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THE ORIGINAL PENTECOST DAY

Forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus, he returned to heaven in the *Ascension = Greek language meaning*

Going Up. Ten days later, as Jews from the known world gathered in Jerusalem for *Pentecost = Greek language meaning Festival of Weeks*, God sent a message: that those who desired unity with God would find it in the salvation of Jesus Christ offered to the world through the Holy Spirit.

We remember that the *Paschal Mystery = Greek language meaning the passion, death, resurrection, ascension, coming of the Holy Spirit* was not yet complete when Jesus returned to heaven. And the completion of the Paschal Mystery was no less marvelous than the previous efforts. The words that Saint Luke uses in his Acts of the Apostles (Acts 2:1-11) paint a glorious picture for us.

When the day of Pentecost had come - Luke wants us to clearly understand that these events take place on the solemn day that reminds people that they belong to God.

They were all together in one place - the disciples of Jesus were one in mind and heart in anticipation.

Suddenly from heaven there came - clearly marking the place of origin of these activities.

A sound like the rush of a violent wind - there is a sound only, of a loud, strongly blowing wind. Yet there was no wind, only sound. A real attention getter.

It filled the entire house - you cannot escape or deny the sound of the wind. God is everywhere.

They were sitting - waiting in expectation rather than fear.

Divided tongues, as of fire - the image of a candle flame. Fire is a biblical reference to the presence of God.

Appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them - God is present for the group and each person.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit - the wisdom of God has totally renewed each of them.

And began to speak in other languages - using a language you are not trained in, as if you were.

As the Spirit gave them ability - this gift comes only because God chooses to make it available.

Devout Jews - faithful, God loving, Law abiding.

Living in Jerusalem - Luke wants us to understand that this is the capital city, the center of Jewish worship.

The crowd gathered and was bewildered - the devout Jews, open to God, wonder what is happening.

Because each one heard them speaking - although people from many places hear, they can each understand.

Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? - they are local men, not outsiders to the area.

Parthians, Medes, Elamites, etc - Jewish people from throughout the Roman Empire whose only connection is the tradition of the Jewish Law and customs.

In our own languages we hear them - although they cannot communicate with each other, they are able to hear and understand the message of God.

About God's deeds of power - the message of our salvation through Christ.

Father Brian Bevan, Parish Priest.

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

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Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
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Sandy Johnson
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Diocesan Website
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Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



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May 28, 2017
The Ascension of the Lord

May 28, 2017

The Ascension of the Lord - Year A

Monday	May 29	9:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Sean Robinson
Tuesday	May 30		****NO MASS TODAY - CLERGY RETREAT****
Wednesday	May 31		Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth ****NO MASS TODAY - CLERGY RETREAT****
Thursday	June 1		St. Justin, martyr ****NO MASS TODAY - CLERGY RETREAT****
Friday	June 2		****NO MASS TODAY - CLERGY RETREAT****
Saturday	June 2		St. Charles Lwanga, catechist & companions, martyrs 9:00 am For the health and healing of Lenora Newman
Saturday	June 3		Pentecost Sunday 5:00 pm For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family
Sunday	June 4	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon the Koshy family For the intentions of and God's blessings upon Joan Hignett 11:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Gerard Dwan

PLEASE NOTE

Father Brian will be joining in with Bishop Bergie and the priests of our diocese on the annual clergy retreat held this week. The retreat takes place at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre. It runs from Monday until Friday.

If you need to reach Father Brian for the Sacrament of the Sick or another emergency situation, please call the parish office and leave a message. Father Brian will be checking in with Sandy, our secretary, and the parish answering machine several times each day. He will return your call as soon as he is able.

Please remember all those participating in the clergy retreat in your prayers.

FEASTS TODAY

Ascension of the Lord; May 28.

This is the original Feast of Christ's Kingship. Forty days after his resurrection, Jesus completed his earthly work. He takes his place at the right hand of the Father, in his glorified body. The Ascension of Jesus makes the sending of the Holy Spirit - by the Father and the Son - possible. Jesus is recognized as King of all creation, by the choice of his Father.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth; May 31.

The angel Gabriel told the Blessed Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth had conceived a son, and was in her sixth month of pregnancy. The gospel of Luke tells us that Mary hurried to be with Elizabeth. (Luke: 1:39-56) Their time together is remembered today.

by Marg Van Geest

by family

by Rose Koshy

by Heather Belmont
by Pat and Lloyd Buchan

This feast has been universal since the year 1389, by order of Pope Urban VI.

Pentecost; June 4.

The word *Pentecost* comes from the Greek language, meaning *the fiftieth day*. This feast celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles fifty days after Easter. This day is commonly regarded as the birthday of the Church because once the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles they carried the message of Christ to the known world.

The feast of Pentecost is also known as *Whitsunday*. This is from the original Greek name given to this day when it was celebrated as the Jewish Feast of Weeks, which fell on the fiftieth day after Passover.

So important is Pentecost that until the year 1969 the Sundays between Pentecost and Advent were called the Sundays after Pentecost. Since the year 1969 they have been called Sundays in Ordinary Time.

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Justin, martyr; June 01.

Justin was born about the year 100. He was baptized at thirty years old. At this time little information about Christian life was shared outside of the faith, for fear that the sacred mysteries would be abused. Justin believed that people would accept Christianity if they knew what it was really about. So he wrote explanations of the faith. His efforts brought about his death, by beheading on April 14, 165.

This feast dates from the year 1882.

St. Charles Lwanga, catechist & companions, mar-

tyrs; June 03.

The first Catholic missions were introduced to Uganda, Africa by the White Fathers in the year 1879. In the year 1885 a persecution of Christians began. In May 1886, Charles Lwanga and 18 companions (15 of them were young men, under the age of 25 years) were put to death. This led to greater persecutions of Catholics and Protestants.

They were canonized in the year 1964 by Pope Paul VI.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$ 1136.50 to our parish last week through our Regular Sunday Offertory and \$626.65 through the Pope's Pastoral Works Collection.

THE BACK PAGE

On this week's *THE BACK PAGE* the meaning of the Original Pentecost Day.

GRIMSBY LIFE CENTRE 2017

LIFE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

We all experience difficulties in our lives from time to time. The Grimsby Life Centre is here to help counsel those facing times of trouble. We have 9 full and part-time counsellors and 30 volunteers and a Board of Directors who all work tirelessly to meet the needs of hurting people. Your financial support with the Life Change Campaign goes a long way! Thank you for partnering with us in this important work.

COMING SOON

The Property Committee has recommended to Father Brian, and he has accepted, that the following changes be made within the parish in the near future:

- ♦ lighting be improved in the south parking area, especially around the Shrine for the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- ♦ that new LED lights be installed above the altar in the church.
- ♦ that we investigate the replacement of all light fixtures in the church basement, with energy efficient systems. There is a government retro-fit program through which we may be able to recoup some or all of the expenses of this work.

The Liturgy Committee has recommended to Father Brian, and he has accepted, that regarding the Christmas Nativity Scene, we pursue the following:

- ♦ that we consult with a paint professional to determine if the Nativity pieces could be properly and adequately painted. A committee member has been appointed to this task.

- ♦ that no structure be built that would cover or surround the Nativity pieces. It is thought that no obstruction be allowed that could block the view into or out of the church, and that the Nativity pieces be seen from every side.
- ♦ that the Nativity pieces be placed at the west side of the parish house, near the driveway, so that they may be easily seen from the roadway.
- ♦ That in the event that the Nativity pieces are no longer used, that the manger be returned to the family that donated it.

ST CATHARINE'S RIGHT TO LIFE A MARIAN CELEBRATION

The Diocese of St. Catharines continues in the **YEAR OF THE ROSARY**. There will be a Marian Event hosted by the Diocese on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm. It will be at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre – 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario. The presenter will be Dr. Josephine Lombardi – Associate Professor, St. Augustine's Seminary, Toronto. The cost is \$ 20.00, paid at the door, and includes lunch.

Please register by June 8th. Contact the Diocesan Office of Religious Education at offreled@saintcd.com or at 905-684-0154 ext 207.

CATHOLIC MEN'S BIG BREAKFAST EVENT IN THE TENT

A **Catholic Men's Breakfast** - June 17, 2017 (7:30am-11:45am) at Branches (43 Maywood Avenue, St Catharines). Tickets are \$20. Featured speaker: Gus Lloyd "Magnetic Christianity" - how we, as men, can draw others to the Catholic faith, living a life of service to God, church and community.

Includes a "big breakfast" of peameal bacon, scrambled eggs, roasted potatoes, baked beans, coffee, tea and dessert.

For tickets please contact Branches at 905-685-7000.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Erika Davis – May 28
Elaine Pavao-Miller – May 29
Joan Hignett/Marta Pereira – May 31
Dee Turcic/Dan McSweeney – June 1
Pauline Lewis/Doug Oliver – June 2
Bennett Wolek – June 2
Eva Bliedung – June 3
Nick Fasulo – June 4

Anniversaries:

Mark & Sherri Harkin – May 28
Herman & Sandy Johnson – May 29
Zdravko & Sue Augustin – June 4