it is the result of his life dwelling in us? Fruit by its nature is the reproductive element of the plant. The nature of fruit is that it contains the seeds that produce new plants. So, it is quite possible that Jesus is also talking about the ability to see Christ's life in us reproduced in others, i.e.: the spread of the Gospel from person to person. And in reality, it is as non-believers see Christ's life reproduced in our words, attitudes, and actions, that they are attracted to the faith.

Jesus in his wisdom did not lay on us the responsibility to produce fruit, but rather to remain in a relationship with him in which the Spirit could produce fruit in our lives. Fruit is the excessive life of the plant, its overabundance and vitality. If a plant only receives enough nourishment to survive it will not produce fruit. On the other hand, if a plant is robust with health this extra nourishment is channeled into the production of fruit. Jesus knows that this kind of life comes through him, and so he does not put the stress on being fruitful but rather on the need to remain intimately attached to him, living our life in union with him, and allowing his life to permeate us. This is from where spiritual vitality and fruit come.

Abiding in Christ need not be a complicated thing. Jesus was in fact talking to simple, ordinary, people just like us. The word "abide" means to continue dwelling in a relationship. When we become believers, we are indwelt by Christ, we enter into a new relationship of dependence and grace, wherein all that is needed for life and godliness (1 Peter 1:3) comes through him. Jesus is reminding us to continue to dwell in union with him, and as we do his life will increasingly permeate our lives. The need is to simply deal with those things in life that distract us from him as they arise, through confession and rededication. As we do we are constantly restored to that dwelling place in him.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.
Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Rep

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 Sunday of the Month
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
Please call the office

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Bookkeeper
Tracy Pigott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032


Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines
St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church



I am the
vine you
are the
branches,
remain
in Me!

166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
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Telephone: 289-956-0221
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www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - May 5/6

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Alfons & Bea Blokhuis
11:00 am - Anita D & Joan H

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
May 6

April 29, 2018

The 5th
Sunday of
Easter

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero
#2 - Katrina Shields
9:00 am #1 - Heather Tomascini
#2 - Tom Richardson
11:00 am #1 - Mary Pikula
#2 - Maeve Devlin

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Yolanda
9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Dick
11:00 am - Helen, Andy & Vern

Stewardship Counting
Lisa Poort & Cathy Cartagine

April 29, 2018

The 5th Sunday of Easter - Year B



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

Monday	Apr 30	St. Marie De L'Incarnation 9:00 am +For the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the Cordeiro & Melo family	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Tuesday	May 1	9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Fr. Leroy Lee	by Vern & Josie Dell
Wednesday	May 2	St. Athanasius 6:30 pm +For the repose of the soul of Ciaran Gillespie	by Martha Devlin
Thursday	May 3	St. Philip & St. James 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Mary Antidormi	by Caroline Steger
Friday	May 4	9:00 am For the special intentions of the Devlin Children, inlaw children and grand children	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
Saturday	May 5	The 6th Sunday of Easter 5:00 pm For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
Sunday	May 6	9:00 am For a Mass of thanksgiving of the Verrecchia family 11:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Margaret Deroche 11:00 am 1st Holy Communion	by the Verrecchia family by the Tomascin family

PARISH DISCERNMENT GROUP V

Haldimand Deanery Parishes

April through to November 2018.

Next Parish Team Meeting is Tuesday, May 8th,
at 7:00pm.

Diocesan/ Parish Team Meeting Saturday, May 12,
(9:30am to 12Noon) Gethsemane Centre,
Wellandport.

“Father, In the name of Jesus, we ask that you send
fourth your Holy Spirit upon Us at St. Martin, so
that We may become a Light on the Hill; and a
Living Witness to Your Honour and Glory. Amen.”

MARTIN'S CWL PRESENTS

DENIM & DIAMONDS DINNER DANCE

Saturday May 5th

Doors open at 6pm - Dinner at 7pm

Put on you Best Jeans & Glitter

Ticket - \$25.00

Door prizes - DJ - Cash Bar

All proceeds to the St. Martin's Debt

For tickets call Sylvana Oliver at 905-715-5779

CWL 60TH

ST. CATHARINES DIOCESE CONVENTION

The opening mass at St. Alfred Church on May 22;
May 23, all day convention at the Holiday Inn, Ontario
Street, St. Catharines, followed by a banquet. Registra-
tion for the conference is \$15; with lunch is \$35; with
dinner is \$50; for the whole day is \$75. CWL members
contact Sharon Forgeron (905-964-0798)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP TWO

Sunday May 6, 2018 at the 11:00am Mass.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

WANTED! Young Adults, ages 18-35, to explore
and share faith together. Come out to the Catholic
Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold on either
April 29/18 (4:30-6:30pm) or May 4/18 (5:30-7:30pm)
for fellowship, a light supper and a brainstorming
session focussed on growing this ministry in our
Diocese.

Contact Terri Pauco for more information and to
register by email: familyandyouth@saintcd.com or
text: 905-351-9107 or phone: 905-684-0154 #209

RECENT BAPTISMS

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Koren Patrick Fife.

Mikaela Kelly Fife.

Jayshontay (Jay) James Honighan.

Jamar Joseph Honighan.

Tyson James Honighan.

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Ellerie Karan Varga

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE 2018

Events will be held in Ottawa from Wednesday, May
9 to 11, 2018. Each year thousands of Canadians gather
to challenge our government to protect its most vulnera-
ble citizens, the children in the womb. Even if you are
unable to attend the March, you have an opportunity to
be part of the candlelight vigil symbolically on Wednes-
day, May 9 (9:00 p.m.). You can join in spirit by send-
ing a pledge (minimum offer \$5, available at the parish
office); candles will be carried by the participants in the
vigil. Life: we stand on guard for thee! For more infor-
mation call (1-800-730-5358) or visit marchforlife.ca
Wednesday, May 9: Candlelight Vigil (9:00 p.m.)
Thursday, May 10: Rally on Parliament Hill (12:30
p.m.) March through downtown (1:30 p.m.) Friday,
May 11: Youth Conference (8:00 a.m.)

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019

Panama City, Panama

Jan. 18 – 26, 2019 OR Jan. 22 - 28, 2019

Calling all young adults, 18-30 years of age! Come
learn more about the pilgrimage to WYD 2019 in
Panama. Those interested are asked to attend an
Information Session at 7:00 pm at the Catholic Centre,
3400 Merrittville, Thorold on either: **Tuesday, April
17, 2018** or **Thursday, May 17, 2018**

Questions? Contact Raoul Masseur at:
wydpanama2019saintcd@gmail.com or Terri Pauco,
Family and Youth Office at 905-684-0154, ext. 209 or
familyandyouth@saintcd.com.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP APRIL 21/22 2018

Sunday Offering (81 Env): \$1,785.00
Loose: \$ 82.30
Late Facility Maintenance (2 Env): \$ 30.00

Memorial Donations
In Memory of Gemma Gillen \$ 100.00
In Memory of Alma Fern Lymburner \$100.00

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

DEAR PARISHIONER (S)

The purpose of these session of the Parish
Discernment process is to provide an
opportunity for members of the Parish to get in
touch with, have an appreciation for and ex-
plore the significance of the Parish story.

This is not a sharing based upon a history book
but upon the experience of the participants.

Please come out on either Tuesday May 1st
following the 9:00am mass or Thursday May 3rd
at 7:00pm to contribute to our story.

"...where two or three are gathered in my
name, there am I with them."
Please come and gather in His name to move
our parish forward during this exciting time!

Thank You. The Parish Discernment Team

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Doug Devlin/Eileen Horeczy/Paul Miller – Apr 29
Krista Jones/Rebecca DaSilva – Apr 30
Laura Porzuczek – May 1
Jessica Brajer – May 3
Christopher Verrecchia – May 4
Jason Evans/Isabella Pearson - May 5
Jessica Grzybek/Dustin Hayward – May 5
Treeva Johnson/Kathy Wasiela – May 6

Anniversaries:

Tony & Linda Mous – May 2
Bill & Isabel Prout – May 5
Paul & Stephanie Chiarcos – May 6
Tom & Gail Richardson – May 6