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WHO WILL YOU SERVE?

“Although all the Israelites left Egypt in effect, not all of them left it in affection, and hence in the wilderness many of them regretted their lack of onions and fleshpots of Egypt. In like manner, there are penitents who leave sin in effect, but do not leave it in affection.” (From Introduction to the Devout Life by Saint Francis De Sales)

In this week's second reading we see a conversion experience which is the opposite of what Saint Francis De Sales is describing. Paul describes the Thessalonians' conversion as a “work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope.” These three expressions name the areas of inner change experienced by the Thessalonians. Later in the same chapter, verses 9-10, Paul describes how these inner changes manifested themselves externally in the way the Thessalonians lived. Their work of faith caused them to “turn to God from idols.” Their labor of love caused them to “serve a living and true God.” Their steadfastness of hope caused them to “wait for his Son from heaven.”

Understanding these elements of conversion, (turning, serving, and steadfastness) is crucial to following God. We all choose to serve someone or something. Some actually serve real idols, while some serve idols of their own making, or some like us, choose to serve the living and true God. But it is unquestionably true that we all serve someone or something.

Who we serve affects the way we live, our priorities and our affections. When we struggle as Christians it is invariably a struggle about whether we will serve God by our decisions or serve someone or something else which is making “god-demands” on our life. The struggle we experience is positive inasmuch as it at least shows us that God is still important to us. However, it also shows us that we either never grasped or are currently forgetting the truth of the Gospel. When we clearly grasp who God is, and how much he loves us and how he has redeemed us through our Savior, that understanding evokes a radical shift; a radical shift of lifestyle, a radical shift of priorities, a radical shift of allegiance, i.e. conversion.

How do we minimize the struggle and serve with devotion? Just like the Thessalonians, by making a full turn, not a partial turn, from our previous loves. It is important that we not allow a spiritual vacuum to develop by remaining inactive. We will serve something or someone. The completeness and thoroughness of this radical decision to love and serve Christ does not imply that we will never need to reaffirm this commitment or never need to experience similar conversion in the future.

The Israelites, to which Saint Francis De Sales refers, made a major commitment when they put their lives on the line and followed Moses out of Egypt. Yet later during the journey in the wilderness they stopped serving God and turned their energies to serving a fictitious remembrance of life in Egypt. They needed to be reawakened to their call and relationship with the Living God. The reality of the Christian life is that the Holy Spirit will periodically call us afresh to re-conversion which is equally complete and thorough. So recognize the living and true God and throw yourself into his service. Then wait patiently for Jesus' return. Jim Elliot, a 20th century martyr for Christ, puts all this in perspective for us, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.”

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 Friday @ 8:00am

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
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.

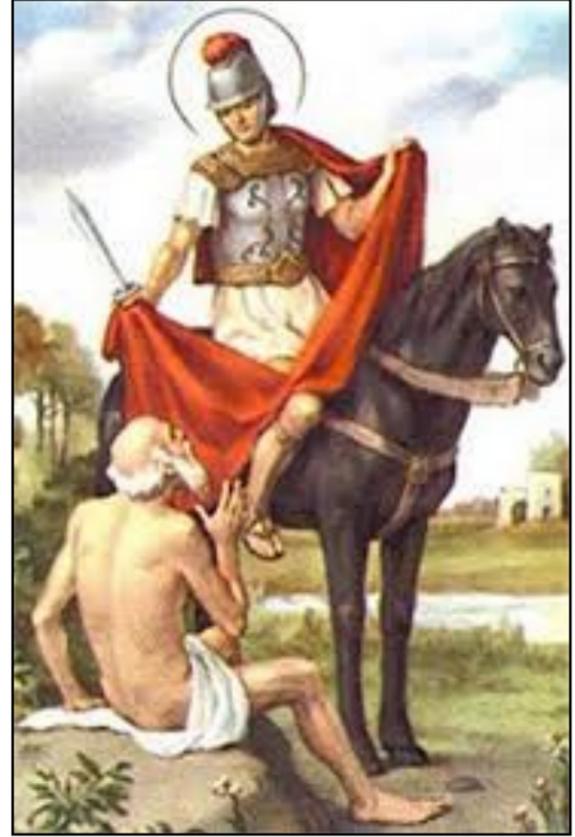
St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

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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Ministry Schedule - Oct 28/29

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony Mous & Dossen S
9:00 am - John Mataseje, Louie Madzo & Marcel Pouliot
11:00 am - George Yakowenko & Justin L

Altar Servers
5:00 pm - Katie & Laura
9:00 am - Needed
11:00 am - Needed

Children's Liturgy
Deanne Long

Next Hospitality Sunday
November 5

Oct 22, 2017

29th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Give to God the things that are God's.

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Kelly Staples
#2 - Mitch Pogoda
9:00 am #1 - Maeve Devlin
#2 - Tom Richardson
11:00 am #1 - Sue Armstrong
#2 - Alex Joyner

Ministers of Communion
5:00 pm - Martha & Tom
9:00 am - Dick & Marcel
11:00 am - Helen & Andy

Counting
Halina Gryzbek & Antonella Presta

October 22, 2017

The 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A



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

Monday	Oct 23	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of John Fedorik Sr.	by family
Tuesday	Oct 24	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnaar	by John and Riky Mulder
Wednesday	Oct 25	6:30 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Luke Scheck	by the Lupien family
Thursday	Oct 26	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Paul Massad	by Joyce and Rodney Ross
Friday	Oct 27	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Farren Young	by the Young, Eigner & Brewster families
Saturday	Oct 28	The 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 5:00 pm +For the peaceful rest of William Ross		by Maria Chorley
Sunday	Oct 29	9:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	by Pauline Lewis and family by Mary and family
		11:00 am	+For the peaceful rest of Ken Lewis For God's blessings upon Mike Hornak on his birthday	

CWL CORNER

The CWL are still selling Giant Tiger Gift Cards in the following denominations: \$10, \$25 and \$50. All the proceeds will go our parish CWL. There will be a CWL member at each of the Masses selling these cards.

The CWL Memberships are now due for 2018. It would be appreciated if you can please drop the \$20.00 membership into the collection basket marked for the CWL.

The CWL will be hosting a Paint Party on Wed. Nov 22 @ 7pm - Dragon Flies and Cattails. The cost is \$30 per person. You must preregister and prepay. More information will be in a flyer in next weeks bulletin or contact Elaine Parry at 905-957-0673

MASS INTENTIONS

The Parish has available dates over the next weeks and months. Please fill out the **Mass Intentions** envelope located at the entrance of the church and place them in the collection baskets. Thank you.

FIRST RECONCILIATION

Wednesday, November 29th at 10:00am.
First Meetings with parents and children,
Tuesday, November 14, at 6:30pm (church).
Retreat for Grade 2, Wednesday, November 22,
at school beginning at 10:00am.

REMEMBRANCE OF OUR LOVED ONES

November is a privileged month that the church all over the world unites in "Prayers for the Repose of the Souls" for our loved ones who have passed on. If you wish to have your loved one's name written in the **Book of Remembrance**, which will be kept at the altar for daily prayers and Masses throughout November, please fill out the **All Souls Offertory Envelope** and drop it in the collection basket or drop it off at the parish office before the end of October. Thank you.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Wednesday, November 8th, at 7:00pm
Registration Forms are now to be returned.
Grade Eight are presently being prepared.

Music Ministry, Parish Ushers, and Altar Servers are required for this celebration. There's a parish cost for this celebration, so a special collection is required. We look forward to the cooperation of one and all. Please remember our dear young people in your prayers.

ST. MARTIN'S SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 26 at 6:00pm.
We continually build the TRIAD between:
Home, Parish, School.

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

November 22, 2017, 9:00am-6:00pm

DIOCESAN PRIESTS STUDY DAYS

AT MOUNT CARMEL

Sunday, October 29th to Tuesday, October 31, at Noon.
No Weekday Masses Monday and Tuesday.

PARSIH DINNER DANCE

The St. Martin of Tours Knights of Columbus welcome you and your friends to join in celebrating our Patron Saint's Day St. Martin of Tours on Saturday November 11, 2017.

We will have a wonderful dinner with plenty to eat followed by great music by our very own JAH Werks DJ services (Herman Johnson) to dance the night away. Doors open at 6pm, dinner served at 7pm. Tickets will be available after each Mass leading up to the event and also by emailing KOC.16421@gmail.com or by calling Paul Chiarcos at 905-975-0364 or Pierre Paradis at 905-957-4591. Tickets \$25.00 ea. Licence LLBO

RETRouvaille

Stress in Your Marriage? –Retrouvaille is a program for married couples that feel bored, frustrated, or angry in their marriage. This program has helped countless couples experiencing marital difficulty. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **November 3, 2017** at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: hamilton-retrouvaille1@cogeco.ca or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

REGENERATE(D) 2017

Sponsored by Branches Catholic Ministries, **Regenerate(d) 2017** will take place again at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls on Saturday, November 18th. This year's theme is based upon one of the most important questions of our time, "*What is Truth?*" and how and where do we find it?

In a culture that promotes that truth is relative how do we as Catholics respond? Keynote speakers: Jennifer Fulwiler, Trent Horn, Dr. David Anders and Steve Weidenkopf will address atheism, relativism, the divisions in Christianity bringing Protestantism and how to discuss this with family and friends.

For the first time **Regenerate(d) Youth 2017** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18 years.

Early-bird tickets are available now! To purchase tickets and more information about these conferences visit www.branchesoftheword.org or call Branches at 905-685-7000.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Last Sunday's Offering October 15, 2017
\$1,550.75

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

The Parish Debt : \$35,451.43

12 DAY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

Egypt & the Holy Land – February 15-26, 2018
led by **Fr. Rico Passero**

Deepen your Lenten Spiritual experience by participating in a pilgrimage to **Egypt and the Holy Land along with Fr. Rico Passero from February 15-26, 2018**. We will be walking in the footsteps of Moses and the people of Israel, culminating with a spiritual reflection on the ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The pilgrimage will take us to Cairo, Mount Sinai, Eilat & the Red Sea, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Masada, Mount Carmel, Cana and the Mount of Olives.

Come for this significant experience – a pilgrimage not to be missed. Price is \$3,690 CDN per person (double occupancy, single supplement \$690), includes air fares, hotels, breakfasts, dinners, taxes and fees. For detailed information and to secure your spot, contact Edgar Tetelbaun (905-889-1681; edgar@gateways-international.m) or Fr. Rico Passero (905-945-2661; ricopassero@gmail.com)

THANK YOU

We appreciate those who have recently signed up for Ministry. We are following the Diocesan Guidelines for Responsible Faith Ministry. We thank you for serving others in ministry as we build each other up by our caring and compassion.

Fall Upward in Grace!

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO Birthdays:

Joan Wisniewski/Regan Legge – Oct 22
Maria Chorley/Oz Fasulo – Oct 25
Caleb Rakonjac – Oct 25
Jason McIntyre/Elias Persaud – Oct 27
Marg Van Geest – Oct 28
Mike Hornak – Oct 29

Anniversaries:

Kazimierz & Barbara Gumieniak – Oct 26
Mitchell & Deborah Pogoda – Oct 27