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THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Many of us in the baby-boomer generation can recall learning, and reciting from memory, the 23rd Psalm: "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want ... and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever." Though thousands memorized this wonderful psalm, how many gave any consideration as to what it meant to have Jesus as our shepherd.

Shepherds were not particularly esteemed in the time of Jesus' life and ministry. There were many that were hirelings, irresponsible and unreliable, especially in the face of danger. But Jesus elevates the role of shepherd to something significant which we are to emulate.

Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd which is in contrast to the evil shepherd. The evil shepherd takes his responsibility for the sheep lightly and puts his own interests ahead of the sheep's well-being. Whereas Jesus takes this responsibility as shepherd very seriously, even to the point of dying to save the sheep. He is devoted to their care and protection.

The hireling does not own the sheep, he does not know the sheep individually, and does not love the sheep, therefore he has no qualms about abandoning the sheep in the face of peril. Jesus on the other hand owns the sheep, having bought us with his own blood. We are his prized possession. He also knows us individually and calls us each by name. In this intimacy of knowing and being known personally by Jesus there is great assurance and peace. In addition, he loves us with an everlasting love, even as the Father loves us. Consequently, he brings all of his resources to bear to sustain our life and relationship with him. That is why in the parable of the lost sheep the shepherd is so intent on finding the one that is lost, because he knows the lost sheep personally and loves it deeply.

The sheep respond differently to the Good Shepherd than they do to the hireling. The hireling they do not know, whereas Jesus they know. Some of us have been born into a Catholic home and have grown up with a vicarious relationship with Jesus based on the faith of our parents. When a vicarious relationship is the sum and substance of our faith we often cannot say that we "know" Jesus the Good Shepherd. For those of us who fall in this category it is imperative that we personally embrace Jesus as our Savior. This is crucial: we must be converted - and we must continue to be converted. We must let the Holy Spirit change our lives. We must respond to Jesus Christ. This conversion will enable us to be ever more confident in our relationship with him.

When Jesus speaks the sheep listen to him. The Good Shepherd is desirous of communicating with us, but also that we need to listen to him. Very simply this means that when we hear the Scripture read, read them ourselves, pray, or listen to the Scripture proclaimed we should not simply listen with our ears, but endeavor to have our heart attuned, asking, "What is Jesus saying to us?"

Having heard his voice, the sheep follow him wherever he goes, obeying his voice. As his followers this is where our faith becomes alive. It remains no longer simply an intellectual tenet of faith but becomes a belief that we act upon. Faith and obedience are really one in the same. If you look at Hebrews 11 where is listed an honor roll of faith filled believers, you will find that these heroes' faith is always expressed by obedient behavior. Our faith becomes alive and vibrant only as we follow the Good Shepherd and respond to his leading in loving obedience. Only then do the truths of Psalms 23 become a reality for us.

Emmaus Journey Reflections

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard P. Bergie, D.D.
Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

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 Pigott

St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

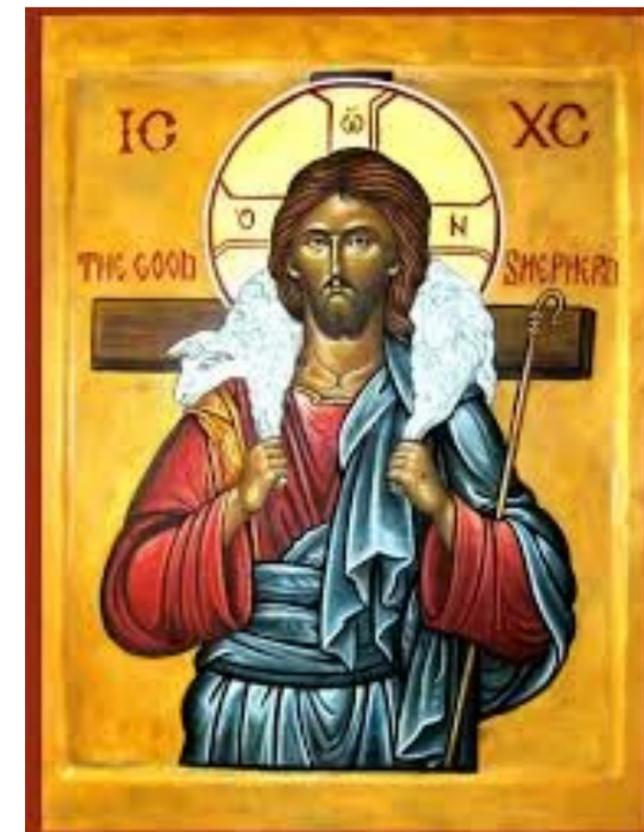
Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Scripture Study . Children's Liturgy
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group

Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Diocese of St. Catharines
St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church



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

Ministry Schedule - Apr 28/29

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Mous
9:00 am - Louie Madzo
11:00 am - Elaine & Chuck Parry

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

Children's Liturgy
Deanne Long

Next Hospitality Sunday
May 6

April 22, 2018

The 4th
Sunday of
Easter

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Tom Shields
#2 - Kelly Staples
9:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger
11:00 am #1 - Lisa Poort
#2 - Deanne Long

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Doug, Maeve & Tom
9:00 am - Bea, Marcel & Dick
11:00 am - Helen, Andy & Vern

Stewardship Counting
Halina Grzybek & Helen Lipiec

April 22, 2018

The 4th Sunday of Easter - Year B



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

Monday	Apr 23	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Marcello & Cathy Desimone on their 35th Wedding Anniversary	by Marcello & Cathy Desimone
Tuesday	Apr 24	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls in purgatory	by the Newman family
Wednesday	Apr 25	St. Mark 6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck +For the repose of the soul of Tim Ervin	by the Lupien family by Ray & Sharon Richard
Thursday	Apr 26	9:00 am	For a Mass of Thanksgiving +For the repose of the soul of John Fedorik Jr.	by Rose Koshy by family
Friday	Apr 27	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ciaran Gillespie For God's protection & special intentions of Fr. Christopher	by Doug & Maeve Devlin by the Newman family
Saturday	Apr 28	The 5th Sunday of Easter 5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Ken Lewis	by Pauline Lewis & family
Sunday	Apr 29	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Sofiz Modrzejewski	by family
		11:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	
		11:00 pm	1st Holy Communion	

PARISH DISCERNMENT GROUP V

Haldimand Deanery Parishes

April through to November 2018.

Team Meeting and Parish Story to be scheduled.

ST. MARTIN'S CWL PRESENTS

DENIM & DIAMONDS DINNER DANCE

Saturday May 5th

Doors open at 6pm - Dinner at 7pm

Put on your Best Jeans & Glitter

Ticket - \$25.00

Door prizes - DJ - Cash Bar

All proceeds to the St. Martin's Debt

THE SERRA CLUB ST.CATHARINES

Promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life presents Trivia Night on Friday, April 27. Dinner served at 6:00 pm, trivia starts at 7:00 pm St. Alfred Church, St. Catharines (tickets \$20/person or \$160/table of 8) Dinner includes pasta, meatballs, coffee, dessert, and a door prize ticket For tickets, contact Jodi Di Domenico (905/353-0158) didoms99@msn.com or Mike Lettieri (289/296-5485)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP ONE

Sunday April 29, 2018 at the 11:00am Mass.

CWL 60TH

ST. CATHARINES DIOCESE CONVENTION

The opening mass at St. Alfred Church on May 22; May 23, all day convention at the Holiday Inn, Ontario Street, St. Catharines, followed by a banquet. Registration for the conference is \$15; with lunch is \$35; with dinner is \$50; for the whole day is \$75. CWL members contact Sharon Forgeron (905-964-0798)

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

WANTED! Young Adults, ages 18-35, to explore and share faith together. Come out to the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville Highway, Thorold on either April 29/18 (4:30-6:30pm) or May 4/18 (5:30-7:30pm) for fellowship, a light supper and a brainstorming session focussed on growing this ministry in our Diocese.

Contact Terri Pauco for more information and to register by email: familyandyouth@saintcd.com or text: 905-351-9107 or phone: 905-684-0154 #209

PLEASE NOTE:

OFFICE CLOSED - THURSDAY APRIL 26TH

Sandy will be away.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

"Listening, discerning, and living the call of the Lord"
Holy Hour (3:00 p.m.) Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria next Sunday, April 22: "Good Shepherd Sunday"

The purpose of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations is to publicly fulfill the Lord's instruction to "pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest" (Mtt. 9:38; Lk. 10:2). As a climax to a prayer that is continually offered throughout the Church, it affirms the primacy of faith and grace in all that concerns vocations to the priesthood and to the consecrated life. While appreciating all vocations, the Church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate), to the religious life in all its forms (male and female, contemplative and apostolic), to societies of apostolic life, to secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership, and to the missionary life, in the particular sense of mission "ad gentes." 2018 marks the 55th anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE 2018.

Events will be held in Ottawa from Wednesday, May 9 to 11, 2018. Each year thousands of Canadians gather to challenge our government to protect its most vulnerable citizens, the children in the womb. Even if you are unable to attend the March, you have an opportunity to be part of the candlelight vigil symbolically on Wednesday, May 9 (9:00 p.m.). You can join in spirit by sending a pledge (minimum offer \$5, available at the parish office); candles will be carried by the participants in the vigil. Life: we stand on guard for thee! For more information call (1-800-730-5358) or visit marchforlife.ca Wednesday, May 9: Candlelight Vigil (9:00 p.m.) Thursday, May 10: Rally on Parliament Hill (12:30 p.m.) March through downtown (1:30 p.m.) Friday, May 11: Youth Conference (8:00 a.m.)

BRANCHES MINISTRY

Join us for a night of faith, food, music, and fellowship as Branches presents "Faith on Tapas"* with Fr. Ronald Angervil on Friday, April 27 (7:00-9:30 p.m.) at Branches Catholic Books & Gifts 43 Maywood Ave, St. Catharines -- doors open at 6:30 p.m.; tapas ordered by 7:15 p.m.

Limited seating; to reserve your seat, call (905-685-7000) or e-mail gbroadley@branchesoftheword.org *cost is for tapas only from Huong's Kitchen should you like to order food.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP APRIL 14/15 2018

Sunday Offering (32 Env):	\$705.00
Loose:	\$124.05
Donations (In memory of Geraldine Bell):	\$390.00
Hall Rental (Mego Funeral):	\$150.00
Donation:	\$ 50.00

*Trusting that others will makeup this week with
collection missed due to the weather last weekend.
This keeps us within our budget.*

Thank you for your tithe/stewardship.

HEALING MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

For persons separated or divorced: would it help you to have people around you to understand what you're going through? Would you like to hear some ideas that will encourage you and help you to develop new ways of coping with the stresses in your life? The St. Catharines Diocese support group meets every second and fourth Monday (7:00-9:00 p.m.) at Mt. Carmel Spiritual Centre.

For info, call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or e-mail: separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com. April 23: "New Relationships"

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2019

Panama City, Panama

Jan. 18 – 26, 2019 OR Jan. 22 - 28, 2019

Calling all young adults, 18-30 years of age! Come learn more about the pilgrimage to WYD 2019 in Panama. Those interested are asked to attend an Information Session at 7:00 pm at the Catholic Centre, 3400 Merrittville, Thorold on either: **Tuesday, April 17, 2018** or **Thursday, May 17, 2018**

Questions? Contact Raoul Masseur at: wypanama2019saintcd@gmail.com or Terri Pauco, Family and Youth Office at 905-684-0154, ext. 209 or familyandyouth@saintcd.com.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Linda Mataseje/Sandra DiLeonardo - Apr 22

Sera Whitelaw – Apr 22

Jonathan Bruzzese – Apr 23

Craig Evans/Zoli Rakonjac – Apr 26

Anthony & Mateo Notarianni – Apr 27

Alyssa Evans - Apr 28

Doug Devlin/Eileen Horecy/Paul Miller – Apr 29

Anniversaries:

Walter & Esther Kulakowsky – Apr 23