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AS WE BEGIN LENT 2021

Dear Friend in Christ.

As Lent approaches this week, we reflect on these two themes: lament or liberation. It has been a full year since the COVID-19 pandemic was identified in Canada. During Lent this year we will observe one year since St. Martin's made major shifts in how we worship and approach ministry together. It is a good time to reflect on how we have cared for our lament, and how we move forward through it. As Lent approaches this year, we lament.

We lament all those whose lives were lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts break for all of the people who are no longer with us. We also lament other losses that include jobs and livelihoods, the loss of regular parish stewardship and the opportunity to travel to visit loved ones and the ability to worship together in our church buildings. So much was lost, with little or no time to lament that which was lost. Because of the magnitude of these collective losses, I've decided to focus on lament as the theme for 2021. In fact, writing openly about lament is difficult. Especially when so many of us have lost so much. One might ask, "Why should I appear mournful when others have lost so much as well?" This Lent, I invite you to take some time to lament that which you and others have lost. But, we lament with HOPE and PROMISE!

- Rest, to take sabbath time to simply be present to our current situation in 2021.
- Reflect on that which has been lost, loved ones, health, routine and whatever else you deem as loss.
- Restitution can be made and be Restored to God - to one another repenting for the sufferings and loss we have caused or overlooked; and make Restitution and be Restored to God and to one another.

I encourage you to engage the "Four Steps of Lament," by resting, reflecting, repenting and ultimately being restored to God and to one another. Finally my prayer for you is that God brings you a "reset" this Lent so that you may reflect on your own loss and be transformed in the process. May God then restore your soul and bring you into the bright new life that is our Easter promise. And may you continue to know that you are loved now and always.

Shalom, Christopher+ Parish Priest

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Office Rep.
Member of Ontario Bishops' Social Affairs Commission.
Spiritual Chaplain to Diocesan D&P
Spiritual Director to Acts Retreat Ministry Men & Women.
Intern to Mental Health/ Addiction Counselling Hamilton.

Sunday Masses in Lockdown
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 9: 00 am.10:00 am. 11:00 am

Weekday Masses
See Schedule on the inside of the bulletin

In Office Hours
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
CLOSED IN LOCKDOWN

Administrative Assistant
Financial Recorder
Sandy Johnson

Reconciliation/Confessions
By Appointment Only in COVID-19

Requesting Sacraments
Must be registered and practicing
Call office for details

St Martin Elementary 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 - Pierre Paradis
koc.16421@gmail.com

Facility Maintenance
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@gmail.com

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



LENT

A SEASON OF REFLECTION,
RENEWAL, AND PREPARATION

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www.stmartinsparish.com
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February 14, 2021 Year B
The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ash Wednesday and the Holy Season of Lent begins February 17, 2021.

February 14, 2021

The 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Feb 15	9:00 am	For the special intentions of Julie Notarianni & Family +Theresa O'Neill (November of 2020 Belfast, Ireland)	by Martha Devlin by Fr, Christopher
Tues	Feb 16	9:00 am	+Winnie Cappriotti	by Pat & Lloyd Buchan
Wed	Feb 17	Ash Wednesday and Imposition of Ashes		
		9:00 am	+William Ross Jr	by Maria Chorley
		12:00 pm	+Aldo Chiappetta	by Frank & Cathy Cartaginense
		6:30 pm	+Christina Terpstra	by the deWilde fFamily
Thurs	Feb 18	9:00 am	+Paul Lowrey	by Maria Chorley
			For the health and healing of Maureen O'Neill	by Fr. Christopher
		2:00 pm	- 3: 00 pm Centre for Mental Health CHM Hamilton Zoom Meeting	Father Christopher
Fri	Feb 19	9:00 am	+Camilia & Zachary Terpstra	by the deWilde Family
		9:30 am	Lenten Devotional Stations of the Cross	
Sat	Feb 20	8:40 am - 10:00 am	That Man Is You - Zoom Seminar/Program	Fr. Christopher
			The First Sunday of Lent	
		5:00 pm	+Nora Franko	by Paula Weber
Sun	Feb 21	9:00 am	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	by Maria Chorley
		10:00 am	+William Ross Jr.	by Lubera Family
		11:00 am	For all the Sick & Front-Line Workers	

ONLINE EUCHARIST

Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am.

Visit the diocesan website for viewing:

www.saintcd.com or on **YouTube**

St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.

Follow on **Face Book** or their website:

Stjosephgrimsby.ca

Vision TV: Sun - 8:00 am

Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm

Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

Salt + Light: Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm

Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,

3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

yesTV: Sun - 10:30 am & Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

Internet : www.dailytvmass.com

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY

Whether you're single this Valentine's Day or spending it with the one you love, never you fret. Why? No matter what Jesus is always your valentine. God is Love; and He Loves You!

PASTORAL HOME VISITS

Throughout this pandemic Father Christopher has shared the Good News with many of you on the phone, email and text. Please call the parish office to setup a home visit. Remember, you are not alone. Connection and prayer is only a phone call away. **Home visits will continue during the lockdown with all the necessary protocols being in place. These visits are restricted to our seniors who are already in our bubble.**

E-TRANSFERS

These transfers are often referred to as **e-Transfers** and done through your online banking, website or app. To transfer funds to St. Martin Parish e-Transfer to:

st.martinsdonation@gmail.com

Please do not enter a security question and answer. You will be informed that your transfer to "The Roman Catholic Episcopal Corporation" has been completed.

INCOME TAX RECEIPTS FOR 2020

Are now available for pickup in the front foyer. Please call the office to arranged a safe pickup time.

ATTENDANCE AT SUNDAY / WEEKDAY MASS

While the Province and Niagara live through this next phase of restrictions meant to curtail the spread of the coronavirus, we are permitted to have no more than ten people at Mass - radically reducing attendance. Please read and be informed.

- All must register for every Mass they wish to attend. You can do that by email or phone from Sunday afternoon until Thursday of each week. Thursday at 12 Noon is the Deadline. (Office is closed to the public)
- Full name and phone number are recorded for tracking purposes.
- Please do not call on the weekend or the morning of or day before as its too late for registration.
- Avoid Father's personal email or cell phone, text for Mass registration or for cancellation.
- Do not give another person your space. You, are registered and not that person.
- To reduce cleaning responsibilities, all are asked to sit as close to the front as possible and on the left side only.
- A reader is required for each Mass along with a volunteer to light the candles and prepare for the next Mass. One person required for sanitizing will be greatly appreciated.
- Other measures may be implemented as the parish pastoral team sees fit.
- Please show pastoral sensitivity in allowing others the opportunity to attend Mass. You might consider not attending every weekday Mass or weekend Mass. Currently, we have not turned anyone away.
- If you register and are unable to attend for whatever reason, please call the office asap and inform us. We can then offer your place to others.
- No walk-ins will be permitted as the government fines start at \$10,000. Thank you so much.

"VIRTUAL" CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Our Children's Liturgy, under the direction of Mrs. Noseworthy is posting videos, lessons and the parish bulletin every Sunday at 10:00 a.m., to our catholic education community. Thank you; and God bless!

COVID-19 AND PARISH STEWARDSHIP

While the situation of COVID-19 continues to develop in our lives and communities, it is increasingly evident that the pandemic has had, and will continue to have for some time to come, a far reaching impact on all of us. We appeal to your generosity as we need the weekly stewardship of one and all, to maintain our financial commitments.

A special thank you to those who send in their weekly/monthly stewardship. Also, to those who have begun with E-Transfers, we thank you. Stewardship Envelopes for 2021 are available for pickup at the front foyer of the church building. Call ahead to arrange a safe time for pickup.

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT 2021

The circumstances under which we are living will make for changes in how we conduct this liturgy. This year the Vatican has asked presiders to say the words ("Remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return") in general before imposition of ashes on the head of each person (instead of smudging them on the forehead). The distribution of Ashes will take place at the end of Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

Three parish Masses will be celebrated:

9:00am, 12 pm and 6:30 pm.

Kindly register by phone or email.

A second daily Lenten Mass may be offered if there is a demand for it.

LENTEN STATIONS OF CROSS

Due to Covid-19 protocols this Lenten devotion will take place after the morning Mass each Friday. It saves on another registration and another gathering - aids in keeping hydro and heating bills low.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

Please call or email the parish office for an appointment. Any day of time for confession will be accepted.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES AT SCHOOL

Teachers will impose Ashes to each of their class due to School Covid -19 Protocols.

**EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER IN
THE TIME OF PANDEMIC**

Lord, in this world, that you love more than we do, we have gone ahead at breakneck speed, feeling powerful and able to do anything.

Greedy for profit, we let ourselves get caught up in things, and lured away by haste. We did not stop at your reproach to us, we were not shaken awake by wars of injustice across the world, nor did we listen to the cry of the poor or of our ailing planet. We carried on regardless, thinking we would stay healthy in a world that was sick. Now that we are in a stormy sea, we implore you: "Wake up, Lord!"

"Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?"

Lord, you are calling to us, calling us to faith. Which is not so much believing that you exist but coming to you and trusting in you. You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgement, but of our judgement: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.

In the face of so much suffering, where the authentic development of our peoples is assessed, we experience the priestly prayer of Jesus: "That they may all be one." Amen.

Extraordinary moment of prayer presided over by
Pope Francis
Sagrato of St. Peter's Basilica,
Friday, 27 March 2020

**Development and Peace
Caritas Canada
LENT/SHARE LENT 2021
We are all in this crisis together**

The current pandemic reminds us that we are all one human family. We must recover together by building a global response that is just and founded on solidarity, human dignity and in the words of Pope Francis, "the creativity of love."

Faith-based Reflection For the Renewal and Healing of Our Common Home The world is hurting. The Earth is suffering, and we are suffering with her. In March 2020, nearly the entire planet went into confinement. A time out. The Earth went on forced sick leave and drew our collective attention to a profound crisis that we were all living through without wanting to admit it. We have wept. We have lost loved ones to this disease; we have been terribly afraid; and we have, at times, been enraged by irresponsible decisions and behaviours. However, this isolation, these bereavements, these fears that we - the privileged of this Earth - have suffered are but a part of the suffering that has been ravaging the Earth. This health crisis—this pandemic - is in fact intimately linked to other crises: the ecological crisis; the human crisis; the political crisis; poverty; inequality; and our abusive relationship with the Earth, with its resources and especially with our sisters and brothers in less wealthy countries. For it is these countries, their people and their resources that feed us, that keep the comfortable system in which we live, i.e., our economy running. And then, all of a sudden, we experienced the extreme fragility and absurdity of our way of life. We saw how these chains and paths of trade and exploitation enabled the virus to spread across the globe at lightning speed. Then, we noticed something else: the well-disguised injustice within our own societies. The inequality of opportunities, the unequal access to health care, the financial precarity of some, the diseases more prevalent among the poorest that made them more vulnerable....

The injustices in our economy that make us depend on poor people in unacceptable conditions - even here and not just halfway around the world - to maintain our false impression of being developed countries.... We have seen how we treat our elderly and our children. We have seen how we treat immigrants and homeless people. Our culture of waste. We have seen all this. It is not the pandemic that has caused this suffering. The pandemic merely exposed it. And after the sadness, perhaps we were filled with shame and questioning... and disgust and anguish. Everything is interconnected. That is what we have just experienced in our homes, in our daily lives of confinement.

We are all interdependent on one another. Any action taken in one corner of the world has rapid and sometimes catastrophic repercussions on the other side of the world. What we are doing to the Earth, how we live, how we consume, how we travel, our human relations, political and economic relations, everything is interconnected. We have just understood, in real time, everything written in Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si'*. This revolutionary document did not invent *Recovering Together*. But it enlightens us and maps out a path for a more just future on this Earth. Like *Laudato Si'*, the pandemic offers us an opportunity to learn, to rethink our world and to undergo conversion. It is a chance to settle in, to take a break. To slow down, to listen and to rethink. To regain awareness about what is essential. To not limit or deprive ourselves (that endless Lent without Easter to which Pope Francis refers in *Evangelii Gaudium*), but to flourish together. To understand at last that in the common home, it's no use if only some can live in dignity, if it is at the expense of others who suffer. The suffering includes not just people, but animal and plant species as well. We do not have the right to deplete resources as if we were living on a planet without limits. Who thought we had the right to behave that way? We need a profound awakening of consciousness and a transformation - a radical transformation - of our systems and institutions. It's time to act.

When the institutions and norms we have created do not serve human dignity and ecological integrity, they must be changed. That is where we are now. We have a responsibility to make that change. We are a community and we need to start thinking and acting like one with dignity, justice, well-being for all, solidarity and sufficiency as our guiding principles. This is huge, yet also clear. We need a profound transformation of our hearts and minds. A conversion. The current economic and political model, based on a relationship of exploitation of resources and other peoples, is unjust and abusive. This model is a failure. It cannot simply be "fixed." It must be deconstructed and rebuilt; we must work together to imagine something else entirely.

After our conversion, to emerge from this crisis that has been exposed and accentuated by COVID-19, we must repent and build a different world together. Repairing, rebuilding and healing will take the commitment of every one of us, and we have a special role to play. We, the Church. We, Christian women and men. We, civil society. Each of us can and must take part. We need each other. Let us act by rooting each of our choices - political, economic and social - in this dream for the common good. Let us act in gratitude, joy, hope, celebration and LOVE for humanity and for our common home.

This reflection has been adapted from a presentation made by Josianne Gauthier, Secretary General of CIDSE, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'*. After working at Development and Peace - Caritas Canada for over 16 years, Josianne joined CIDSE, a network of Catholic social justice and international solidarity organizations of which Development and Peace is a member, in 2017. +

Development and Peace (Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace) is the official international development organization of the [Catholic Church in Canada](#) and the [Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis](#). Development and Peace is a membership led organization supported by parish collections, individual donations and government grants, principally from Global Affairs Canada.