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**EMOTIONS - A GIVE FROM GOD**

Today's readings call us to look inward to the state of our hearts, our thoughts and emotions.

Our first reading, from Sirach, addresses the complicated emotion of anger. "Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the Lord?" We have all been wounded by others at some point, some perhaps quite deeply. Our emotions are gifts from God. But we must steward them well, rather than allowing them to overcome us.

How do we do this? Sirach tells us. "Remember your last days, set enmity aside... Remember the Most High's covenant and overlook faults." We embrace the stewardship mindset - not brooding over hurts, but recalling all the gifts our good God has given us, all the love He continually pours out upon us, and we put our focus and trust in Him.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus reminds us of the true position we have before Him in light of all that He has done for us, comparing the kingdom of heaven to a "king who decided to settle accounts with his servants." In the parable, a debtor is brought before the king, owing such an overwhelming debt that it could not possibly be repaid. Yet, the king is filled with compassion for the servant, forgives the debt and lets him go free.

Doesn't that sound like each of us in relation to the King of Kings? The Father has given us life, and then sent His only Son to die for us to free us from our sin "debts" and make eternal life with Him possible for us. It is impossible for us to repay this debt. All we can do is thank God by giving Him our whole selves - inside and out.

What joy and freedom we find in the stewardship way of life!

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 & 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 - Pierre Paradis  
 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

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**



**Come early, and spend sometime before the Blessed Sacrament - which will be exposed 30 minutes before each Mass.**

166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
 Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0  
 Telephone: 289-956-0221  
 Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca  
 www.stmartinsparish.com

**September 13, 2020 - Year A**  
**The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

# September 13, 2019

## The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Sept 14	9:00 am	+Don Tylter	from St Alfred
Tues	Sept 15	9:00 am	For the Salvation of the Lewis family	by Pauline Lewis
Wed	Sept 16	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by Pierre & Mary Ann Paradis
		10:30 am	- 5:00 pm - Gethsemane Center Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
			Father Christopher celebrant. Confessions and Counselling if required.	
Thurs	Sept 17	9:00 am	+Yvonne Vanderbraak	from St. Alfred
Fri	Sept 18	9:00 am	Intention Available	
		10:00 am	- 11:00 am Social Justice Zoom Meeting	Father Christopher
		1:00 pm	- 3:00 pm Holy Communion Home Visits to those who requested a pastoral visit.	
		7:00 pm	- 9:00 pm Prayer Group Gethsemane Center Wellandport	
		7:00 pm	- 8:00 pm Zoom Meeting Addiction Group Hamilton	
Sat	Sept 19	<b>The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the souls of Escolastica & Jacinto Melo	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sun	Sept 20	10:00 am	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

### ONLINE EUCHARIST

#### Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am. Visit the diocesan website for viewing:

[www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com) or on YouTube

#### **St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.**

Follow on Face Book or their website:

[Stjosephgrimsby.ca](http://Stjosephgrimsby.ca)

#### **Vision TV:**

Sun - 8:00 am

Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

#### **Salt + Light:**

Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm

Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,  
3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

#### **yesTV:**

Sun - 10:30 am

Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

#### **Internet :**

[www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)

[www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass)

### COMING EARLY TO MASS

We ask that you plan on arriving early to allow time for check-in, directions, and seating. You are asked to wear a mask. We thank you for your continued cooperation as we continue to work to keep our Faith Community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any concerns please direct them to the parish email or call the office.

### PASTORAL HOME VISITS

Father Christopher will continue to visit parishioners for Confession, Holy Communion Service and Anointing of the Sick if needed. Kindly call the office if you would like a pastoral visit. Masks and physical distancing enforced. Please call the parish office to schedule a pastoral visit. Thank you.

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Please view the Website for the September Schedule under the Schedule tab of the Website. Please find your own replacement if you are unable to fulfill your time slot. Hospitality Ministers and COVID-19 volunteers are asked to be in church 30 mins prior. We thank those kind individuals who have responded to our request for help. Thank you so much. Together, we make a difference!

### ARE YOU REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH?

Please do not take for granted that you are registered in the parish just because you attend Mass here. If we have no record of your parish membership, it could be quite embarrassing to us, or to you or your family, when someone wishes to make wedding plans, have a baby baptized, or if you have been asked to act as a sponsor for baptism or confirmation. Also, if you require a pastoral reference for a Catholic teaching position. We encourage weekly attendance if you are seeking any of the above.

Because of COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot leave forms in the foyer. Please call the parish office and we can mail you the form. About 45 members are currently not registered. 37 members have not submitted email address. Thank you.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

This is a sensitive topic to address with so many uncertainties that continue to impact each one of us in unexpected ways. Many parishioners may already be facing financial difficulties as a family, and the first priority must be to take care of the needs of family and loved ones. Our parish has recently supported two needy families.

Our Parish of St. Martin and our Diocese of St. Catharines continue to rely on the generosity of the faithful to financially run during this time of pandemic. Parishioners can continue to donate by dropping off their weekly donations to the parish rectory, or by mail, or now at the office on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon. .

**Less than 10% of our parish membership returned last weekend, August 29/30.**

It is critical at this time to pray and support each other. We pray for all Parishes, all our Priests and Deacons, and our Diocese, for your fellow parishioners and our parish staff, and we remember those who are suffering from illness, especially those who have died from Covid-19; and frontline workers and essential service providers who have had to make a tremendous sacrifice affecting their families and loved ones during this ever present COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank you for your continued financial support. We are grateful for those who continue to mail in their stewardship. Thank You. God bless You!

### "ETIQUETTE AT EUCHARIST"

**We update weekly given our experiences of the weekend Masses; and with Public Health Regional Bylaws and our Diocese.**

You will be asked to sanitize your hands using the new automatic dispenser (touchless) just inside the main door. The wearing a face mask or shield are now mandatory throughout Niagara (except the very young and those with breathing difficulties). Masks are available free of charge.

Please wait for a hospitality team member to escort you to your assigned pew. In order to ensure physical distancing, please remain in your seats once seated. Please move up in the pew.

**NEW! Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality are updated weekly or when needed by email. This weekend we will present a floor plan for the Ushers. All are kindly asked to follow the floor plan as we need every space that is available. The doors are now locked as we begin Mass and for good reason: the TEAM have a right to worship and are not obliged to wait unnecessarily. Also, attending one Mass on the weekend is sufficient; please be mindful of others by not taking a space someone else could have.**

**For the reception of Holy Communion. Come to "Red Line" and remove your mask or drop below your chin. There will be no exchange of words as this will have already been done by Father Christopher when he gives the necessary directions.**

Note: The washrooms are to be used only if absolutely necessary; parishioners making their way there during Mass tend to be a distraction to the others. As well, please refrain from touching any Surfaces upon entering or exiting the church (anything touched has to be cleaned).

Lastly, be respectful of the ushers and cleaners and their tasks; their willingness to serve is of benefit to us all because if there are no ushers and no cleaners there can be no "open church".

All of the above is for your safety and the protection of all. It is not meant to be unwelcoming as some have written and expressed. We have entered into new pastoral challenging and will continue to do so.

**"Say Something Positive.  
If you stay Positive in a Negative Situation.  
YOU WIN!"**

## COVID-19 PROTOCOL FOR THE REOPENING PARISH HALLS

- Physical distancing (2 meters or 6 feet) and all precautions with respect to personal sanitation and cleaning of the parish hall are in effect.
- Everyone over the age of five must wear a face covering.
- Wherever possible one door should be used as an entrance and a different door should be used as an exit. Doors should be labelled "Entrance" and "Exit".
- The maximum number of persons permitted to gather in a parish hall is 50 persons, provided physical distancing of two meters (six feet) is maintained at all times. In addition, the setup of the parish hall must permit enough room for attendees to enter, exit and move about, while maintaining physical distancing requirements, before, during and after the gathering.
- Hand sanitizer must be available at all entrances and exits.
- Everyone must pass the posted COVID-19 self-assessment located at the main entrance to the parish hall, before entering a parish hall or meeting room.
- Having passed the self-assessment, all visitors and staff must record this in the "**Staff and Visitor Log**" located at the main entrance to the parish hall. This record is also important for contact tracing.
- Hand sanitizer must be placed at, or near, the **Staff and Visitor Log**.
- For meetings, it is recommended that chairs be set up in a circle or square rather than in rows. Minimize the use of furnishings; if you don't need tables, do not use them. Any furnishings used must be sanitized after the meeting or event.
- No printed or other materials are to be made available at the event unless they are handed out by one person as people are leaving.
- Parish hall washrooms are to be used for emergencies only. No more than one person/family (living at the same address) at a time should use a washroom. Notices to this effect must be posted outside the washroom. Hand-washing signs should be placed in the washroom. Washrooms must be cleaned and sanitized after every meeting or event. In the event that a washroom is soiled, it must be closed, pending thorough cleaning with disinfectant.
- Prior to and after each meeting or event all door handles and any other "touch points" must be disinfected.
- **The user group will be responsible for cleaning and sanitizing.**
- Where food and/or beverages are served, the kitchen and the bar must be cleaned and disinfected after each use.
  - No buffet style food service is allowed.
  - Individuals must be seated when eating or drinking.
- Permitted Uses
  - The parish hall may be used for all **parish** events and activities
  - The parish hall may be used for **non-parish** events provided the renter of the hall signs a hall rental contract and provides proof of insurance for the event.
- At all non-parish events, the parish must assign someone to audit the event to ensure that all protocols are being followed.