

March 19, 2017

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year A

Monday	Mar 20	St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9:00 am +For the peaceful rest of Fr. Obioma Anyanwu	by Sherri deWilde
Tuesday	Mar 21	9:00 am ****AVAILABLE**** 10:45 am Junior Class Mass	
Wednesday	Mar 22	6:30 pm ****AVAILABLE**** 7:00 pm Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday	Mar 23	9:00 am For the health and healing of Paul Massad 10:45 am Intermediate Class Mass	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Mar 24	9:00 am ****AVAILABLE**** 9:30 am Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm ****AVAILABLE**** 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	Mar 25	4th Sunday of Lent - Laetare Sunday 5:00 pm +For the peaceful rest of Rahim Parhizgar	by Norrie Franko
Sunday	Mar 26	9:00 am ****AVAILABLE**** 11:00 am For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary; March 20.

Joseph was of royal descent, and his family tree is recorded in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Sacred scripture tells us that having chosen Mary as his betrothed, he discovered that she was pregnant with a child that was not his. His fears were laid to rest by an angel's visit in a dream. He accepted her as his wife, and cared for her through the many dangers and difficulties. Church tradition holds that he respected Mary's special calling from God and loved her in every way except sexually.

This feast has been celebrated on this day since the year 800. It originated in northern France or Belgium. Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph the *patron of the universal church*.

Solemnity - Not a Lenten Day

St. Dismas, the Good Thief; March 25.

The traditional belief of the Church says that Jesus died on March 25, and so the Church honours the Good Thief on this day also. We read in the gospel of Luke, that two criminals were crucified near Jesus. When one of them spoke against Jesus, the second criminal defended the Lord. This second criminal then said *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom*, to which Jesus replied, *Truly, I tell you, tell you will be with me in Paradise.* (Luke 23:42-43)

The two thieves appear in paintings as early as the year 586, and the name Dismas most likely originated in

Syria. *Dismas* is close to the Greek word meaning *East*, with a probable reference to the thought that good things arise from the East.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Annunciation of the Lord; March 25.

The angel Gabriel visited a young woman named Mary, betrothed to Joseph, to announce to her God's plan that she conceive and give birth to God's only Son. The conception took place by the power of the Holy Spirit, who also gave her the necessary grace to accept and fulfil God's will. Although the invitation was made to Mary by God, it was Mary's free choice to accept that we remember as a mark of great faith.

Tradition - starting before the third century - says that Jesus was conceived and died on the date of March 25.

DAYS THIS WEEK

Laetare Sunday; March 26.

The fourth Sunday of Lent is named for the Latin word *laetare* meaning *rejoice*. It is taken from the Latin translation of Isaiah 66:10 which reads Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her. (NRSV) This Sunday sets a tone of joyful anticipation of the Easter mystery. The Church permits the wearing of rose coloured vestments on this day.

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1733.00 to our parish last week.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Available this week:

Wednesday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Friday 8:15 am - 8:45 am

Friday 5:30 pm - 6:15 pm

Saturday 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Or by request.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Stations of the Cross will take place on Friday March 24th following both the morning and evening Masses.

This Friday are entitled "The Stations are the Stations of the Cross with Scripture Quotes".

RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS

On Saturday, March 25 at 10:00 am there will be a Respect for Life Mass at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria in St. Catharines.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

On Saturday, April 1, 2017 in every parish church across the diocese a priest will be available from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. to hear individual confessions. There will also be Eucharistic Adoration during this time. No matter how long it has been, you are welcome to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, which assists us in spiritual discipline as we turn away from sin and open our hearts to reconciliation and healing; or you can also simply come to pray before the Lord.

BISHOP'S GALA

The 14th Annual Bishop's Gala will take place on Saturday, April 1, 2017, 5:30 p.m. at Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd, St. Catharines. Tickets are \$80 per person; \$750 for a table of 10 and can be ordered through the Niagara Catholic website or by contacting Sherry Morena, Niagara Catholic District School Board, 905-735-0240, ext. 213 or sherry.morena@ncdsb.ca.

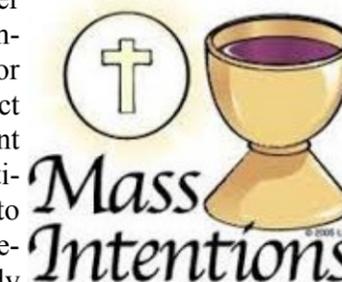
DIVINE MERCY: IN THE SECOND GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD NEW DVD SERIES

Are you interested in learning more about Divine Mercy and its message to the world? Introducing "Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told" from the Augustine Institute, based on the book by Fr. Michael Gaitley, and bringing to life the drama and splendour of God's merciful love revealed in Sacred Scripture, manifested in key moments in Church history, and realized in our present time of mercy. This 10 week program continues to take place on Monday evenings at

7:00 pm in our parish hall and will conclude on April 17th, just before Divine Mercy Sunday. If you would like to join us at this time, the DVD's are available for you to view to catch up. It is not too late to register so please add your name to the sign up sheets in the church foyer, or email the parish office at st.martins@cogeco.ca, or Yvonne at yvonne_divinemercury@outlook.com.

MASS INTENTIONS

There are many ways to remember those who have died, but none are greater than having them remembered during the Mass. For the Mass is the most direct and powerful way to present our thanks, praise and petitions to God. We listen to God's word for us, we receive and share in the Body and Blood of Jesus that he makes available to us, we join in the prayers of the entire Church and not only our own and we are able to be reminded again and again that we are part of the great community of living love known as the Communion of Saints.



When we seek to remember a person who is alive (Intentions) we can place their hopes and dreams, sorrows and difficulties, needs and wants before God and invite others to include them in their prayers. When we seek to remember a person who has died (their Repose) we show God our concern for their eternal wellbeing, seek forgiveness of their sins and can ask that they will pray for us while we remain on earth.

Birthdays, anniversaries, death days and special events can all be celebrated and remembered by having the person(s) remembered in Mass.

Mass requests may be made by using the Mass Intentions Envelope located on the table in the church lobby, or by contacting the parish office or by speaking with Father Brian.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Tony Notarianni - Mar 19

Elizabeth Hutton - Mar

Rachel Sills - Mar 20

Sylvana Oliver - Mar 22

Emma Fasulo/Josie Turcic - Mar 23

Christian Pearson/Sara Scime - Mar 24

Cheryl Dell/Alessandra DeFilippis - Mar 25

Tom Diletti - Mar 26

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DEVELOPMENT & PEACE

During Masses on the Fifth Sunday of Lent the annual collection for Development & Peace will be taken up. Here is some information about the organization and its work, taken from its official website: www.devp.org

The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace is the official international organization of the *Catholic Church in Canada* and the *Canadian member of Caritas Internationalis*. It receives its support from parish collections, individual donations, and government grants principally from the Canadian International Development Agency.

It supports partners in the *Global South* = until 1969 the term *Third World* was used to describe *developing countries* = who promote alternatives to unfair social, political and economic structures, and educate Canadians about the causes of poverty and help Canadians to work for changes in human dignity.

For over 50 years, D & P has supported over 15,200 local initiatives in agriculture, education, and community action. It has also worked for peace and human rights in 70 countries.

It was founded in 1967 by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in response to Pope Paul VI's encyclical letter *Populorum Progressio* which says that Development is the new word for Peace.

In this year of 2017, Development & Peace has chosen the theme of *Women At The Heart of Change*. As Pope Francis has said, we should pray with him "that in all countries of the world, women may be honoured, respected and values for their essential contribution to society." In this Lenten time we may think, discuss and work toward a future of justice and dignity to all. We need to recall the contribution of women who are at the heart of change and who, for the past fifty years who have been so important to Development & Peace's programs.

All money gathered in the second collection (after Communion) in our parish during the weekend of April 1 & 2, goes to the Canadian Organization for Development & Peace. Envelopes are included in our parish weekly donation envelope boxes, and on the tables in the front foyer.

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
Wed 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Fri 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.
Fri 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

Sacrament of the Sick
Communion for the Sick and Shut-ins
Please call the office.

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocesan Website
www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



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