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RELATIONSHIPS

Today's readings are all about relationships. Among the many lessons we have learned from the global pandemic is the deep importance of the relationships and communities in our lives. Our families, neighbors, friends and parish family need us, and we need them to be our best selves.

St. Paul gives us simple instruction in our second reading from Romans to guide us in our dealings with others, reminding us what Christ Himself taught: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love is the overarching principal that guides us to be good stewards of our relationships.

In our Gospel passage from Matthew, Jesus further refines this instruction on good stewardship of our relationships, even when they involve conflict. He says, "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother."

Jesus teaches us to confront the offending person directly and discretely - with the goal of restoring the relationship if possible. This is how we steward our relationships even through rocky waters. Jesus also speaks to us of the power and beauty of community life. "If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

Christian stewards, God has designed us in such a way that we must help each other on the journey towards heaven. Let us take care to steward our relationships well.

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

COVID-19 Office hours
Tuesday Only
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 - Pierre Paradis
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**



**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL
WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER**

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Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

September 6, 2020 - Year A

**The 23rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

September 6, 2019

The 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Mon	Sept 7	9:00 am	+Don Tylte	From St. Alfred's Parish
Tues	Sept 8	9:00 am	+Freda Marin Harling	by Pat Gillis
		9:45 am	St. Martin Elementary School - Pastoral Visit	Father Christopher
Wed	Sept 9	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Tori Whitaker	by Heather Belmont
		10:30 am	- 5:00 pm - Gethsemane Center Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
			Father Christopher celebrant. Confessions and Counselling if required.	
Thurs	Sept 10	9:00 am	+Yvonne Vanderbraak	From St. Alfred's Parish
Fri	Sept 11	9:00 am	Intention Available	
Sat	Sept 12	The 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
		5:00 pm	Pro Populo Dei - For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish Family	
Sun	Sept 13	10:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Ross Moniz	by Brenda Moniz

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 or on YouTube

St. Joseph's Parish Grimsby.

Follow on Face Book or their website:

Stjosephgrimsby.ca

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

www.youtube.com/dailytvmass

PERSONAL EMAILS

TO FATHER CHRISTOPHER

Father returns all emails.

Emails of an administrative nature are not returned from Friday: 4:00 pm to Tuesday at 11:00 am, Sunday Sabbath and Father's day off Mondays.

ARE YOU REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH?

Please do not take for granted that you are registered in the parish just because you attend Mass here. If we have no record of your parish membership, it could be quite embarrassing to us, or to you or your family, when someone wishes to make wedding plans, have a baby baptized, or if you have been asked to act as a sponsor for baptism or confirmation. Also, if you require a pastoral reference for a Catholic teaching position. We encourage weekly attendance if you are seeking any of the above.

Because of COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot leave forms in the foyer. Please call the parish office and we can mail you the form. About 45 members are currently not registered. 37 members have not submitted email address. Thank you.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

This is a sensitive topic to address with so many uncertainties that continue to impact each one of us in unexpected ways. Many parishioners may already be facing financial difficulties as a family, and the first priority must be to take care of the needs of family and loved ones. Our parish has recently supported two needy families.

Our Parish of St. Martin and our Diocese of St. Catharines continue to rely on the generosity of the faithful to financially run during this time of pandemic. Parishioners can continue to donate by dropping off their weekly donations to the parish rectory, or by mail, or now at the office on Tuesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon. .

Less than 10% of our parish membership returned last weekend, August 29/30.

It is critical at this time to pray and support each other. We pray for all Parishes, all our Priests and Deacons, and our Diocese, for your fellow parishioners and our parish staff, and we remember those who are suffering from illness, especially those who have died from Covid-19; and frontline workers and essential service providers who have had to make a tremendous sacrifice affecting their families and loved ones during this ever present COVID-19 pandemic.

We thank you for your continued financial support. We are grateful for those who continue to mail in their stewardship. Thank You. God bless You!

"ETIQUETTE AT EUCHARIST"

We update weekly given our experiences of the weekend Masses; and with Public Health Regional Bylaws and our Diocese.

You will be asked to sanitize your hands using the new automatic dispenser (touchless) just inside the main door. The wearing a face mask or shield are now mandatory throughout Niagara (except the very young and those with breathing difficulties). Masks are available free of charge.

Please wait for a hospitality team member to escort you to your assigned pew. In order to ensure physical distancing, please remain in your seats once seated. Please move up in the pew.

NEW! Ushers/Ministers of Hospitality are updated weekly or when needed by email. This weekend we will present a floor plan for the Ushers. All are kindly asked to follow the floor plan as we need every space that is available. The doors are now locked as we begin Mass and for good reason: the TEAM have a right to worship and are not obliged to wait unnecessarily. Also, attending one Mass on the weekend is sufficient; please be mindful of others by not taking a space someone else could have.

For the reception of Holy Communion. Come to "Red Line" and remove your mask or drop below your chin. There will be no exchange of words as this will have already been done by Father Christopher when he gives the necessary directions.

Note: The washrooms are to be used only if absolutely necessary; parishioners making their way there during Mass tend to be a distraction to the others. As well, please refrain from touching any Surfaces upon entering or exiting the church (anything touched has to be cleaned).

Lastly, be respectful of the ushers and cleaners and their tasks; their willingness to serve is of benefit to us all because if there are no ushers and no cleaners there can be no "open church".

All of the above is for your safety and the protection of all. It is not meant to be unwelcoming as some have written and expressed. We have entered into new pastoral challenging and will continue to do so.

**"Say Something Positive.
If you stay Positive in a Negative Situation.
YOU WIN!"**

Dear Parent(s)and Guardians:

I take this opportunity to reach out to you, and to welcome you to our new school year and our Catholic way of life. No matter the challenging scenarios with Covid-19 both our parish and school, are eagerly ready to welcome you and our young people; and help everyone move forward with their Catholic education!

As many of our schools in Niagara re-open today, (September 8, 2020) and in the next few weeks, our parish of St. Martin is praying for all those who have the responsibility of keeping our youngest citizens safe. Please pray with us.

Lord, with a new school year at St. Martin upon us, we pray for our students. Ease any anxiety they may have. We pray for their safety and that they may be guided to work with their principal Mr. Zanuttini and vice-principal Mrs. Villella and teachers, parents, guardians and caregivers to remain in their safety zones and follow the new safety rules.

We pray for parents, guardians and caregivers. Grant them the wisdom to work with principals and teachers who are doing the best they can to provide safe, sanitized, well-spaced zones, much-needed technology for those learning online, and other support systems during these challenges.

We pray for our teachers and school staff. Grant them the safety and emotional support needed as they educate our children. May we all find new and creative ways to continue developing meaningful relationships in safe ways at home, church and school.

We ask this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Take care of yourself and your family. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our St. Martin families during these times of challenge and opportunity.

Shalom, Father Christopher +

**Parish Priest of St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church, Smithville.
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca**