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**WHEAT OR WEEDS?**

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew is filled with lessons both cautionary and consoling for the Christian steward as Jesus uses several parables to describe the kingdom of heaven and our role in it.

First, He compares it to a field where both wheat and weeds have been sown. Both weeds and wheat are permitted to grow and only at harvest time are they separated, or "judged" - the wheat gathered into the sower's barn and the weeds finally destroyed. So it will be for each of us at the end of our time on earth. It is a sobering reminder of the justice of God.

Next, He says the kingdom of heaven is like the small portion of yeast that is mixed in with flour for the making of bread. The yeast makes up an insignificant fraction of the ingredients, yet it is vital to the outcome - without that tiny bit of yeast, the bread simply will not rise. Similarly, He compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, "the smallest of all the seeds." But when it is full-grown it becomes the largest of all the plants, a sturdy and hardy bush where "birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."

So often, the prayers we pray, the service we offer, the gifts we give - in comparison to the immense needs around us - can seem laughably small. But, as Jesus makes clear through the images of yeast and mustard seed, that is not the truth! God sees and "grows" our offerings of time, talent and treasure in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

In justice, in gratitude, in love, let us remain faithful to the mission entrusted to our care for the building of the kingdom of heaven.

reflections@catholicsteward.com

**Pastor**  
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.

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

**Weekday Masses**  
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri @ 9:00am

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

**Administrative Assistant**  
Sandy Johnson

**Financial Recorder**  
Tracy Piggott

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

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

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

**Cemetery**  
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

**Parish Organizations**  
Catholic Women's League  
President - Carolyn Vaughan  
Knights of Columbus  
Grand Knight - Lloyd Buchan  
koc.16421@gmail.com

**Facility Maintenance**  
Tom Diletti - tom.diletti@sympatico.ca

**Parish Groups**  
Children's Liturgy, Youth Ministry  
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread  
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**



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**July 19, 2020 - Year A**

**The 16th Sunday in  
Ordinary Time**



# July 19, 2019

## The 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	July 20	9:00 am	In thanksgiving for blessings	by Martha Devlin
Tues	July 21	9:00 am	For the Parish of St. Martin's	by Martha Devlin
Wed	July 22	9:00 am	For Father Christopher's personal intentions	by Martha Devlin
		10:30 am	Gethsemane Center Mass - Father Christopher celebrant	
Thurs	July 23	9:00 am	+Past Benefactors of St. Martin of Tours	by St. Martin's
Fri	July 24	9:00 am	For the salvation of the Lewis family	by Pauline Lewis
		7:30 pm	- 9:30pm Praise and Worship Gethsemane Centre Wellandport - Register if attending	
Sat	July 25		<b>The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
		5:00 pm	For God's blessings upon Mr & Mrs Melo & family	by Mr & Mrs Melo
Sun	July 26	10:00 am	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	

### ONLINE EUCHARIST

#### Cathedral of St. Catharine of Alexandria

Sunday Mass live stream at 11:30 am. Visit the diocesan website for viewing: [www.saintcd.com](http://www.saintcd.com)  
Or on **Youtube**

**Vision TV** Sun - 8:00 am  
Mon - Fri - 8:00 am & 12:00 pm  
Sat - 8:00 am & 9:30 am

**Salt + Light** Sun - 11:00 am & 10:30 pm  
Mon - Sat - 6:30 am, 11:00 am,  
3:00 pm, 10:30 pm

**yesTV** Sun - 10:30 am  
Mon - Sat - 1:00 pm

**Internet** [www.dailytvmass.com](http://www.dailytvmass.com)  
[www.youtube.com/dailytvmass](http://www.youtube.com/dailytvmass)

### MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intentions are requested as there are many dates available for intentions. Please email your intentions to the parish office. Thank you.  
[st.martins@cogeco.ca](mailto:st.martins@cogeco.ca)

### MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Please view the Website for the July and August Schedule under the Schedule tab of the Website. Please find your own replacement if you are unable to fulfill your time slot.

Hospitality Ministers and COVID-19 volunteers are asked to be in church 20mins prior.

Volunteers are needed for sanitizing and cleaning.

### PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Many have opted to continue with online Sunday and Weekday Masses which is acceptable. We are asking and encouraging that WE continue our financial support to our parish.

We continue to ask YOU to either drop off your stewardship to the rectory mailbox or kindly mail in your offering. We thank you in advance for your stewardship. Thank you, and God bless.

### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

As our Youth Group year draws to a close, we want to acknowledge all of the help and support we receive that made the Youth Group successful. Despite the pandemic preventing in person meetings, we were able to move activities online and keep going without missing a beat! We even went on some pretty amazing virtual adventures camping and to Walt Disney World. Special thank you to our volunteers – Josie Dell, Caroline Steger, and Martin Ridland for sharing their culinary expertise, John & Linda Mataseje for sharing their mastery of dance and to our parishioners and parents for supporting all the activities!

Thank you from Alex, Alfred, Alyssa, Amanda, Connor, Holly, Isla, Jack, Keira, Nolan

Lisa & Nicole

### Dear Friends in Christ.

Rivers of Babylon is a reggae song written in 1970 by Brent Dowe and Trevor McNaughton but popularized in 1978 by "Boney M". It was one of the Top 10 best-selling singles of all time in the UK. It is one of the few pop songs to be taken directly from the Bible and in 1979 a crowd of 280,000 people gathered in Galway, Ireland, sang it to the new pope John Paul II.

The song is based on Psalm 137, a psalm of lament sung by the Jews after their kingdom had been split in two, with the Assyrians conquering the northern part (Israel) and the Babylonians the southern part (Judah — from which we get our name 'Jews').

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion... There the wicked, [who] carried us away in captivity, required of us a song. Now how shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land? (cf. Ps 137:1-4)

These past few months we have felt like the Jews in the Babylonian exile, unable to visit the Temple in Zion. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health restrictions have prevented our attending Mass and other celebrations in our parish communities. For the first time in a century, Christians around the world could not gather to celebrate Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday or Corpus Christi. Rivers of Babylon takes from Psalm 19 the recognition that we can pray anywhere, even when we are precluded from attending the Temple.

Religions function as a social glue and, especially in individualistic societies like our own, as a prophetic call to community. Catholicism, as an incarnational and sacramental faith, emphasizes even more strongly the need for physical-moral presence to each other. "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the Breaking of the Bread and to prayer." (Acts 2:42)

So it has been as we have returned to liturgical 'Ordinary Time', that our lives are also slowly reverting to their more 'ordinary' encounters. With the easing of COVID safe restrictions since June 19, we have returned to the church building at 30% capacity. Like the children of Israel returning to the Temple in Zion.

While going to 'church at home' had and still has its upsides, we know it is second best. Our highest prayer is the Mass – the Church's offering of Christ to the Father in intercession for the needs of the world. We participate most fully in Christ's self-giving by being present to each other and receiving His substance into our own in Holy Communion. And we extend that experience by praying before the Blessed Sacrament. While necessary public health restrictions forced a long Eucharistic fast upon us – not just abstaining from earthly food for an hour before Holy Communion, but abstaining from our heavenly food itself for several months now, we are now free to return to the Table of the Lord.

The hunger we've experienced should make us appreciate the Eucharist all the more, as we realize better than ever how

important it is to gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ and receive Him together. Good as it has been to practice spiritual communion during this time, our hungry souls have craved sacramental Communion. As we return to the altar not just hungry but more appreciative, we can discover anew how deeply satisfying is that Eucharistic food and, hopefully, be more determined than ever to receive it every Sunday and well-prepared, not just out of habit but out of love.

Those who cannot attend Mass or are afraid to do so should keep Sunday holy by setting aside some time for prayer at home, reading the Scriptures of the day, or watching Mass on television or online, asking God for the graces you would normally receive in Holy Communion ('spiritual communion'). You might attend Mass on a weekday where possible. Here at St. Martin's Mass is celebrated every morning at 9:00 am Monday through Friday. We will soon be open during the day for private prayer, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, especially for those unable to attend Sunday Mass; but, again, this will be scheduled in the bulletin. We can now schedule these times of prayer since we installed our new church Air Conditioning this past week.

I'm doing all in my responsibilities as parish priest to keep staff, COVID Safety Volunteers and parishioners safe as we move forward into the summer months. However, I would encourage you all to take your own steps to personal safety by being informed of all our new protocols - and they can be read on our parish website. <http://www.stmartinsparish.com>

I've come to refer to the last four months as the roller coaster ride that won't end. You strap in for what you know will be a rough ride, but then it's a constant tick, tick, tick before another plunge. So many things are happening at the same time. We have so many extremes feeding each other, driving each other forward, while everyone is simultaneously fearful of the global pandemic. The words of Jesus are frequent refrain: "Be Not Afraid." (Matthew 14:27)

Please continue to pray for an end to the pandemic and for all those who have been affected, especially those who are sick or at risk, those who are isolated or anxious, those who have lost their employment or who are experiencing financial hardship. And pray for a renewed reverence for the Eucharist, as we joyfully return to its celebration and reception.

Close your day, every day, with a positive acknowledgement of something you accomplished, learned or are grateful for. It will help dilute some of the negativity you've absorbed and remind you that not everything that's happening right now is bad or depressing.

In times of constant negative messaging, you need an antidote so that you can keep your positive attitude and march forward with determination and hope. Be deliberate in activities that are positive, heartwarming, stress-reducing and laughter-inducing! Together, we'll get through this.

Shalom, Christopher + Parish Priest  
July 7, 2020. - 32nd Anniversary of Priestly Ordination

Boney M By the Rivers of Babylon  
<https://youtu.be/ta42xU2UXLA>