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LOVE

The crux of Jesus' message, and the essence of our life in Christ is encapsulated in the word love. Love answers the question, "Why?" - the enigma of salvation, why a holy God would expend his love on such a people as us. Love captures both the goal and meaning behind our existence as believers; to live in the Father's love. Love identifies the means by which the Gospel is advanced. For it is not through our flashy gimmicks that hearts are won, but rather by the proof that they are loved as God's love is expressed through our lives. Love is a cycle starting with the Father's love, shown forth by the Son's love, until eventually through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, we realize we are loved. Then in love, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we carry the love of the Father and the Son to others, beginning the cycle again.

Jesus makes three statements that help redefine and clear up our murky concept of love. First and foremost, love is self-sacrificing; *love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend.* The way Jesus loved us was by living and giving his life to bring about our well being, our salvation, our awareness that God loves us. If we are to love as he loved us, we must love others at our own expense.

Second, the way to love sacrificially, is to do so in keeping with the will and direction of Jesus; *If you keep my commandments you will abide in my love.* There are many difficult situations in life, times when we wonder which of our actions will really be the loving thing to do. Though commercialization has made trite the meaning of What Would Jesus Do, this phrase does in fact provide direction as to how we should love others. We simply must keep his Word, his will, and his nature in mind if we are to love others as Jesus would if he was here walking among us. And guess what, he is literally here, of course, as he lives in and through us.

Third, the way to love is unconditional. Jesus says, *You did not choose me, but I chose you.* Coupled with this is; *In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us.* Jesus did not find something in us that warranted his love, actually we were disdainful of his love. Yet Jesus took the initiative, sought us out, and demonstrated the Father's love for us. Jesus' kind of love seeks out the unlovable and ungrateful, expecting no payment in return. We are called to also love the unlovely, not so that they can fulfill some need we have but so that Christ's love, shown through our words and actions, might meet some need they have. This kind of love becomes redemptive in the same manner as Jesus' love is. As people experience unconditional love they are often drawn to its source, Christ in us, and they respond back to him in love. This then becomes the fruit that abides forever.

Only when you know yourself as unconditionally loved - that is, fully received - by God can you give gratuitously. Giving without wanting anything in return is trusting that all your needs will be provided for by the One who loves you unconditionally. It is trusting that you do not need to protect your own security but can give yourself completely to the service of others.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

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 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

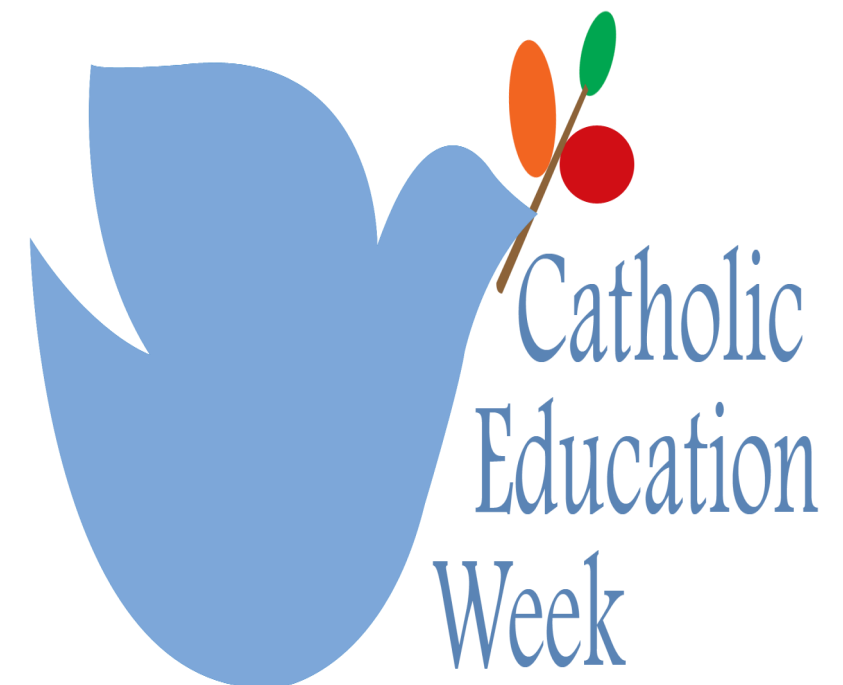
Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

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



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

Ministry Schedule - May 12/13

Hospitality Ministers

5:00 pm - Dosseh & Claudette S.
9:00 am - Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - Andy & Pat Wirth

Altar Servers

5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy

Alicia

Next Hospitality Sunday

June 3

May 6, 2018

The 6th
Sunday of
Easter

Lectors

5:00 pm #1 - Yolanda Baldasaro
#2 - Tom Shields
9:00 am #1 - Marg Van Geest
#2 - Andrew Steger
11:00 am #1 - Gemma Bose
#2 - Sue Armstrong

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Bea, Caroline & Marcel
11:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa

Stewardship Counting

Beth Davis & Marg Van Geest

May 6, 2018

The 6th Sunday of Easter - Year B



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

Monday	May 7	9:00 am	In memory of Joseph Olascki, Charles Parker, Olga Mous and Winnie Stadelbauer (Benefactors)	by St. Martin's Parish
Tuesday	May 8	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Geraldine Bell	by Dominic & Gina Galeazza
Wednesday	May 9	6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of John Fedorik Sr.	by family
Thursday	May 10	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ciaron Gillespie	by Martha Devlin
Friday	May 11	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Geraldine Bell	by Tammy, Milan, Sormaz & family
May 11 10:30am Catholic Education Week School Mass				
Saturday	May 12	The Ascension of the Lord		
		5:00 pm	For the special intentions of Mr & Mrs Melo	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sunday	May 13	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	+For the repose of the souls of Anna Mulder & Dina Klunder	by John & Riky Mulder
		2:00 pm	Holy Hour/ Exposition and Benediction	

PARISH DISCERNMENT GROUP V

Haldimand Deanery Parishes
 April through to November 2018.
 Next Parish Team Meeting is Tuesday, May 8th,
 at 7:00 pm.
 Diocesan/ Parish Team Meeting Saturday, May 12,
 (9:30am to 12Noon) Gethsemane Centre, Wellandport.
We thank those who participated in the "Parish Story". We will have some feedback to share with you after we give the report at the May 12, gathering.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Group 2 May 6, at 11:00am
Reception in the Parish Hall prepared by Parish Events Group.

HOLY HOUR FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

This Sunday May 6th, is re-scheduled due to the First Holy Communion Reception. Holy Hour will take place next Sunday beginning at 2:00pm.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL PRIESTLY RETREAT

Priests of our diocese will be on their annual yearly retreat from Monday, June 4th, Friday, June 8, 2018.
NO WEEKDAY MASSES.

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.
 Registration 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)

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN NEED

Every day one in five students goes to school without proper nutrition. Several lack daily essentials such as warm clothing, shoes and personal care items.
 Your donation of \$13.75 will provide a student with an early morning meal and a snack for a week. Cheques & credit cards accepted, donate on line at www.nfce.org
 Niagara Foundation for Catholic Education, 427 Rice Road, Welland, Ontario L3C 7C1 (905) 735-0247, extension 210.

We often associate poverty with developing countries. That is a far cry from reality. Poverty is right here at home in our own back yard and sometimes we may not realize that. As the message says, one on five students goes to school every day hungry here in our own backyard. Thank you.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEK

Sunday, May 6 - Friday, May 11

"Renewing the Promise"

"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." (Acts 2:39)

Catholic Education Week begins on a Sunday to highlight the partnership that remains the foundation of Catholic education between our Catholic schools and local Catholic parishes. During Education Week, the Niagara Catholic District School Board will celebrate the significant contribution that Catholic Education has made to the community, the province, and to Canada.

Catholic Education Week combines the themes of reconciliation, solidarity, love, justice, and ecology -- and is marked by special activities at the school and system level, including prayer celebrations and service activities. Parents, family, and community members are invited to visit our schools during this special week and join in the many activities planned.

There are five sub-themes, one for each day of the week:
 Monday: Remembering the Promise
 Tuesday: The Promise is Within You
 Wednesday: Praying the Promise
 Thursday: Living the Promise
 Friday: Proclaiming the Promise.

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL FAITH FAIR DAY

Wednesday, May 9th from 10 am to 3 pm.
 Please drop by the school and see the wonderful displays and interact with students.

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday May 29, 2018 at 6:00pm will be the Official Blessing of the NEW St. Martin Catholic Elementary School, by Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D. Bishop of St. Catharines. We look forward to "showing off our "Little School That Grew" on this special evening. There will be entertainment provided by the school choir and band following the official program. Refreshments will be served in the school library. Should you have any questions feel free to contact the school at: **905 957-3032**

PARISH STEWARDSHIP APRIL 28/29 2018

Sunday Offering (86 Env): \$2, 262.00
Loose: \$ 438.25

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

GRIMSBY LIFE CENTRE 2018 LIFE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

Next week begins our annual Life Change baby-bottle campaign. This six week campaign runs between Mothers and Father's Day, it is one of our most significant fund raising campaigns that under girds the Life Centres in Grimsby and Smithville. We exist solely by the generosity of our community businesses, churches, family and individuals who believe in helping their neighbours. Please partner with us and take a baby bottle with you on Mother's Day to be returned on Father's Day. Thank you so much for your willingness to participate.

20th NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE 2018

Events will be held in Ottawa from Wednesday, May 9 to Friday, May 11. Each year thousands of Canadians gather to challenge our government to protect its most vulnerable 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 Wednesday, May 9 (9:00 p.m.). You can join in spirit by sending 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 information 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.)

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Treeva Johnson/Kathy Wasiela – May 6
 Kelley Mous/Jeremy Greenwood - May 7
 Bianca Kristo/Alana Zdichavsky – May 7
 Kamryn Perry/Daniel Shukovitsky – May 9
 Erika Nardini – May 10
 Peyton Raposo – May 11
 Matthew Bungay/Kelly Duliban – May 12
 Dosseh Sassou-Messan/Grace Nardini – May 13

Anniversaries:

Paul & Stephanie Chiarcos – May 6
 Tom & Gail Richardson – May 6
 Tony & Brenda Malevich – May 7
 Ron & Grace Nardini – May 10
 George & Carol Sobrara – May 11