



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

5855 East W Avenue, PO BOX 264, Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 649-1629 St. Vincent DePaul Ext 3
Pastor: Msgr. Thomas A Martin

DRE & COORDINATOR
OF YOUTH MINISTRY
Tim McNamara
269-649-1629 ext 1003
dre@stmartinvicksburg.org

Mass Schedule: Sat 5:30p Sun 8:00a & 11:00a Wed & Fri 9:00a **Live-Stream Mass:** Mar 20 at 11:00a
Reconciliation: Sat 10a or by appt. **Office Hours:** Mon—Fri 9a-4p
Website: www.stmartinvicksburg.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/stmartinofoursofvicksburg
Flocknote: stmartinvicksburg.flocknote.com

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Mar 19 5:30p Mass †Trisha DeWolff
by Mom, Dad & Jennifer
Mar 20 8:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin
9:00a **Farmer's Breakfast** till 1:00p
9:30a **Religious Ed & Adult Study**
Parish Cenacle in church till 10:30a
11:00a Mass †Elizabeth Sehy by M/M Lezotte
Mar 21 6:30p **Penance Service** at St Thomas Moore
7:00p **St Vincend DePaul**
Mar 22 7:00p **Knights of Columbus**
7:00p **Bishop Barron Creed** series till 8:30p
Mar 23 9:00a Mass †Fritz & Rose Coppens
by Mike Coppens
6:00p **High School Youth** in Youth Center
6:00p **Penance Service** at St. Monica
6:30p **Adoration & Benediction/Holy Hour**
Mar 24 6:00p **Stations of the Cross at St. Edward**
7:00p **RCIA**
Mar 25 8:00a **Friday Adoration** till 9:00a
9:00a Mass Doris Huey Blessings on her
97th Birthday
by Dcn Tom & Pam Thamann
6:00p **Stations of the Cross followed by**
Soup & bread supper in Parish Hall
Mar 26 7:30a **Men's group**
5:30p Mass †Tony Sokolowski
by Rita Sokolowski
Mar 27 8:00a Mass †Pat Hageman
9:30a **No Religious Ed or Adult Study**
No Parish Cenacle
11:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin
3:00p **Penance Service** at St. Martin of Tours

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jody Cunningham Maureen Montes TJ Williams
Kassidy Evans Marge Rice Aiden Woodard
Karen Garcea Susan Sirna
Ethel Markan Jennifer Stocki
Alfredo Montes John Trumptower

WORD OF LIFE

"To celebrate the Gospel of life means
to celebrate the God of life, the God
who gives life... In every child which is
born and in every person who lives or
dies we see the image of God's glory.
We celebrate this glory in every human
being, a sign of the living God, an icon
of Jesus Christ"
(The Gospel of Life 84).

FOR IMMEDIATE & CONFIDENTIAL PRAYERS

Email deena.christine@yahoo.com or call our
parish prayer line at 269-303-8016

LECTOR/USHER/SCRIP SCHEDULE

Mar 26 5:30p Lector: Mike C
Ushers: Jim & Monica R, Sharon Z, Brian C
Scrip: DeWolff
Mar 27 8:00a Lector: Kathleen W
Ushers: Bill Z, Joe R, Joe S, volunteer
Scrip: LeVan
Mar 27 11:00a Lector: Kathi L
Ushers: Coleen V, Cindy J, Jack & Lilli C
Scrip: Goldsmith-Moore

"Sir, leave it for
this year also,
and I shall
cultivate the
grounds around
it and fertilize
it; it may bear
fruit in the
future. If not
you can cut
it down."

Luke 13:8, 9

THE LET MI KIDS LEARN PETITION

drive is underway to promote educational justice legislation. Michigan children from low-income families would qualify for "Student Opportunity Scholarships" toward their out-of-pocket educational costs at public or nonpublic schools for tutoring, school supplies, computers, and tuition among other expenses. Donors to scholarship organizations would receive a state tax credit. Low-income parishioners and members of our community would benefit from this initiated legislation, regardless of where they send their children to school. The petitions would place this proposal before the legislature, and, if approved, would not require the governor's signature to become law. As this is a nonpartisan effort, Catholic parishes and schools are allowed to circulate petitions. The Catholic Bishops of Michigan support this effort. Please prayerfully consider signing the two required petitions to create the scholarship program and tax credits to improve the education of Michigan's school children.

INSIDE OUR PARISH**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

will be holding a membership drive March 19 & 20, AND a Farmer's Breakfast on Sun, Mar 20. Continuing our charitable mission, half of the proceeds from the Farmer's breakfast will be going to the KofC Ukraine Solidarity Fund, which has already collected more than \$4 million for humanitarian purposes both in Ukraine & in Poland for the many war refugees. We would be remiss if we did not ask you to join us in praying for all these displaced persons as well.

PURSE BINGO

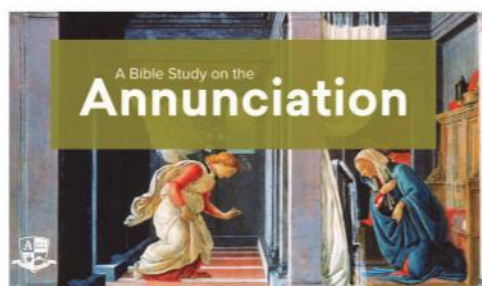
Sat, Apr 23 at 11:30 a.m. Tickets will be available after Mass, this weekend. They are \$10 donation.

FORMED®**PICK OF THE WEEK**

March 20, 2022

WATCH**THE SANCTUARY COURSE FOR CATHOLICS**

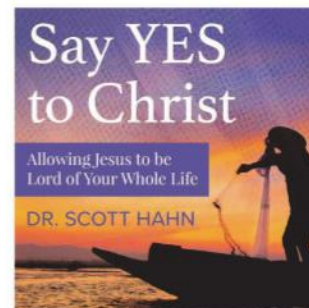
Misconceptions surrounding mental illness can prevent us from responding well to those suffering. This eight-session course explores the realities of mental illness, as well as the need for faith-based conversations about this topic. Featuring stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists.

**A BIBLE STUDY ON THE ANNUNCIATION**

In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26-38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

LISTEN**SAY YES TO CHRIST: ALLOWING JESUS TO BE THE LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE BY SCOTT HAHN**

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.

**LEARN**

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.**PARISH SUPPORT MARCH 06, 2022**

Envelopes: 145 Weekly Goal: \$6,730
Collection envelopes: \$9,933.00
Mailed in envelopes: \$1,539.00
On Line Giving: \$0
Total Collection: \$11,472.00

Diocesan Priest Retirement: \$3,166.00
Building Maintenance: \$956.00
Easter Flowers: \$142.00

Purchase Scrip after all Masses
and in the Church office M-F 9a-4p

PARISH SUPPORT MARCH 13, 2022

Envelopes: 65 Weekly Goal: \$6,730
Collection envelopes: \$4,733.00
Mailed in envelopes: \$784.00
On Line Giving: \$0
Total Collection: \$5,517.00

Collection for Ukraine: \$879.00
Savings: \$611.00
Easter Flowers: \$50.00

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OTHER NEWS

CONSIDERING THE RECENT devastating destruction and humanitarian crisis in Ukraine Bishop Paul J. Bradley has requested a second collection for USCCB's Churches in Central and Eastern Europe fund again this weekend. Checks should be made out to St. Martin of Tours with "Church in Central and Eastern Europe" written in the reference line. Funds collected will be distributed through the United States Bishops' Church in Central and Eastern Europe to fund the official relief agencies of the Catholic Church, such as Caritas Ukraine. Thank you for helping those most in need of God's healing love and support.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE continues until April 10. We will pray in front of the Planned Parenthood, 4201 W. Michigan Ave., on the public sidewalk. Join with our brothers and sisters from area churches to help to end abortion in Kalamazoo. Our prayers and fasting make a difference by changing hearts. Please consider signing up for one hour a week. You can sign up online at <https://www.40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/kalamazoo> or by emailing 40daysKALAMAZOO@gmail.com.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF GREATER KALAMAZOO JOB DESCRIPTION School: Hackett Catholic Prep High School Job Title: Front Office Secretary and Media Center Aide

AQUINAS COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE – March 26 Aquinas College welcomes any high school students and families to our Spring Open House on Saturday, March 26! Get the inside scoop on academics, athletics, service learning, study abroad and more! Details and registration information can be found at aquinas.edu/openhouse.

ST. MARY KALAMAZOO KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host 3 Pasta-Pasta Dinners during Lent this year. Please join us to dine in (at Fr. Bart Hall, 939 Charlotte Ave) or take out* on Fridays, Mar 25 & Apr 8. Dinner will be from 5 -7p and will include: two pastas, two sauces (marinara and clam), meatless lasagna (or other meatless dish - different each week), salad, garlic bread, & dessert. The cost is \$8 per person; \$6.50 for seniors and children under 12; maximum of \$40 per family. For take-out, text 269-443-3338 and order by the Wednesday before dinner

OVERCOMING DISASTER IN BANGLADESH, cyclones and other natural disasters are increasing—destroying farms, homes and more—making it difficult for people like Noornobi to earn a living and support their families. But Noornobi has learned new techniques to protect his land and income, enabling his niece and nephew to go to school. How can you care for creation to help the planet and our global family? Visit csrceicebowl.org to learn more.

EXHAUSTING THE "SOIL" OF MERCY

Third Sunday of Lent

"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down." [Luke 13:8-9](#)

Every gardener knows that good fruit is, in part, dependent upon the presence of good soil. But other factors are also important in the production of good fruit. The plant must be free of disease, receive water and sun, be planted in a warm environment, be properly pruned, and have enough space to grow. When all factors are present, good fruit is guaranteed.

So it is with our lives. The soil in which we are to be planted is the mercy of God. And this soil is the richest soil attainable for the production of the virtues in our lives. God also produces the sun, the rain, and the warmth that is needed for our growth. But, analogously speaking, we must allow ourselves to be pruned. We must also allow the soil to be fertilized and cultivated in a variety of ways. Though Jesus is the Gardener of our lives, it's also fair to say that we are the gardeners in the sense that we must cooperate with our Lord, relying upon the supernatural resources of the Creator to ensure the healthy growth of our spiritual lives so that the good fruit of virtue may be born in our lives.

This passage above is the conclusion to the Parable of the Fig Tree. Just prior to this passage, the owner of the vineyard, God the Father, ordered that the barren fig tree be cut down so that it will no longer exhaust the soil. But our merciful Lord, sent on mission from the Father to till the soil of our lives, seeks to offer one more chance and the Father obliges out of love. This life is that "year" by which our Lord works fervently to cultivate the soil around us. We must cooperate through daily prayer, fidelity to His commands, acts of loving sacrifice and surrender to His providence. In the end, if we allow our Lord to do all He desires, our lives will bear good fruit.

But on the flip side, make no mistake about the fact that, if our lives do not bear good fruit, we will be "cut down." Bearing good fruit is not an option, it's a must. It's a clear indication of our spiritual health and it will become the measure of our eternal reward or eternal death. Do not be intimidated by such sharp language coming from our Lord. He spoke it in love so that we will know the serious duty we have to bear good fruit in our lives.

Reflect, today, upon the outward signs of your inward spiritual health. Do you see the virtues sprouting forth from your life? Are you aware of the work God desires to do in your soul so as to cultivate it and fertilize it with grace and mercy? Say "Yes" to Him this day and allow that grace to produce an abundance of good fruit.

My virtuous Lord, I invite You into my soul to cultivate it and fertilize it with Your grace. Please prune my sins and help me to sink my roots deeply into the nourishment of Your mercy. I am sorry for the ways that I have failed to bear fruit in my life. I now entrust myself to You so that Your care will remedy all my ills and weaknesses. Jesus, I trust in You.

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