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INDULGENCES

An indulgence is the remission of punishment for a forgiven sin. If your child breaks a window at home and tells you, "I'm sorry" you may forgive the young offender, but you may still issue a punishment. In the Catholic Church the sacrament of reconciliation brings forgiveness of sins, which may still carry punishments. Indulgences relax the punishments.

Indulgences first appeared in the eleventh century as a way of reducing the penance one was required to perform after confessing a sin. Several hundred years later they were understood to relax punishments after death - partially or totally. During the Reformation, the abuse of indulgences received some criticism: people were selling them outright, claiming that you could buy your way into heaven.

In the past, some indulgences came with a certain number of days or years attached. The church explained that if you gained the indulgence it would speed your progress from purgatory to heaven by that amount of time. Today we no longer apply this metaphor of time.

Although the sale of indulgences has ceased, the practice of performing certain actions to obtain indulgences continues. The church believes that the good accomplished by Christ and the saints may be shared by the faithful who perform actions of prayer, charity, and self-sacrifice. Believers may even ask God to extend mercy to the faithful departed by remembering these benefits. An appreciation of indulgences is based on the belief that sinful behaviours carry consequences even after death and that God will respond favourably to prayers of mercy.

An indulgence may be partial (relaxes some punishment) or plenary (relaxes all punishment).

Church Norms for receiving an Indulgence say that a person must be baptized and not excommunicated; be in the state of grace at least at the time that the required works are done; and meeting the conditions of a sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, and prayer for the Pope's intention (Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be). These conditions may be carried out several days before or after completing the required works.

The required works most commonly carried out to receive a partial indulgence include: praying an *Act of Contrition*; spending at least a half hour in *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*; praying to St. Joseph or while visiting a cemetery or praying Psalm 130 or prays one of the Litanies of the Church or listen to preaching. There are many more works that qualify.

For a plenary indulgence the required works include: praying the *Stations of the Cross*; receiving in person or media a *Papal Blessing*; taking part in the *adoration of the cross* during Good Friday; praying the *Rosary*. There are many more works that qualify.

Source: The Handbook of Indulgences, 1991.

Source: Paul Turner, writer in Modern Liturgy, Volume 27, Number 4, May 2000.

Prepared by Father Brian Bevan.

Bishop of the Diocese of St. Catharines
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.

Pastor
Father Brian Bevan

Sunday Masses
Saturday 5:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am and 11:00 am

Weekday Masses
Listed inside bulletin

Exposition and Benediction
Listed inside bulletin

Reconciliation/Confessions
Listed inside bulletin
Or by request

Baptism
Sunday by appointment

Marriage
Contact Fr. Brian Bevan

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Diocese of St. Catharines

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church



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July 9, 2017
The 14th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 9, 2017

The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Monday	July 10	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnarr	by John & Riky Mulder
Tuesday	July 11	9:00 am	St. Benedict, abbot & founder +For the peaceful rest of Bryan Kenny	by Rodney & Joyce Ross
Wednesday	July 12	6:30 pm	St. Veronica, matron +For the peaceful rest of Margaret Flaherty	by Maureen Flaherty
Thursday	July 13	9:00 am	Private Intentions	by Anonymous
Friday	July 14	9:00 am	For the health and healing of Robert Schnarr	by John and Riky Mulder
Saturday	July 15	5:00 pm	The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time For the intentions of Patricia McFarlane	by Martha Devlin
Sunday	July 16	9:00 am	For God's blessings upon Bob and Cheryl Dell on their 50th Wedding Anniversary	by Joan, Heather & Anita
		11:00 am	For the intentions of St. Martin's Parish family	

SAINTS THIS WEEK

St. Benedict, abbot & founder; July 11.

Benedict was born in Italy, in the year 480. As a young man he went to Rome to study, but was so upset by the immorality he saw he became a hermit in the year 500. He founded several monasteries, and then at Monte Cassino he composed the Benedictine rule, which was adopted throughout Europe. He is the *Father of Western Monasticism*. He died on March 21, 547 and was buried beside his sister (St) Scholastica.

Today's date recalls the date that Benedict's relics were translated to Fleury, France, away from his beloved monastery in Italy.

St. Veronica, matron; July 12.

The legend of Veronica is one of the most popular in the Western Church, especially since in the nineteenth century her name was included in the Stations of the Cross: that while Jesus carried the cross to Calvary, a woman in the crowd had pity on him and wiped his face with a cloth, and the exact image of his face appeared on the cloth.

Nothing is known for certain about Veronica, but a tradition from the fourth century, says that she was the woman who had been healed by Jesus of her flow of blood (Matthew 9:20-22). Her importance is found, not in her historical life, but in the hope of genuine concern shown to the suffering.

FEASTS THIS WEEK

Our Lady of Mount Carmel; July 16.

This is the patronal feast of the Carmelite religious order. They take their name from Mount Carmel in Palestine, from which the Carmelite hermits went into Europe. Legend states that Our Blessed Lady gave the

brown Carmelite scapular to (St) Simon Stock in England, on July 16, 1251.

Between the years 1376 and 1386 this feast was introduced in memory of the approval of the Carmelite rule by Pope Honorius III in the year 1226. The feast was listed in the Roman Calendar in the year 1726.

(This feast is not celebrated this year as it falls on a Sunday.)

LAST SUNDAY'S OFFERING

Generosity brought \$1448.60 to our parish last week through our Regular Sunday Collection and \$422.00 through our Facility Maintenance Collection.

MINISTRY SCHEDULES

Are you always wondering when you have been scheduled to serve in your ministry? Well wonder no longer. You can find the current Ministry Schedule on St. Martin's Website. To find our website, simply type into the address bar: www.stmartinsparish.com. Click on the "Schedule" tab and scroll down until you find the month you are looking for.

Please remember that if you are not able to fulfill your scheduled spot, it is your responsibility to find a replacement for yourself. Thank you all for your continued commitment to St. Martin's Parish.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession / Penance was celebrated during Advent and Lent from 5:30 pm to 6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings.

Father Brian has decided to bring this time back, effective immediately, on each Wednesday evening.

This change is in answer to requests for having a time for forgiveness made available during the evening.

THANK YOU

We give thanks to Dick Van Geest as he retires from the Ministry of the Eucharist. We thank him for his many years of dedicated service to the Lord in this Ministry. We wish him well.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL - 1

This year the annual Mission Appeal - when we welcome a Priest who comes to speak and hopefully raises funds to support the work of their diocese or religious community - takes place on the weekend of July 15 & 16.

We will be visited by Father Linus Kinyua, of the Diocese of Meru, Kenya. He is currently Parish Priest at St. Alphonus - St. Clement Parish in Dearborn Heights, Michigan. As is our custom, the following weekend we will take a Special Collection in support of Fr. Kinyua's Diocese in Meru.

Please remember Fr. Kinyua in your prayers as we await him.

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL - 2 CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MERU (Kenya, East Africa)

The Diocese of Meru is in the Eastern province of Kenya along the Equator line, serving four counties. Meru diocese serves a population of 1.8 million; half of whom are Catholics. The Catholic Church has continued to grow despite the poverty and other economic challenges. Many of the Christians depend on small farming to bring food on the table and support the church.

Our immediate needs are:

We need your help and prayers for the success of the mission work of the Diocese of Meru. These are our pressing needs:

- **Evangelization** - To train lay leaders, catechists, and youth who work together with the priests in ministering to the Catholics in mission prayer houses
- **Fostering Vocations** - The diocese has many young men aspiring for priesthood but does not have enough resources to train them
- **Improving the social economic** condition of the poor, especially orphans and neglected children to have the basic needs especially food and clean drinking water.
- **Medical Care** - many people have no health insurance cover. They depend on the church for all medical care. Staffing the diocese health clinics and hospitals with qualified nurses and basic medications is also a priority for the church. This helps the people to have affordable health care.

Your prayers and financial support will help the Diocese of Meru achieve some of the above pressing needs as it continues with its missionary work.

Asante Sana

(Swahili language: Thank you very much)

Contact: Rev. Fr. Linus Kinyua, Mission Coordinator for the Diocese of Meru: Pastor, St. Alphonsus -St. Clement Parish, 7496 Calhoun Street- Dearborn, MI 48126

BLESSED TITUS BRANDSMA CELEBRATION

Everyone is welcome to attend the annual celebration for Blessed Titus Brandsma, O.Carm, July 30, 2017 at 11:00 am in the chapel of Mount Carmel Spiritual Center in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Mass with Gregorian Chant will be celebrated by Fr. Paul McDonald.

Please bring a lawn chair and food basket for a picnic on the grounds following Mass. For information contact Rhea Obdeyn at 905-892-4721 or Frank Niesink at 905-935-9457.

YEAR OF THE ROSARY; MARIAN EVENT

A Diocesan Marian Event, in celebration of the Year



of the Rosary & the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at St. Alfred Church, 272 Vine Street, St. Catharines, Ontario. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Gerard Berge at 8:30 a.m. Reflections on Mary and the Rosary and Celebration of a Living Rosary 9:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Parishioners and diocesan organizations from across the diocese are all welcome.

Free Admission/No Registration.

THE BACK PAGE

On this week's *THE BACK PAGE* the topic covers Indulgences.

BEST WISHES THIS WEEK TO

Birthdays:

Cody Falasca/Darren O'Keefe - July 9
Matthew O'Keefe - July 9
Nathaniel Zonruiter - July 10
Winston Mallia - July 11
Tiania Malaryk - July 12
Frank DeFilippis/Linda Mous/Cole Riley - July 13
Edward Nardini/Danielle Severino - July 13
Daniel Cacilhas/George Sorbara - July 15
Thomas Valeri - July 16

Anniversaries:

Grahame & Nicole Wealleans - July 9
Darryl & Rachel Telfore - July 12
Paul & Michele Altobelli - July 13