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EASTER IN ALL THINGS

At the heart of the Easter weekend Masses is the renewal of our Baptism Promises – rejecting sin and Satan, and professing our faith through the Apostles' Creed. Then there came the sprinkling with holy water that reminded us that we were washed by the love of Christ in Baptism and forever joined with the Trinity. These words and actions are rooted deeply into the life of the Church.

Building upon our many experiences in Lent, which ones do we think that we can carry on with during the rest of our year? These are some suggestions:

- ◆ “I prayed for an extra 5 minutes each day during Lent”. Prayer is the way we have conversation with God. It is often something that many people find difficult to have in their lives because they have been taught or have come to think of, as an activity that takes a certain amount of time. And that is right. An example is if you pray the rosary and try to ‘get it done’ in 10 minutes you could not truly honour the words or ideas because you would speeding through it. Having to take time in prayer means that we are making a sacrifice of time in another part of our lives.
- ◆ Being creative with your prayer can help. You might consider singing a song you know from church in the shower. Or while preparing a meal think about how Jesus would have prepared the bread and fish that he presented to his disciples when they met him on the beach after his resurrection. Or if you are up and about at dawn and notice the sunrise think about what the sunrise was like when Mary Magdalene went to the tomb on Easter morning, and give thanks. Or read again the gospel reading from the past weekend and wonder if what you heard in the homily makes a bit more sense now? Or think of how much love God has shown you that hour, or day or week as you have been so busy with your life that you haven't really thought about him and tell God you are happy that God Has not forgotten you. Prayer is measured not by quantity but by quality.
- ◆ “I learned that my neighbour wasn't a bad person after all.” When we think about the commandment of Jesus that we ‘love others as we want to be loved’ it can help us think about things in a new light. Sometimes we discover that the things we dislike in others are really things that are in ourselves, and that can give us a better idea of how to deal with them. If we expect others to change we have to work on changing ourselves. Or if we condemn others who have the same attitude as us, are we really not asking God to condemn us? Or if we realize that our strengths or weaknesses are common to us as human beings, might we ask God for patience, or wisdom or courage in a new way of thinking? Sometimes we learn from unexpected sources.



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

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April 23, 2017
Divine Mercy
Sunday

April 23, 2017

Divine Mercy Sunday - Year A

Monday	Apr 24	9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Gerald Robillard	by Pauline Lewis
Tuesday	Apr 25	St. Mark, evangelist 9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Laure Joannisse 10:45 am Junior Class Mass	by Pauline Lewis
Wednesday	Apr 26	Our Lady of Good Counsel 6:30 pm For the health and healing of Lenora and Vanessa Newman 7:00 pm Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	by Ted and Joan Wisniewski
Thursday	Apr 27	9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Conrad Robillard 10:45 am Intermediate Class Mass	by Pauline Lewis
Friday	Apr 28	Canada's Day of Mourning 9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis
Saturday	Apr 29	3rd Sunday of Easter 5:00 pm +For the peaceful rest of Sofia Modrzejewski	by family
Sunday	Apr 30	9:00 am For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family 11:00 am For the intentions of Dan Todd 2:00 pm First Holy Communion	by Heather Belmont and family

FEASTS TODAY

Divine Mercy Sunday; April 23.

Celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, this feast arises from the reported visions and visitations from Jesus to Sister Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun. Jesus asked her to paint the vision of his Merciful Divinity being poured from his sacred heart, and asked for a feast of Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter so that humanity would take refuge in Him.

The first Mass during which the Divine Mercy image was displayed was on April 28, 1935. On April 30, 2000 Pope John Paul II canonized Sister Faustina, and designated the Sunday after Easter as the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Mark, evangelist; April 25

Mark's date and place of birth are unknown. Tradition says he was a cousin of the apostle (St) Barnabas. Having never met the Lord, or been a disciple, Mark came to know about Jesus through the teaching of (St) Peter, with whom he travelled as interpreter. He was sent to Rome where he wrote his gospel. He is said to have been the Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt at the time of his arrest and murder in the year 74. His liturgical symbol is a winged lion, representing one of the four living creatures about the throne of God. (Revelation 4:6-8)

Mark has been venerated on this day, since at least the fourth century.

St. Catherine of Siena, virgin & doctor; April 29.

Catherine was born on March 25, 1347. The wealth of her family caused tension when she cared for the poor, and being a woman caused tension when she began to preach - publicly explain scripture. In the year 1365, she was accepted into the Dominicans. She worked for reforms, taught ways of achieving personal holiness and wrote of her mystic experiences. She was regarded for her spiritual works and the charities she supported. She died in Rome in the year 1380.

Catherine was canonized in the year 1461, and named a *doctor of the church* in the year 1970, by Pope Paul VI.

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.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady of Good Counsel; April 26.

We believe the Blessed Virgin Mary was gifted by God with *counsel - a help to find the best way to serve God*. Counsel helped Mary to accept and carry out the will of God. Her example is important to us.

This feast was introduced in the year 1991 by the Canadian bishops. Under this title, the Blessed Virgin Mary is honoured as the *patron of the Catholic Women's League of Canada*.

DAYS THIS WEEK

Canada's Day of Mourning; April 28.

This day mourns those across Canada who have lost their lives in their workplaces, and those who continue to suffer from occupational injuries and disease. This day also invites us to recommit to the prevention of worker deaths, illnesses, injuries and the environmental contamination of our communities.

Since the year 1984 the Canadian Labour Congress has held April 28 as a Day of Mourning. The Ontario Legislature recognized this day on April 07, 1998. The Federal Parliament recognized this day on December 18, 1990.

PARISH GENEROSITY

In the parish collections in the past weeks we have gathered \$1290.25 for the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development & Peace (Fifth Sunday of Lent); \$760.00 for the Holy Land Shrines and the Diocesan Refugee Program (Good Friday).

In our parish collections for the support of our parish we have gathered \$4280.05 on the Easter Weekend.

Thank you for your generosity and support.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SERVICE



Our Parish of St. Martin is inviting everyone to come out to the Divine Mercy Sunday Service. It takes place in our Church today at 3:00 pm. Prior to this gathering, the faithful are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to receive Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at any of the Sunday Masses.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FUND RAISING

Vacation Bible School would like your support to help fund the VBS summer program. Beautiful bouquets of fresh cut flowers from UFD can be ordered for Mother's day here at St. Martin's Parish. It is a great opportunity to bring flowers on the actual Mother's Day for all those special people in your life: for your wife/grandmothers etc.

Our price will be \$25.00 including taxes. This is an excellent price for this special occasion. These next two weeks after Sunday Masses we will take orders and payment. Order pick up will be after Saturday & Sunday Masses on Mother's Day.

Thank you for supporting VBS.

FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES

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

Nathan Baccaga, 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.

The First Communion Mass will be celebrated on next Sunday at 2:00 pm in our church.

Please remember them in your prayers.

THE BACK PAGE

How can we keep the Easter spirit in our lives? Some ideas are on the on the BACK PAGE of this bulletin.

CWL LASAGNA LUNCH

In our parish hall on Thursday, April 27 our Catholic Women's League will be having a *Lasagna Lunch*. The cost is \$ 10.00 which includes lasagna, salad, roll and pie. You must pre-order by April 23rd at 905-957-4597 or maryanne.paradis@live.ca

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Our Council has its general meeting on Wednesday, May 3 following the 6:30 pm Mass. It is held in the parish hall.

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:

Grahame Wealleans/Jonathan Bruzzese – Apr 23
Craig Evans/Zoli Rakonjac – Apr 26
Anthony & Mateo Notarianni – Apr 27
Alyssa Evans – Apr 28
Doug Devlin/Eileen Horeczy/Paul Miller – Apr 29
Joe Mous/ Krista Jones/Rebecca DaSilva – Apr 30