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SIGNS FROM GOD

Signs and wonders capture our attention. "Seeing is believing," or so the skeptics say. Though miraculous signs and wonders capture our attention seldom do they energize and sustain faith in the disbeliever. C.S. Lewis refers to this phenomenon in his book Letters to Malcomb, I have only known one person in my life who claimed to have seen a ghost. It was a woman; and the interesting thing is that she disbelieved in the immortality of the soul before seeing the ghost, and still disbelieved after having seen it. She thinks it was a hallucination. In other words, seeing is not believing.

Jesus knew of this fickle aspect of humanity; we love to be amazed but hate to be convinced, when it comes to our religious beliefs. "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up," and "You can change my experience, but don't change my theology," seem to be common reactions. And so, though Jesus was moved with compassion to perform miracles on behalf of those in need, he chose not to play to the galleries. For believers, signs and wonders are frosting on the cake, so to speak. These miraculous manifestations do not convince us that the things of Christ are true, but rather because we are convinced that the things of Christ are true, miraculous manifestations simply become a validation of our already active faith.

The people of Israel continually sought and asked for a sign, even though Jesus had performed so many of them. And though he was unwilling to pander to their unbelief, he did provide for them one final, convincing sign. A sign which most chose to ignore. Jesus' crucifixion, burial and resurrection is the most convincing sign imaginable for those who are willing to believe. These people saw him crucified and left hanging until they were convinced that there was no longer life in him. They insured that he was buried and guarded by elite Roman soldiers. The guards knew that he had miraculously arisen, and they must have satisfactorily explained this to the leaders, or else they would have been put to death themselves for dereliction of duty. Instead, they were spared so that they could join in the misinformation campaign. They knew there was no battle at the tomb to steal his body away. If his body had been stolen surely one of the guards would have seen who did it. Yet, none of his disciples were ever pursued for grave robbing, though they walked about openly. Instead, they were only pursued for testifying to his resurrection.

The Israelite leaders saw verification again and again that he was truly alive. In the immediate forty days after Jesus arose, witness after witness came forth in spite of the threatening environment, over five hundred people in fact, to confess that they had seen and talked with the risen Jesus. Do you think that there was a serious doubt in these leaders' minds? The sign had been seen! But because they were disinclined to believe, the sign became meaningless to them.

In our own life we must be honest and ask the question: Are there areas of my life that I am holding back under the false pretense of needing a sign from God? Surely he has given us all the signs that we need, and today is asking us to live by faith, following him in a spirit of trust and surrender. Do not be afraid to open your hearts to Christ. Allow Him to come into your lives, into your families, into society. In this way, all things will be made new.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Christopher Gerard Gillen

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 of the Blessed Sacrament
First Sunday of the Month

Reconciliation/Confessions
Sat 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. or on request

Baptism
Catechesis and appointment necessary

Marriage
Contact the parish office

Sacrament of the Sick
Please call the office.

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

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Roman Catholic Church



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - Mar 10/11

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom Shields
9:00 am - Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - Anita D. & Joan H.

Altar Servers
5:00 pm - Needed
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy
Jennifer Fife

Next Hospitality Sunday
April 1

Mar 4, 2018

The 3rd Sunday of Lent

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Katrina Shields
#2 - Yolanda Baldasaro
9:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin
#2 - Marg Van Geest
11:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort
#2 - Mary Pikula

Extra-ordinary Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Andrew, Caroline & Dick
11:00 am - Mike, Mary & Theresa

Stewardship Counting
Marg Van Geest & Beth Davis

March 4, 2018

The 3rd Sunday of Lent - Year B



*Lord, may the request of your people
rise before you like a fragrant offering*

Monday	Mar 5	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Giuseppina DeMita	by Vern & Josie Dell
Tuesday	Mar 6	9:00 am	For the special intentions of and God's blessings upon Fr. Christopher Gillen	by Ted & Joan Wisniewski
Wednesday	Mar 7	6:30 pm	For God's protection and special intentions of Fr. Christopher Gillen	by the Newman family
Thursday	Mar 8	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Nick Shey	by Anita & Bernie Duggan
Friday	Mar 9	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Jean Dostie	by St. Martin's School
		2:45 pm	School Way of The Cross- Stations.	
		6:00 pm	Parish Way of The Cross - Stations.	
Saturday	Mar 10	The 4th Sunday of Lent		
		5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Thomas Dunder Sr.	By Tom Dunder & family
Sunday	Mar 11	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of Heather Belmont & family	by Vern & Josie Dell

FELLOWSHIP (COFFEE) SUNDAY!

TODAY, MARCH 4

Come and join us in the hall after Sunday Masses
9:00am and 11:00am

ST. MARTIN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Lenten School Confessions each Wednesday in Lent
beginning at 9:30am. No confessions Wednesday,
March 14 - March Break!

LENTEN FOOD DRIVE

The brown bag you kindly accepted last weekend can
be returned on or before Holy Thursday! They will be
picked up and taken to West Lincoln Community Care
to help stock the shelves for Easter. If you have already
received a bag through your child at St. Martin's school,
please don't take another! We Thank You for your con-
tinued generosity!

LENTEN SEASON, 2018

**The Stations of the Cross are held every Friday of
Lent, but not during Easter Triduum at 6:00pm.**

PARISH EUCHARISTIC HOLY HOUR

First Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. While we
encourage all parishioners, a special invitation is
extended to all Lay Ministers, especially those who are
Extra-Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers.

INVITATION TO JOIN BIBLE STUDY

Please come out and join us Thursday mornings in
the Parish Hall from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. for a Bible
Study. It is very informal and we study the readings for
the following Sunday. Coffee and cookies are served. If
you have any questions, speak with Marg Van Geest or
Maeve Devlin. Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

On March 3rd and 4th the Knights of Columbus will
be having a short information presentation following
each Mass. Should you be interested in joining the
Knights of Columbus Council 16421 St. Martin of Tours
please see one of them after Mass or email
KOC.16421@gmail.com attention Grand Knight/
Membership. God Bless You from all Your Brother
Knights of St. Martin of Tours.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The St. Catharines Diocesan Council annual League
Development Workshop Saturday will be on March 10th
from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Star of the Sea
Church, St. Catharines. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00
a.m. Please "brown bag" your lunch; coffee and tea will
be provided. To register call Jean Weaver by February
27th at 905-356-8714.

DIOCESAN PENANCE DAY

On Saturday, March 17, 2018 in every parish church
across the diocese a priest will be available from 10am –
2pm 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.

DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Thanks to money donated annually by Catholics
during "Share Lent," Development and Peace can
support 170 partners and 202 projects in 36 countries
around the world! There are many ways to be part of
"Share Lent." Use the Solidarity calendar, you received
in the bulletin, with your family. You can make a
donation on "Solidarity Sunday", March 18. Thank You!

LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK/ EASTER

Sat March 24:	Passion Vigil Mass 5:00pm Reconciliation 4:00pm - 4:30pm
Sun March 25:	Passion Sunday Reconciliation after 9:00am & 11:00am Masses
Mon March 26:	9:00am morning Mass Evening Holy Hour 6:30pm - 7:30pm Reconciliation at this time. Benediction at 7:30pm
Tues March 27:	Morning Mass 9:00am Chrism Mass Cathedral 7:30pm
Wed March 28:	Parish Holy Hour 5:30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 5:30pm - 6:15pm Mass at 6:30pm

SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Holy Thursday March 29:	Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30pm (12 Volunteers needed for Washing of Feet) Prayer at Adoration Chapel until 10:00pm
Good Friday March 30:	Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00pm
Saturday March 31:	Easter Vigil 8:00pm
Easter Sunday April 1:	9:00am & 11:00am Masses.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Day Light saving time begins on March 11. Please
remember to Spring ahead by setting your clock 1 hour
ahead when you go to bed Saturday night.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP FEBRUARY 24/25, 2018

Sunday Offering (78 Env): \$2, 363.00

Loose: \$127.75

*Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.
God Bless.*

PARISH DISCERNMENT

Bishop Bergie has invited the Halimand Deanery,
Group V, to begin the Parish Discernment Process
Saturday April 14, 2018, at the Gethsemane Centre,
84008 Wellandport Road from 9:30am to 12 noon.

Sr. Margaret Kane, CSJ, will be the facilitator.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Be part of this peaceful campaign by prayer and
fasting during Lent, February 14 - March 25. We ask
each church to adopt ONE DAY from 8 am – 8 pm, with
two or more people to give public witness for one or two
hours standing on Portage Street at the Niagara Falls
General Hospital, holding a sign "Pray to end Abortion
– 40 Days for Life." To sign up: www.wpcprolife.com,
and follow the link. You may sign up at your church or
contact: Angela: angelabraun@live.com or Annette:
loeffenlife@gmail.com or phone 905-931-0363

CONSCIENCE RIGHTS

In advance of the June 2018 provincial election in
Ontario, we have the opportunity to ask candidates from
all parties three important questions:

1. Will you support legislation to protect doctors,
nurses, and other health care providers who are
being forced to participate in assisted suicide /
euthanasia through making a referral?
2. How will you protect facilities from being forced
to offer euthanasia / assisted suicide on their
premises?
3. How does your party plan to address the lack of
quality palliative care in our province?

To contact the electoral candidates in your riding,
please visit:

www.canadiansforconscience.ca/ontario

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Kazimierz Gumieniak/Brent Mous - Mar 4

Brian Vacom – Mar 4

Robert Lemmon – Mar 7

Judy Brucculieri/Brodie Riley - Mar 9

Samantha Sposato – Mar 9

Naythan Pinto-Braccenga/Kyle Messier - Mar 11

Kelsey Nicholson – Mar 11