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LISTENING FOR THE VOICE OF GOD

Perhaps you have heard of the man who wanted to test his wife's hearing. He stood some distance behind her and softly said, "Can you hear me?" Having received no answer, he moved closer and again whispered, "Can you hear me?" Again, having received no answer he moved right up behind her and softly said, "Can you hear me?" Finally, he heard his wife reply somewhat exasperatedly, "For the third time, yes!"

In some ways this story could be analogous of our communication with God. Often, we constantly check to see if he is listening in hopes that he will respond to our deep heartfelt needs and desires. In reality, not only is he hearing us, but he has spoken definitively if only we would listen to him.

Twice in the Gospels the Father spoke audibly regarding Jesus. The first time was at Jesus' baptism when the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." What greater statement could God have made about his Son? This was a profound validation that Jesus was sent from God, and was in fact flesh of his flesh, and bone of his bone, Emmanuel, God with us. In addition, the Father states, before Jesus accomplished anything in his ministry, that unequivocally, the very nature of Jesus pleased him exceedingly well. For Jesus to please the righteousness of God in this exceptional way verifies that Jesus, within himself, fully met the Father's demands for holiness, righteousness, and goodness.

The second time the Father spoke audibly is recorded in this week's Gospel reading, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him." This second audible statement from God the Father clarifies what the Father expects from us, what he sees as our primary responsibility. This message is equally profound in its simplicity. It is not obscured by a do list of responsibilities and behavioral expectations, but consist of one, simple command, "Listen to him." Therein is the essence of spirituality: having our heart, mind, and ears spiritually tuned to hear what he is saying?

These days of Lent should be a listening time for each of us. Could we not begin each day with a moment of quietness, praying Samuel's simple prayer, "Speak Lord, thy servant listens." Then as our day progresses, could we not keep our spiritual antenna tuned to his frequency, looking for him and his message in the simple experiences of our day. Would not he speak to us on our bed, in the night, if like Judah we could devoutly say, "My heart yearns for you in the night, my spirit earnestly seeks You." If we simply determined to actively develop the art of listening to Jesus, our lives would radically change, for the better. A spiritual life requires discipline because we need to learn to listen to God, who constantly speaks but whom we seldom hear. When however, we learn to listen, our lives become obedient lives. The word obedient comes from the Latin word audire, which means 'listening.

Sociologists have indicated that it takes approximately fourteen days to break a habit, and approximately another fourteen days to establish a new habit. We have twenty-eight days left in this Lenten Season. If we begin this listening practice today, we can be well on our way to establishing a life-giving habit of fulfilling the Father's intention for us, to listen to his Son.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

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

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard 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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
First Sunday of the Month 2pm-3pm

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.

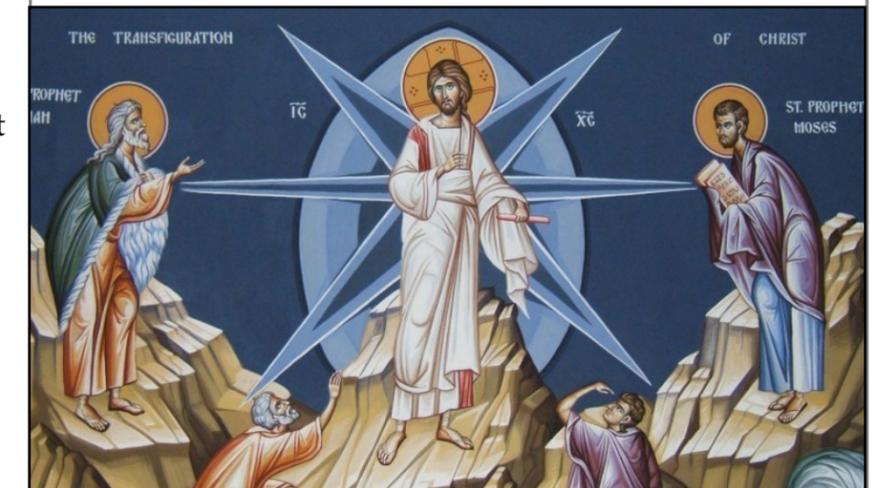
Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Bookkeeper
Tracy Piggott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church



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Ministry Schedule - Mar3/4

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Dossch & Claudette S.
9:00 am - Louie Madzo
11:00 am - Helen & Andy Lipiec

Altar Servers
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - 2 New SERVERS

Children's Liturgy
No Children's Liturgy Today

Next Hospitality Sunday
March 4th

Feb 25, 2018

The 2nd
Sunday of
Lent

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Anne Favero
#2 - Tom Richardson
9:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger
11:00 am #1 - Deanne Long
#2 - Sue Armstrong

Extra-ordinary Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Bea, Marcel & Dick
11:00 am - Helen, Andy & Vern

Stewardship Counting
Antonella Presta & Lisa Poort

February 25, 2018

The 2nd Sunday of Lent - Year B



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

Monday	Feb 26	11:00am	Funeral Mass Louie Madzo Sr. Parish Mass at 9:00am is cancelled due to Funeral.	
Tuesday	Feb 27	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar For the repose of the soul of Konrad Eigner	by John & Riky Mulder by his wife and family
Wednesday	Feb 28	6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis
Thursday	Mar 1	9:00 am	+In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer	by St. Martin's Parish
Friday	Mar 2	9:00 am	For the special intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children and grandchildren	by Doug & Maeve Devlin
		6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	Mar 3	The 3rd Sunday of Lent		
		5:00 pm	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sunday	Mar 4	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Sofia Modrzejewski	by family
		11:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Rudy Fleer	by John & Riky Mulder
		2:00 pm	Holy Hour/ Exposition and Benediction	

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

As in past years, St. Martin of Tours will be passing out bags after each Mass this weekend to coincide with St. Martin's School Lenten Food Drive!

We ask that you return these bags on or before Holy Thursday! They will be picked up and taken to West Lincoln Community Care to help stock the shelves for Easter. If you have already received a bag through your child at St. Martin's school, please don't take another! We Thank You for your continued generosity!

LENTEN SEASON, 2018

The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of Lent, but not during Easter Triduum at 6:00pm.

PARISH EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

First Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. While we encourage all parishioners, a special invitation is extended to all Lay Ministers, especially those who are Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers.

INVITATION TO JOIN BIBLE STUDY

Please come out and join us Thursday mornings in the Parish Hall from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for a Bible Study. It is very informal and we study the readings for the following Sunday. Coffee and cookies are served. If you have any questions, speak with Marg Van Geest or Maeve Devlin. Thank you.

ZUMBA FITNESS

The final Zumba fitness class will be on Tuesday February 27th in the parish hall from 7:00pm to 8:00pm. Thank you to all who participated. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council #16421

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

On March 3rd and 4th the Knights of Columbus will be having a short information presentation following each Mass. Should you be interested in joining the Knights of Columbus Council 16421 St. Martin of Tours please see one of them after Mass or email KOC.16421@gmail.com attention Grand Knight/Membership. God Bless You from all Your Brother Knights of St. Martin of Tours.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The St. Catharines Diocesan Council annual League Development Workshop Saturday will be on March 10th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Star of the Sea Church, St. Catharines. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Please "brown bag" your lunch; coffee and tea will be provided. To register call Jean Weaver by February 27th at 905-356-8714.

PARISH DISCERNMENT

Bishop Bergie has invited the Halimand Deanery, Group V, to begin the Parish Discernment Process Saturday April 14, 2018, at the Gethsemane Centre, 84008 Wellandport Road from 9:30am to 12 noon.

Sr. Margaret Kane, CSJ, will be the facilitator.

DIOCESAN PENANCE DAY

On Saturday, March 17, 2018 in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10am – 2pm to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Thanks to money donated annually by Catholics during "Share Lent," Development and Peace can support 170 partners and 202 projects in 36 countries around the world! There are many ways to be part of "Share Lent." Use the Solidarity calendar, you received in the bulletin, with your family. You can make a donation on "Solidarity Sunday", March 18. Thank You!

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. We ask each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with two or more people to give public witness for one or two hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion – 40 Days for Life." To sign up: www.wpcprolife.com, and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or contact: Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette: loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363

RETROUBAILLE

Do you feel alone? - Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 16, 2018**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamiltonretrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org

PARISH STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 17/18, 2018

Sunday Offering (80 Env): \$1,851.00
Loose: \$223.25

Late Facility Maintenance Offering: \$10.00

Hall Rental Funeral Luncheon: \$150.00

One Bulletin Ad: \$200.00 - Thank You.

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

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In advance of the June 2018 provincial election in Ontario, we have the opportunity to ask candidates from all parties three important questions:

1. Will you support legislation to protect doctors, nurses, and other health care providers who are being forced to participate in assisted suicide / euthanasia through making a referral?
2. How will you protect facilities from being forced to offer euthanasia / assisted suicide on their premises?
3. How does your party plan to address the lack of quality palliative care in our province?

To contact the electoral candidates in your riding, please visit:

www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

This month's topics are: Finding Peace with Deacon Gunther Presenter – Feb 26. Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Preregistration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154 or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Katrina Shields/Alison Tracey – Feb 19
Melina Rakonjac – Feb 20
Justin Long/Ron Roscovich – Feb 21
Sherri deWilde/Alex Sills/Crystal Smith – Feb 22
Sarina DeMarchi – Feb 23
James Gunn – Feb 24
Steven Joyner – Feb 25