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### LIFE CHANGING LOVE

For too many of us, Lent is a season of doom and gloom, a time to feel bad about all the ways we are not "measuring up" in our spiritual lives. But this view could not be further from the truth. Lent is a season of refreshment and love, of awakening and rebirth. The Gospel Reading, the parable of the Prodigal Son, is filled with this theme of awakening and the extravagant, life-changing love that the Father has for each one of us.

We are all familiar with this amazing story - the bratty younger son who has the audacity to ask his dad for his inheritance early, only to squander it sinfully away. It makes us bristle instinctively at his nerve when we read it. But isn't that exactly what we do when we selfishly turn away from God (in big or small ways) in our own lives? We squander away the inheritance of grace He has given us.

In desperation from the mess he had made of his life, the son finally "comes to his senses" - awakening to the truth that he is a beloved son of a loving and merciful father - and decides to return home. His contrition is faltering and imperfect and seems motivated in large part by his growling stomach. But it is enough for the loving father.

In fact, as soon as the father catches sight of his son he is "filled with compassion for him" and immediately sets about preparing a feast and fine clothes for this son. What an extravagance of love! What a beautiful picture Jesus gives us of our Father's love and mercy. Oh, how this should fill us with gratitude for such a Father!

And how it should inspire us - with just the tiniest bit of spiritual "spring cleaning" we can be sure we will be swept up in our Father's loving embrace and find ourselves feasting in His presence. That is what lent is all about.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen  
Parish Priest

**Sunday Masses**  
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am

**Weekday Masses**  
See Schedule  
on the inside of the bulletin

**In Office Hours**  
Tuesday & Thursday  
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

**Administrative Assistant**  
**Financial Recorder**  
Sandy Johnson

**Reconciliation/Confessions**  
Saturday: 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Requesting Sacraments**  
Must be registered and practicing  
Call office for details

**St Martin Elementary School**  
Phone 905-957-3032

**Cemetery Management**  
Nick Sarantakos - 289-440-2929

**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Heather Tomascin  
heathertomascin@bell.net

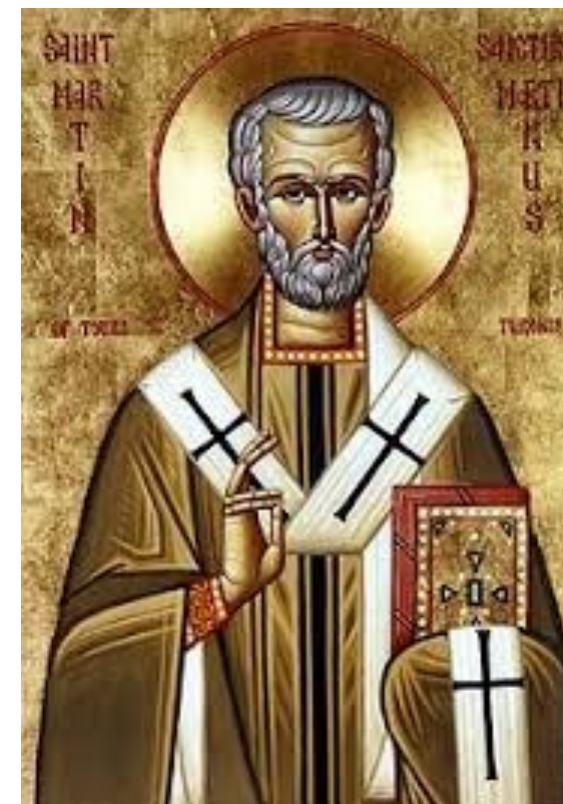
**Knights of Columbus**  
Grand Knight - Pierre Paradis  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Chair Frank DeFilippis

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy.  
Youth Ministry  
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



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74  
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0  
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Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca  
www.stmartinsparish.com  
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**March 27, 2022 - Year - C**  
**The 4th Sunday**  
**of Lent**

# March 27, 2022

## The 4th Sunday of Lent - Year C

### MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Recitation of the Holy Rosary takes place before each Weekday Mass beginning at 8:35 am

Mon	Mar 28	9:00 am	+Bill & May Jones	by the Newman Family
Tues	Mar 29	9:00 am	+Maria deFatima Pais	by Family
		10:00 am	- 12:00 noon	First Reconciliation Group 2 at School
Wed	Mar 30	9:00 am	+All the Souls in Purgatory	by Marg & Dick Van Geest
		10:30 am	- 12:pm	Gethsemane Centre Mass/ Adoration/ Confessions
		7:00 pm	- 8:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Executive Meeting Parish Hall
Thurs	Mar 31	9:00 am	+Amalija & Bill Kump	by the Newman Family
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am	Bible Study Group in the Upper Meeting Room
Fri	Apr 1	7:30 am	- 8:15 am	That Man Is You- Paradisus Dei -Men's Rosary Group
		9:00 am	+Jojhn & Ludmelia Ostrynski	by Bill & Janine Ostrynski
		9:30 am	- 10:30 am	First Friday: Eucharistic Holy Hour followed by Benediction
		10:45 am	-	Pastoral Home Visits for those who registered.
		6:00 pm	- 7:00 pm	Lenten Way of the Cross (Stations) Holy Rosary/Confessions
		7:30 pm	- 9:00 pm	Praise and Worship at Gethsemane Centre
Sat	Apr 2	9:30 am	Mass for Catholic Women's League Retreat.	Fr. Christopher
			Retreat will continue in the hall until early afternoon for those who registered.	
		10:00 am	- 2 pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions. Finishing with Benediction
			<b>NO CONFESSIONS AT 4:00 PM - 4:30 PM</b>	
Sat	Apr 2	<b>The 5th Sunday of Lent</b>		
		5:00 pm	+John & Regina Newman	by the Newman Family
Sun	Apr 3	10:00 am	+Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

#### 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.**

Thank you for your stewardship.

#### FIRST RECONCILIATION

#### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Group 1 - Mrs Szabo and Mrs Clarke
Group 2 - Mrs DiPasquale and Mrs Smith
First Reconciliation - 10 am at school
- Group 2 - March 29
First Holy Communion - 11 am at Church
- Group 1 - April 30
- Group 2 - May 14

#### THE SYNOD PROCESS AT ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

#### **Synod Invitation Reminder!**

NOW is your chance to have your voice heard. Every Catholic's input is critical to move the Universal Catholic church in a direction that fosters the strongest Catholic Community. Sign up for a Synod Listening Session today. Spots are limited, so please sign up with the link here, or call or email the parish office.

**Next round of sessions to take place on April 23/24**

To sign up, please click on the following:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AACA72BA6FCC52-parish>

and sign up for one session, or call the office at 289-956-0221 or email at [st.martins@cogeco.ca](mailto:st.martins@cogeco.ca)

**Parish Synod Facilitators are:**

**Lisa Poort, Paula Verrecchia, Sandy Johnson.**

#### THE DIOCESAN OF ST.CATHARINES

#### "WHERE FAITH LIVES"

#### DIOCESAN WIDE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday, April 2, 10 am - 2 pm

EVERY CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

#### INDIGENOUS HEALING AND RECONCILIATION

Catholics across the country are invited to join in collective prayer as a delegation of Indigenous survivors, Elders, knowledge keepers and young people travel to Rome to meet with Pope Francis from March 28 - April 1, 2022. The journey, organized by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, represents an important moment in the ongoing journey of healing and reconciliation. As announce in October of 2021, the delegation will also help inform the planned pilgrimage of the Holy Father to Canada at a future date.

For more information, please visit [www.cccb.as](http://www.cccb.as)

#### DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

#### CARITAS CANADA

Throughout the coming season of Lent one major focus is Development and Peace and the annual Share Lent Collection. Please visit the website. Devp.org. This Lent, lets put people and plant first! Let's be inspired by, and learn from, leaders around the world who are putting people and planet first! We look forward to your financial support, solidarity and prayer. The Share Lent will be on April 2/3.

#### SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE

Continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Ukraine. If you wish to make a financial contribution you can do so through the parish. Cheques should be made payable to St. Martin of Tours clearly marked Ukraine relief and funds collected will then be forwarded to the Chancery office by March 31.. The Chancery office will send all monetary donations to the Catholic Near East Welfare Association (CNEWA)..

Donations can also be done through CNEW's website at <https://cnewa.org/ca/donate/>

#### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 11 - 17.

Mass: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday. 9:00 am.

#### TUESDAY

Chrim Mass, Cathedral of St. Catherine 7:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY

Reconciliation (Confessions)

6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Eucharistic Holy Hour/ Ending With Benediction

#### HOLY THURSDAY

7:30 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

(Altar of Repose) Quiet prayer to 9:00 pm

#### GOOD FRIDAY

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion 3:00 pm

#### HOLY SATURDAY

12:00 p.m. Blessing of Easter Foods

Easter Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection 8:00 pm

(First Mass of Easter)

#### EASTER SUNDAY

10:00 am

#### CHURCH CAPACITY LIMITS

#### (& "ETIQUETTE")

While limits have been lifted in Ontario churches, including our own, likely this will be well received by some and reservedly by others. Given that the pandemic is not over, there are different perspectives on this.

It does mean that individuals will now be responsible for making their own decisions about what level of risk is acceptable. No one is exempt from wearing a face mask (except the presiding priest, readers, and extra-ordinary eucharistic minister). Even with the removal of the floor and carpet markings, all are encouraged to respect "distancing etiquette."

To be together again is special, yes, but only if hospitalizations trend downward can there be more relief (e.g., congregational singing, no requirements for indoor masking). In the meantime, churchgoers are asked to exercise respect, charity, and kindness towards others and to recognize the varying comfort levels of people, especially during these steps to transition. Each parishioner has to be able to plan according to their comfort level, and really for their own health. Thank you.