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TO WHOM DO YOU SERVE?

There are so many stewardship themes in our readings today, but they boil down to this: they challenge us to choose whom we will serve. Will we choose God and others, or ourselves? In the first reading, Joshua poses the challenge this way, "If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve." As a leader he sets an example declaring, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." And the people, recalling God's many blessings to them and his great faithfulness time and time again, join Joshua in his choice, pledging "We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

St. Paul issues a similar challenge in the second reading saying, "Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ." He places this challenge in the context of married life. Husbands and wives are asked to decide whether they will choose to serve themselves or their spouse, and by extension, their families. But the challenge extends to all relationships — friendships, employers and employees, fellow parishioners, even the people hurrying to the checkout line at the store. In choosing to serve others before self, we are ultimately choosing to put God first in our lives. That is stewardship.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus continues His instruction on the Eucharist. Many of his own disciples cannot accept His teachings and instead return to their former way of life, abandoning Christ altogether. Jesus turns to the Apostles and asks them to choose with the question, "Do you also want to leave?" Peter speaks up for the Twelve responding, "Master, to Whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

The demands of a stewardship way of life can be difficult. And the teachings of Christ can be hard to accept. How can we keep going when it gets tough? The people's response to Joshua's challenge in the first reading, and Peter's response to our Lord in the Gospel show us two ways.

When Joshua asks the people to decide whom they will serve they pause and call to mind all the blessings the Lord has given them and His unfailing faithfulness. Filled with gratitude to God, they choose *Him*. When the going gets tough for us, we too, can pause and remember the many blessings God has given and the many times He has shown His care for us. In gratitude, we are inspired to put Him and others first even when it is difficult.

Peter's honest response to the choice Jesus poses shows us a second way to stay true to a stewardship way of life. Looking at himself and the world around him, Peter comes to a realization. To paraphrase, he says, "I don't really see any better options, Lord. I've tried life with you and it's hard. But I've tried life without You and it's harder — it doesn't satisfy. Where else am I going to go? I choose *You*, Lord." Peter knows he doesn't have all the answers. And so, he humbly chooses to rely on God. When the going gets tough, we can keep going by relying on God and trusting more deeply in Him.

Remembering blessings and relying on Him — two keys to help us choose whom we will serve. Two keys to a beautiful way of life.

catholicsteward.com/blog

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

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses
Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00 a.m.
Wed @ 6:30 pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
To be re-scheduled

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 12:00 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

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Ministry Schedule - September 1/2

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom Shields
10:00 am - Anita D & Joan H

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

Children's Liturgy
No Children's Liturgy until Sept 9th

Next Hospitality Sunday
October 7th - Welcome Back &
Sign Up Sunday

August 26, 2018

**The 21st
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Sue Armstrong
#2 - Mary Pikula
10:00 am #1 - Andrew Steger
#2 - Caroline Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Yolanda Baldasaro
10:00 am - Helen, Andy & Dick

Stewardship Counting
Cheryl Dell & Mary Anne Paradis

August 26, 2018

The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



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

Monday	Aug 27	St. Monica 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Jose Martins	by Maria Martins
Tuesday	Aug 28	St. Augustine 9:00 am +For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis & family
Wednesday	Aug 29	****NO MASS TODAY****	
Thursday	Aug 30	9:00 am For the special intentions of Joan & Bob Hignett	by Heather Belmont
Friday	Aug 31	9:00 am In thanksgiving of Fr. Christopher's priesthood	by Mary Lang
Saturday	Sept 1	The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm +For the repose of the souls of the deceased members of the Corderio and Melo families	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sunday	Sept 2	10:00 am For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

INVITATION TO GATHER

The Parish Events Group (PEG) invites our parish community to join Fr. Christopher in celebrating his 30th Anniversary (July 7, 2018) of Priestly Ordination. It will also be the first year anniversary of his assignment to our faith community.

This celebration will take place Sunday September 16th, following the 10:00a.m, morning Mass. There will be a sign up sheet if you wish to help and also if you will be attending.

MASS OF PENANCE AND HEALING

As part of our observance of the 60th anniversary of our diocese, a Mass of Penance and Healing will be celebrated on Friday, September 14, 2018, the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Bishop Bergie will "pray for all those harmed by the sinful actions of priests and religious in our diocese and, in a spirit of repentance, will seek forgiveness and God's mercy. During our anniversary we need to celebrate the good, and also acknowledge the pain that is part of our history. At this Mass we will pray for God's healing as we focus on the cross which is the greatest sign of God's love."

REGENERATED 2018 CONFIRMED

Are you aware that the gifts you received at Confirmation from the Holy Spirit are to prepare you for battle? You may ask what kind of battle are we talking about? It's called "Spiritual Warfare" ... it's real and it's growing!

On Saturday, November 17th join Branches Catholic Ministries at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls as it hosts **Regenerated 2018**. Keynote speakers such as Johnnette Benkovic, Thomas Sullivan, Dr. Edward Sri and others will address the misconceptions about this Sacrament and its importance to the stability of the family and ultimately society at large. **Regenerated Youth** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18.

If you are interested in purchasing "early-bird" tickets (before Oct 31st) or for more information about these conferences visit:

branchesoftheword.org.

SUMMER PARISH MISSION APPEAL

Each year our diocese invites us to welcome a Missionary. We will welcome Father Paul Varuvel, Mission Co-ord-Diocese of Kuzhithur or his assistant. This Mission Appeal will take place the weekend of August 25,26,2018. Visit their website at:

<http://www.kuzhithuraidiocese.com/>

Pope Francis created a new Latin rite Diocese of Kuzhithurai, carved out of the Diocese of Kottar, in Kanniyakumari District, Tamil Nadu, India making it a suffragan of the metropolitan see of Madurai and with great joy and pastoral concern, he announced it officially on 22nd December 2014 at 12.00 hrs, Italian Time/16.30 hrs (IST) appointing Fr. Jeromedhas Varuvel S.D.B. as its first Bishop. He was consecrated by Most Rev. P. Remigius, Bishop of Kottar on 24th February 2015 at Trinity Central School Campus, Chithrancode.

This new diocese comprises of Mulagumoodu and Thirithuvapuram vicariates and has 264,222 Catholics in 100 parishes, 123 mission stations and a Shrine, spread across 915 sq km. served by 131 priests and 269 religious men and women. The Cathedral of the new diocese is the church of the Most Holy Trinity at Thirithuvapuram in Kuzhithurai Town and municipality. It is the administrative headquarters of the Vilavancode Taluk.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

AUGUST 18/19, 2018

Sunday Offering (65 Env):	\$ 1,500.00
Loose:	\$ 62.00
Late Catholic Missions (3 Env):	\$ 50.00
Baptism Donations (2 Env):	\$ 150.00
Memorial Donations:	\$ 410.00
HST Rebate:	\$ 1,284.97

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

ON VACATION?

Church bills never take a vacation.

**Please remember your
SUNDAY ENVELOPE!
Thank You. God Bless!**

UPCOMING BAPTISMS

Lucas Richard Hewage - August 25
Ayden Leitao - September 8

Welcome to our community.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Jenny Mous/Thomas Plammooth – Aug 26
Jacqueline Chlisczyk/Amy Urban – Aug 27
Leanne Greenwood – Aug 28
Mila Niewiadomski/Vieira Preston – Aug 30
Elleah Mudjar – Sept 1
Quincy Johnson – Sept 2

Anniversaries:

Grant & Ellie McIntyre – Aug 27
Troy & Sheila Mercer – Aug 30