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TIME TALENT & TREASURY

On this Feast of the Ascension, we celebrate Christ's triumphant return to the Father after accomplishing His mission on earth. We can also view this Feast as a celebration of the "launch day" of our commissioning as Christ's disciples.

Jesus gave His disciples clear instructions just before ascending to the Father. He tells them (and us) "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Embracing a stewardship way of life, with its emphasis on the use of time, talent, and treasure, helps us to live in such a way that our very lives speak as a witness of the Good News. While we take time to reflect and renew our commitments in these three areas annually as a parish family, it is of great benefit to take some time individually throughout the year to take stock of the commitments we have made - looking at both our strengths and our need for continued growth in each area.

In the use of Time, we can ask ourselves if we are keeping the particular prayer commitments we have made. If so, have I noticed a deepened closeness to our Lord and an increase in virtue in my daily life? Perhaps I have let one or two of my "holy habits" go by the wayside. Then simply re-commit to them. Or maybe my prayer commitments have become routine and I could carry them out more intentionally once again. Maybe my schedule has changed and I need to establish a new time to pray.

In the use of Talent, have I stayed faithful to the ministry commitments I made? How is my attitude towards serving? Am I joyful and humble about the work I am doing? How has my serving of others changed and blessed me?

Finally, let's take a look at our use of Treasure. Have I been generous in my financial giving? If so, have I noticed a deepening trust in God's care for me? Have I become a little more detached from the pull of materialism that surrounds us all in this day and age?

A stewardship way of life is challenging because it is counter-cultural to put God and others before ourselves. But that is precisely why this way of life is such a powerful witness to the message of the Gospel. We can embrace this way of life with great confidence and joy because we are not expected to do this on our own. Whether it is as small a detail as finding a new prayer time, or as big as changing career paths to be more available to loved ones, we have the power of the Holy Spirit to show us the way.

On this Feast of the Ascension, take the time to celebrate your victories as Christ's disciples and renew your commitment to remain faithful to Him and the unique mission He has entrusted to you!

Catholic Stewardship Blog

Bishop of the Diocese
Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Diocesan Website: www.saintcd.com

Pastor
Rev. Father Christopher Gerard Gillen P.P.
Diocesan Social Justice Rep

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

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

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
See bulletin for schedule

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
Please call the office

Secretary
Sandy Johnson
Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Bookkeeper
Tracy Piggott

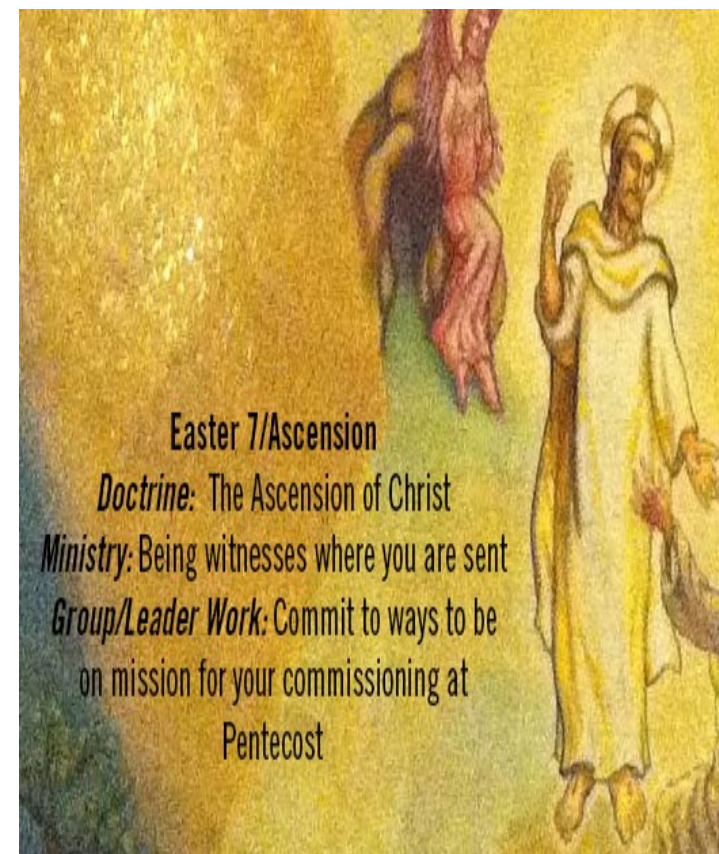
St Martin School
Phone 905-957-3032

Cemetery
Ron Roscovich at 905-386-0648

Parish Organizations
Catholic Women's League
Knights of Columbus

Parish Groups
Children's Liturgy. Youth Ministry
West Lincoln Loaf of Bread
Parish Events Group
Parish Financial Council
Acts Men & Women Retreats Teams

Diocese of St. Catharines
**St. Martin of Tours
Roman Catholic Church**



166 West Street, P.O. Box 74
Smithville, Ontario L0R 2A0
Telephone: 289-956-0221
Email: st.martins@cogeco.ca
www.stmartinsparish.com

Ministry Schedule - June 8/9

Hospitality Ministers
5:00 pm - Tony M. & Sharon R.
10:00 am - Julie & Anthony N.

Altar Servers
5:00pm -
10:00 am -

Children's Liturgy
Carolyn Vaughn

Next Hospitality Sunday
September

**June 2, 2019
Seventh Sunday
of Easter**

**The Ascension
of the Lord**

Lectors
5:00 pm #1 - Mary Pikula
#2 - Needed
10:00 am #1 - Caroline Steger
#2 - Andrew Steger

Extra-ordinary Eucharistic Ministers
5:00 pm - Tom Shields
10:00 am - Sheri, Vern, Victoria
Stewardship Counting
Lisa Poort & Cheryl Dell

June 2, 2019

The Ascension of the Lord - Year C

MASS TIMES, INTENTIONS, PARISH CALENDAR

Monday	June 3	NO PARISH MASS TODAY - Father Christopher's Day Off. Priests of our Diocese begin their annual Retreat - Monday, June 3 to Friday, June 7.	
Tuesday	June 4	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Baby Bennett and for God's strength and comfort upon Tyler & Tiffany Corbet by family
Wednesday	June 5	9:00 am	+For the repose of the souls of John & Regina Newman For the health and healing of Vera DeLaat by the Newman family by Vern & Josie Dell
Thursday	June 6	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Lane Van Geest by Martha Devlin
Friday	June 7	9:00 am	+For the repose of the soul of Gabrielle Lupien by Martha Devlin
Saturday	June 8	Pentecost Sunday 5:00 pm	+For the repose of the soul of Angelina Medeiros by the Melo & Mikhail families
Sunday	June 9	10:00 am	For the special intentions of St. Martin's Parish family +Oliver Joseph Gillen 46th Anniversary today. (Fr. Christopher's Father)

ACTS 19 MEN'S RETREAT May 30 to June 2, 2019

Please remember in your prayer the entire Acts Retreat Team and Retreatants.

May the Holy Spirit fall afresh upon one and all. May each man find inner peace and a new purpose and direction for their life of faith.

Their spouses, family members, and parish community will be the recipients of their NEW Life in Christ.

A DAY OF REFLECTION FOR WOMEN

The Diocese of St. Catharines is offering a *Day of Reflection for Women on the Gift of Hope* with Dr. Josephine Lombardi.

Saturday, June 22, 2019

Gethsemane Ministries Centre
84008 Wellandport Road, Wellandport
9:45am – 3:00pm.

To register please call Rose Marie at the Office of Religious Education at:

905-684-0154, ext. 207

or visit: offred@saintcd.com

Lunch will be provided. (Free Will Offering)

Registration deadline is June 14.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Applications are now available in the front foyer of the church. The school will receive applications the first Friday in June.

Dead line for the applications: June 21.
\$5.00 registration fee per child.

Camp dates: July 22 - 26 from 9am to Noon

All other detail on the application.

CATHOLIC MEN'S

"BIG BREAKFAST EVENT IN THE TENT"

Saturday, June 15 (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.)

Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Rd., St. Catharines

This is co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Holy Name Society, Branches Catholic Ministries, and various men's groups in the diocese.

Speakers include Bishop Gerard Bergie on his 2019 diocesan theme "Behold, I make all things new"; Fr. Richard Kowalchuk "Your Mission – right here, right now" and Ante Skoko, diocese of Toronto, on "Connecting with Youth and Young Adults".

Bring a friend, bring your son (his friend as well), but most importantly bring yourself!

For further details call (905/685-7000) or visit: www.branchesoftheword.org

CATHEDRAL APPEAL

An extensive restoration project for our Cathedral has been underway since last fall. We have launched the Cathedral Appeal across the diocese. It needs the support of many to reach its overall target of \$1.2 million.

The target for St. Martin of Tours Parish is \$6.500.

You can donate on line at:

www.canadahelps.org

Search: the Diocese of St. Catharines.

Choose Cathedral Appeal.

You can choose to make a pledge over 18 months - You can fund an element of the restoration such as a Station of the Cross, a Statue, a ceiling medallion, or a large ceiling painting. If you are interested in this option please contact the Cathedral at 905-684-3964 or email appeal@saintcd.com,

ENVELOPES AND PLEDGE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT FRONT FOYER . PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO **ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH** AND IN THE MEMO LINE INDICATE **CATHEDRAL APPEAL.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THIS RESTORATION PROJECT
THANK YOU. GOD BLESS

GRIEF JOURNEY RETREAT

Friday, June 14 - Sunday, June 16

Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre

Presenter: Anna Racine

This is for those who have experienced loss through death, separation/divorce, relationship or who are going through a life transition.

\$250 per person

(includes two-night stay, meals & workshops)

Register by calling 905-356-4113, x4200 or by email: mtcarmel@carmelniagara.com

**MAY GOD BLESS YOU
FOR YOUR FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP**

May 25/26 2019

\$ 2,237.10

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 3 - 7 - Diocesan Priestly Retreat
- June 11 - Maintenance Meeting at 7 pm
- June TBD - Financial Council Meeting
- June TBD - Discernment Team Meeting
- June 15 - Internment Service for Bill Barnes in Hamilton at 9:30am
- June 23 - Parish Picnic after 10am Mass
- June 25 - Grade 8 Grad Ceremony at 6pm
- June 27 - Year End School Mass at 1 pm

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY

June topics are:

June 10 – New Relationships

June 24 – Loving and Respecting Yourself

This is the last meeting before a summer break

Meetings are 7 to 9pm
Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre
7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls

Pre-registration is not required

For more information call:

905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154

Or visit:

separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com

NEW) YOUTH MINISTRY AT ST. MARTIN'S

Youth Group Ages 12-14

Group will meet bi-weekly centered around the 5:00 pm Mass and engage in a number of activities following Mass in the parish hall and in the community.

Next Gatherings:

June 15 Mass, Laser Tag, Pizza

**June 23 Mass, Parish Picnic,
Run Activities**