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OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

Lent is the 40-day period (excluding Sundays) that began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Traditionally it is a season of reflection and preparation for Easter, and it commemorates Jesus' 40 days of fasting in the desert.

Strange as it may seem to us so soon after Advent and Christmas, but this is the first Sunday of Lent. On Ash Wednesday, we began our Lenten Pilgrimage with Jesus as we prepare to celebrate Easter. However, we have some way to go with Jesus and each other before we can experience the joy and new life of Easter.

Our gospel this Sunday sees Jesus being led into the desert. The gospel puts it rather more seriously than Jesus being led into the desert! It opens with the words, The Spirit drove Jesus into the wilderness (desert) and remained with him for forty days. Why was Jesus led or driven in to the desert?

It is no surprise that we begin Lent with Jesus in the desert. Like his ancestors, he too is tried, tested and tempted. However, Jesus refused to give up or give in so quickly or so easily. Although our gospel for this Sunday is written by St. Mark, the gospel of St. Matthew gives us more information about what might have happened to Jesus. He is tempted with the false gifts of power, prestige and wealth. His power and identity come from God. Jesus knows who he is, where he comes from and where he is going on his own journey. He leaves the desert with these powerful words which he offers us today; 'The time has come, the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' What is this Good News that Jesus asks us to hear and believe? It is the good news that each of us is created, loved and forgiven by God.

As we begin our own Lenten journey today, we need to recall and remember that we are not setting out on this journey on our own. God is with us walking by our side very step of way. When we are tempted, we need to follow the example of Jesus. He did not rely on his own strength. He turned to God and asked for help which he received. We will not be able to walk the Lenten journey on our own. We need to realise that like Jesus, we too need God's help, support, guidance and protection. Whenever we feel tired or ready to give up or give in, we need to turn to God for encouragement. We know that God will be with us during Lent as God was with Jesus when he was in the desert. God will never leave us alone.

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



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February 21, 2021
Year B
The 1st Sunday of Lent

February 21, 2021

The 1st Sunday of Lent - Year B

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Feb 22	9:00 am +Geraldine & Fred Bell	by the deWilde Family
Tues	Feb 23	Chair of Peter 9:00 am For the special intentions of the Van Geest children and grandchildren 10:00 am - 12 Noon Diocesan Priestly Lenten Day of Recollection Zoom	by Marg & Dick Father Christopher
Wed	Feb 24	9:00 am +Harriet Ann Ross 10:30 am Gethsemane Centre Mass	by Maria Chorley Father Christopher
Thurs	Feb 25	9:00 am +Paddy Maddick 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Centre for Mental Health CHM Hamilton Zoom Meeting	by Maria Chorley Father Christopher
Fri	Feb 26	9:00 am For the special intentions of Sherri deWilde 9:30 am Lenten Devotional Stations of the Cross 10:30 am 12 Noon. Pastoral Home Visits to Our Seniors	by Sherri deWilde Father Christopher
Sat	Feb 27	8:40 am - 10:00 am That Man Is You - Zoom Seminar/Program The 2nd Sunday of Lent 5:00 pm Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	Fr. Christopher
Sun	Feb 28	9:00 am +Christina Terpstra 10:00 am +Gilda Mirabelli 11:00 am For the health and healing of Lloyd Buchan	by the deWilde Family by Frank & Cathy Cartaginiese by Julie Notarianni

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

"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!

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.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT

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

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.

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.

DEVELOPMENT & PEACE CARITAS CANADA

For over 50 years, Development and Peace has been organizing its "Share Lent" campaign during the period of Lent. This time is an opportunity for our organization to raise awareness among parishioners on issues of international solidarity and invite them to practise almsgiving by donating to the special collection for Development and Peace. This collection helps our partners meet the immediate and sustained needs of some of our poorest sisters and brothers. This year's campaign theme, Share Love, Share Lent, is inspired by the message of love and social fraternity in Pope Francis' encyclical, Fratelli Tutti. Through this campaign, Canadian Catholics will discover how the work of Development and Peace is anchored in Catholic Social Teaching and how we can heed the Pope's call for solidarity and love for our neighbour. Donate online at:

devp.org/sharelent

**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.