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MOTHER'S DAY.....LET US GET PLANNING

Time passes slowly or quickly, depending on whether we are waiting for something we like to have happen or not. Waiting for the Monday of a long weekend can seem like it takes forever to get here, but when the Monday is done and we get ready for bed we might wonder where all the time of that day has gone. Soon Mother's Day will be here, ready or not, and we can think of some ways we can be ready.

The second Sunday of May is the day when in Canada we may choose to honour mothers. It might be our mother, or our grandmother, or our sister who is a mother, or our daughter who is a mother. It might be our god-mother who promised at our baptism to help us live out the Christian faith. It might be a woman who became a mother when she adopted a child. Or maybe she became a foster mother when she opened her home to children in need of a safe place to live, or a stepmother when she married someone already a parent. Or maybe she is our mother-in-law, or a woman called a spiritual mother because she serves as a guide in spiritual matters.

Mother's Day was first celebrated on May 10, 1908 in the American states of West Virginia and Pennsylvania. In the year 1911 all the other states did so, and in the year 1913 the American government established the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. In the year 1911 Canada followed this example and recognized this day.

So with all that information to think about, what might we say and / or do to honour mothers on mother's day 2017?

- ◆ give her a written promise that once a month...an example would be the third Sunday of the month...you attend Mass somewhere and ask Jesus to bless her.
- ◆ write her a poem or make your own card that lets her know you are thankful for something she does that makes you laugh...an example would be way she looks when she forgets to put sugar in her coffee.
- ◆ plant a flower in a garden to remind her and you that her life is to be noticed.
- ◆ plant a flower in a garden to remind yourself that even when we are not blooming we have God's love in us, and sometimes mothers who are tired or sick may not bloom like they do when they are rested and well.
- ◆ light a candle in church to remember that like a candle a mother can be bright, can make you feel the warmth of love, can dance with joy, and can burn you if you aren't careful.
- ◆ pray their favourite prayer...an example is the Hail Mary...once a week on every Tuesday or whichever day you choose.
- ◆ learn her favourite song and sing it once for her on Mother's Day. And singing it over the phone or computer counts.

And whether the mother you honour on this day is alive in this world or in the world to come does not matter. It is the thought, hope and dream that matters most.

Fr. Brian Bevan.

Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

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 and Benediction
1st Friday @ 8:00 am
3rd and 4th Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
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Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
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April 30, 2017
3rd Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

The 3rd Sunday of Easter - Year A

Monday	May 1	St. Joseph the Worker International Workers' Day 9:00 am +In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Tuesday	May 2	St. Athanasius, bishop, doctor 9:00 am For the health and healing of Nellie Wolbers	by John and Riky Mulder
Wednesday	May 3	St. Philip and St. James, apostles 6:30 pm +For the peaceful rest of Ruth Gillespie 7:00 pm Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	by Martha Devlin
Thursday	May 4	Bd. Marie -Léonie Paradis, religious & founder 9:00 am For the intentions of and God's blessings upon the women participating in the ACTS Retreat	by Yvonne MacNiven
Friday	May 5	9:00 am For the intentions of the Devlin children, in-law children and grandchildren 10:00 am School Easter Mass in the Gym	by Doug and Maeve Devlin
Saturday	May 6	St. Francois DeLaval, bishop 9:00 am ****AVAILABLE**** 9:30 am Anointing of the sick	
Saturday	May 6	4th Sunday of Easter 5:00 pm ****AVAILABLE****	
Sunday	May 7	9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Conrad Robillard 11:00 am For the intentions of St. Martin's parish family	by Pauline Lewis

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Marie De L'Incarnation, religious; April 30.

Marie Guyat was born in France on October 15, 1599. She married in the year 1617, to please her father though she wanted to be a nun. Her husband died three years later. In the year 1632 Marie entered the Ursuline monastery at Tours, leaving her son in the care of her sister - he later became a Benedictine monk. Marie left France with two other Ursuline Nuns, arriving in Quebec City in the year 1639. They opened a school, and Marie composed catechisms and a dictionary in Iroquois and Algonkian languages. Marie died in Quebec on April 30, 1672.

Marie was the *first missionary nun in Canada*.

She was canonized by Pope Francis on April 02, 2014.

St. Joseph the worker; May 01.

Joseph was a carpenter (Matthew 13:55), as was Jesus (Mark 6:3). We recall the example that Joseph provides - hard working and dependable. This feast invites us to honour the dignity of labour, and to seek to bring a spiritual dimension to labour unions.

Pope Pius XII established this day, in the year 1955.

St. Athanasius, bishop & doctor; May 02.

Athanasius was born about the year 297 at Alexandria, Egypt. He became a deacon in the year 318, and was appointed secretary to the bishop. He attended the Council of Nicaea in the year 325. When 30 years old, he became Bishop of Alexandria. He defended the faith, writing and teaching. Athanasius was exiled at least five times for refusing to accept false teachings, spending 17 years in exile. Athanasius died on May 02, 373.

His feast dates from the sixteenth century.

St. Philip & St. James, apostles; May 03.

Philip was a disciple of John the Baptist, before being called by Christ. Scripture portrays him as a literalist. Tradition says he preached the gospel in Asia Minor before being crucified.

James, called the *Less - younger* - is the *brother - Jewish = first cousin* - of Jesus. He was the Bishop of Jerusalem in the year 50, when the Council of Jerusalem met. He wrote one of the letters in the New Testament. Tradition says that James was stoned to death in the year 62.

Bd. Marie-Léonie Paradis, religious & founder; May 04.

Marie was born on May 12, 1840 in Quebec City. She joined the Sisters of the Cross at 14 years old. She taught in Quebec, New York and Indiana. In the year 1874 she went to New Brunswick, where with 14 young women she founded the *Little Sisters of the Holy Family* in the year 1877. Their work was to do laundry, cleaning and cooking for priests in rectories and colleges. She died on May 03, 1912.

She was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 11, 1984.

St. François de Laval, bishop & founder; May 06.

François was born on April 30, 1623 in France. He was ordained in the year 1647. He was made bishop in the year 1658, and arrived in New France in the year 1659, to become the first bishop in Canada. In the year 1663, he founded *Laval University*, in order to supply priests to all the French-speaking territory of North America. He was deeply concerned for the French settlers and Native people, on whose behalf he acted in relations with the civil authorities. He died on May 06, 1708.

He was canonized by Pope Francis on April 02, 2014.

DAYS THIS WEEK

International Workers' Day; May 01.

We are called to recognize the value of human work, defend the dignity of all working people, encourage all to be responsible in their work, and celebrate the role that human work has in God's plan of creation.

Ontario Police Memorial; May 07.

This Memorial - the site and the service - honours all sworn Ontario police officers known to have died in the line of duty since before Confederation, and recognizes the sacrifices that police officers and their families make serving the public.

The Ontario Police Memorial was officially dedicated in May 2000. The Memorial Service is held on the first Sunday of May. The site of the Memorial is Queen's Park, Toronto.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1920.75 to our parish last week.

OFFICE HOURS CLOSURE

Please note that the office will be closed on Thursday, May 4th. If you need anything from the office please call or visit on Tuesday May 2nd and Sandy will be happy to help you or ask Fr. Brian.

FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES



These grade 2 students from St. Martin's School have asked that they be welcomed to receive their First Holy Communion today, Sunday, April 30 at 2:00 pm:

Nathan Baccega, Jack Bruzzese,
Alexis Chechalk, Seth Chechalk,
Lucy Clemencio, Jack Devine,
Reggie Gal, Robert Hyde, Hazelle Le Blanc,

Maya Merla, Christian Pearson, Lukas Perry,
Audrey Pogoda, Alexis Potvin, Zachary Prieur,
Teresina Sorbara, Isabella Sposato,
Ainsley Schure-Lalonde, Serana Trombetta,
Logan Witteveen.

Please remember them in your prayers.

NIAGARA CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY SPRING OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, May 3 from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Register at your neighbourhood Catholic elementary school. Please bring your child's birth certificate, baptism record, health card, immunization record and proof of address.

More registration information is available at:
<http://www.niagaracatholic.ca/join-us/elementary.html>

THE BACK PAGE

How can we prepare for Mother's Day? Some ideas are on the on the back page of this bulletin.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Our Catholic Women's League meets again on Wednesday, May 10. The meeting is in the parish hall and begins at 7:00 pm.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Krista Jones/Rebecca DaSilva – April 30
Regina Newman/Laura Porzuczek – May 1
Jessica Brajer – May 2
Lauren Bishop – May 3
Jason Evans/Isabella Pearson – May 5
Jessica Grzybek/ Dustin Hayward – May 5
Treeva Johnson – May 6
Kelley Mous/Jeremy Greenwood – May 7
Bianca Kristo/Aeryn MacIsaac - May 7
Alana Zdichavsky – May 7

Anniversaries:

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