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**FREEDOM TO CHOOSE**

Today's readings challenge us to reflect on the true state of our hearts as it relates to stewardship. Do we think of stewardship as something we take care of once a year, simply a matter of ticking off boxes on a commitment card - or do we choose to embrace it as a spirituality and way of life that allows us to grow in conformity to Christ every day?

Our first reading, from the book of Sirach, teaches that our good God has given us freedom to make this choice - "Before man are life and death, good and evil, whichever he chooses shall be given him." The concept of stewardship helps us to live out the fundamental choice to put God first. Stewardship is meant to be embraced as a way of life, a life that involves a continuous conversion of heart.

In our Gospel passage, from Matthew, Jesus illustrates the difference between an external observance of the law and a true conversion of heart, saying, "You have heard that it was said... you shall not kill... But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Our Lord is asking us not only for exterior acts, but for a true change of heart. In stewardship terms, that means seeing everything as a gift from Him, to be used for His glory and the good of others.

In the week ahead, let us examine the state of our hearts to ask ourselves if we have chosen to allow stewardship to become a way of life for us. Only then we will experience its true depth and heart-changing possibilities. The choice is ours.

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 and 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

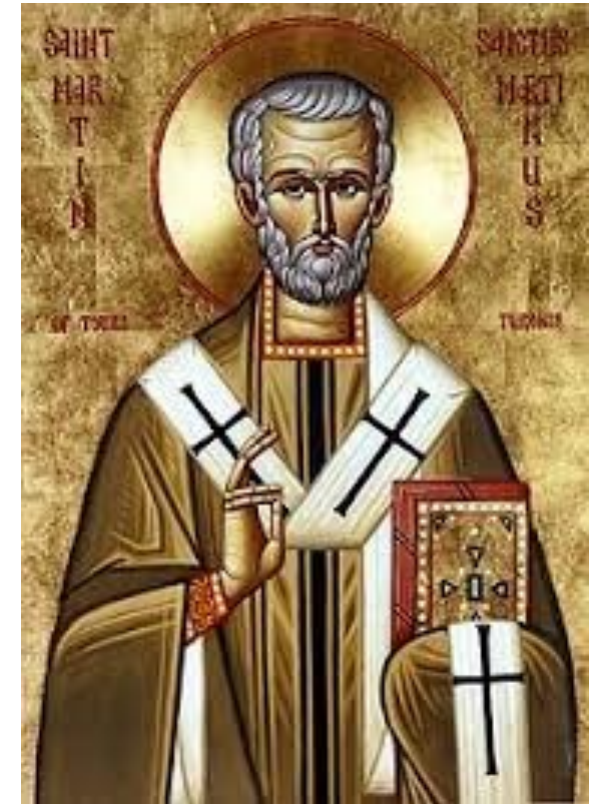
**Parish Organizations**  
 Catholic Women's League  
 President - Carolyn Vaughan  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan  
 koc.16421@gmail.com

**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**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
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 www.stmartinsparish.com

**Ministry Schedule - Feb 22/23/26**

**Hospitality Ministers**  
 5:00 pm - Ron & Janet Roscovich  
 10:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H.  
 6:30 pm - Dossen & Claudette S

**Children's Liturgy**  
 10:00 am - Rose & Deanne

**Next Hospitality Sunday**  
 March 1

**Stewardship Counting**  
 10:00 am - James G. & Sandy J.

**Feb 16, 2020**

**The 6th Sunday  
 in Ordinary  
 Time  
 Year A**

**Lectors**  
 5:00 pm #1 - Andrew Steger  
 #2 - Kelly Ann Staples  
 10:00 am #1 - Mitch Pogoda  
 #2 - Mary Pikula  
 6:30 pm #1 - Andrew Steger  
 #2 - Caroline Steger

**Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers**  
 5:00 pm - Yolanda Baldasaro  
 10:00 am - Nick Verrecchia  
 6:30 pm - Needed

# February 16, 2019

## The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Feb 17		NO MASS TODAY	
Tues	Feb 18	9:00 am	+Paul Lowrey	by the Chorley Family
Wed	Feb 19	9:00 am	+Daciel Medeiros	by the Melo & Mikhail Families
		10:30 am	Mass at Gethsemane Centre	Fr. Christopher
Thurs	Feb 20	9:00 am	+Millie Lindley	by St. Martin's School Social Committee
		9:30 am - 10:30 am	Scripture Study Group in parish hall	
Fri	Feb 21	9:00 am	+Robert Pillar	by Joyce & Rodney Ross
Sat	Feb 22	<b>The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
		5:00 pm	+John Mulder	by the Newman Family
			+Frank Modrzejewski	by Family
		6:00 pm	Youth Group Activity	
Sun	Feb 23	10:00 am	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

### CATHEDRAL RESTORATION APPEAL CONTINUES IN 2020

[www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal)

Did you know that the restoration of our cathedral is on schedule, and thanks to the intercession of St. Catherine, on budget? Vibrant murals are transforming the ceiling, the sanctuary is being renewed by reusing historical material such as marble, and beautifully painted stations of the cross are being put back in place in preparation for the season of Lent.

Consider a visit to our cathedral to see firsthand the amazing restoration well underway. And "thank you" for prayerfully considering making a donation.

**Visit [www.saintcd.com/appeal](http://www.saintcd.com/appeal) or pick up a brochure and pledge form in the church foyer today. Thank you.**

### DIOCESAN WIDE RECONCILIATION

**Sacrament of Penance**  
**Saturday March 28, 2020**  
**10:00 am to 2:00pm**

In every parish across the diocese, a priest is available to hear individual Confessions. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate this wonderful sacrament of Reconciliation.

### SACRAMENTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN 2020

**First Reconciliation - March 10, 7:00 pm**  
**First Holy Communion - May 3, 1:00 pm.**

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

They are holding their annual Charities Lottery. Tickets will be sold after each Mass. Ask also about membership.

### WHAT'S ON AT GETHSEMANE MINISTRIES **84008 Wellandport Rd.**

The night vigil is every 3rd Saturday of the month from 8:00 pm Sat. to 6:00 am Sun. and includes praise and worship, silent adoration, Divine Mercy, Rosary, and Holy Mass.

The weekly Prayer meeting is every Wednesday (7:30 - 9:00 pm) and includes praying the Rosary, praise and worship, sharing the word of God, and fellowship. Wednesday morning Mass at 10:30 am, which is followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 7:30 pm. For more information about these events, call 905-386-1111 or visit:

[gethsemaneministries.com](http://gethsemaneministries.com)

### COUNTDOWN TO LENT

With the season of Lent on the horizon, here is what is planned so far:

- Mass will be celebrated Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 am.
- First Wednesday of the month the Knights of Columbus have requested Mass at 6:30 pm, prior to their meeting. We will keep the 9:00 am Mass each Wednesday for those who attend.
- The Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 6:00 pm beginning the First Week of Lent, March 6.
- Bible Study each Thursday will continue after the morning Mass. Consider coming out to Bible Study for the season of Lent.
- Ash Wednesday begins February 26. Three Masses will be celebrated with distribution of Ashes. Parish 9:00 am, School 1:00 pm, Parish 6:30 pm.
- The focus in Lent is Development and Peace and our Share Lent Collection. Also our parish and school Food Drive for Community Care.
- Every Tuesday in Lent (beginning March 10) there will be school confessions from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

***Let Each Of Us Do Our Part In Celebrating A Prayerful Lenten Season In Our Journey Towards Easter.***

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday March 6th, 2020 is World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical celebration on the theme "Rise! Take your Mat and Walk". Join with 170 countries from around the world in the prayers written by the women of Zimbabwe. A service will be held at:

Smithville Christian Reformed Church  
6522 Smithville Rd. Smithville  
Friday March 6th at 1:30 p.m.

For more information contact Heather Tomascin at 905 957-7805. World Day of Prayer is sponsored by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Everyone is welcome.

### WEST LINCOLN LOAF OF BREAD 2019

#### Host Churches

March - St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic  
February & April - Smithville Canadian Reformed Church  
May & June - St Ann's Community Church

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU  
FOR YOUR FAITHFUL  
STEWARDSHIP!**

**February 8/9, 2020**

**Regular Sunday Offering \$ 2, 147.95**

### CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

It would be prudent to make some temporary changes to our worship style to err on the side of caution as we deal with the matter of the coronavirus. Hence, with common sense prevailing, do pay heed to the following:

1. Find a way other than a handshake. This sign could also be expressed by a deep bow or a wave. Husbands and wives may continue to "greet one another with a holy kiss."
2. We kindly ask everyone to consider receiving Communion in the hand rather than on the tongue while precautions are in effect. It may not be readily apparent, but the transfer of saliva occurs more noticeably with Communion on the tongue.

All the while, we should be mindful of the line from the Cantic of Zechariah in Luke's gospel: "We want to be *"free to worship you [God] without fear...all the days of our life."* Let us each do our part to keep our parish safe. Thank you.

### UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

- Saturday February 22 Diocesan Share Lent Launch St. Alfred's 9:30 am - 12 noon.
- **Ash Wednesday, February 26, 9:00 am Mass and 6:30 pm Mass. School Mass 1:00 pm Distribution of Ashes+ at all Masses**
- Tuesday, March 3, Priests Lenten Day of Recollection Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre Niagara Falls.
- Tuesday March 11, First Reconciliation 7 pm
- March break - 16 to 20.

***Come to Mass early enough not to disturb.  
Leave late enough not to insult.  
Worship reverently enough not to distract.  
And dress proudly enough not to offend.***