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**7th
Sunday
in
Ordinary
Time**

*"Love your
enemies, and pray
for those who
persecute you."*

Matthew 5:44

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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:** Feb 19 at 9:30a
Reconciliation: Sat 10a or by appt. **Office Hours:** Mon—Fri 9a-4p
Website: www.stmartinvicksburg.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/stmartinofoursofvicksburg
Flocknote: stmartinvicksburg.flocknote.com

The Sanctuary Lamp burns to declare that our Lord Jesus
Christ is truly present: body, blood, soul and
divinity in the tabernacle. This week the candle
for our Sanctuary lamp is provided in memory of
†Anthony Sokolowski
by Rita Sokolowski



MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Feb 18 5:30p Mass †Alma Thamann
by Dcn Tom & Pam Thamann
Feb 18 6:30p Anything Goes Party
Feb 19 8:00a Mass For the people of St Martin
Feb 19 9:30a Rel Ed Classes & Adult Study
Feb 19 11:00a Mass †Bill Brumleve by Vickie Kelley
Feb 20 6:00p No Bible Study
Feb 21 1:00p HALOS
Feb 22 ASH WEDNESDAY
Feb 22 9:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin
Feb 22 6:00p Mass at St. Edward's
Feb 22 6:30p Adoration at St. Martin's till 7:30p
Feb 23 7:00p RCIA
Feb 24 8:00a Friday Adoration till 9:00a
Feb 24 9:00a Mass †Janet Haas by Vickie Kelley
Feb 24 6:00p Stations of the Cross followed by
Soup and Bread supper in Parish Hall
Feb 24 6:00p Encounter for MS & HS students
Feb 25 7:30a Men's Group
Feb 25 5:30p Mass †Dan Ramlow
by Jay & MaryAnn Smith
Feb 26 8:00a Mass For the people of St Martin
Feb 26 11:00a Mass †Elizabeth Sehy
by Henry & Ann Sehy

LECTOR & USHER SCHEDULE

Feb 25 5:30p Lector: Catherine B
Ushers: Nick & Barb O, Brian C, volunteer
Raise Rite: DeWolff
Feb 26 8:00a Lector: Thomas R
Ushers: Ron & Jan G, Joe S, volunteer
Raise Rite: Kosacek
Feb 26 11:00a Lector: Michele J
Ushers: Coleen V, Cindy J, 2 volunteers
Raise Rite: Musselman



THE NEXT 40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN
begins on Feb 22 - Apr 2. We are again
participating in Kalamazoo along with many
other cities globally. We pray outside of Planned
Parenthood at 4201 W. Michigan. Our
campaign is Mon-Sat; 8a-8p. You can come out
at any time but it is preferred that you sign up
directly at:

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo>.
Or Email 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com. Or call
Joe at 989-992-6085.

LENT IS COMING! Join our faith community—
and more than 12,000 Catholic communities
across the United States—in a transformative
Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. During the
40 days of Lent, we will reflect on global hunger
and take action to help our sisters and brothers
impacted by this injustice. Visit crsricebowl.org
to learn more. Our Rice Bowls are inserted in
this weeks bulletin.

INSIDE OUR PARISH

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS SCHEDULE: ST MARTIN AT 9:00A ST EDWARD AT 6:00P

NO BIBLE STUDY THIS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS FOR FEBRUARY ARE: Crackers, Canned Chili, Boxed Potatoes, Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, Mayo), Household Supplies: Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Thank you for your generous support of our local food pantry!

ADORATION AND BENEDICTION DURING LENT - We will be having Adoration and Benediction every Wednesday evening during Lent, including the Wednesday of Holy Week from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The first Wednesday of each month will be at St. Edwards (ie, March 1st and April 5th). The remaining Wednesdays will be at St. Martins (February 22nd—Ashes will be distributed at Adoration on Ash Wednesday, March 8th, 15th, and 29th).

THE NEW LECTOR AND USHER SCHEDULES WILL SOON BE PREPARED. Please turn in any changes of availability by no later than Wednesday, February, 22nd. The next schedules will cover March 25th, through the end of May. Thank you for your service to St. Martin's!

SERVING MEATLESS SOUP & BREAD SUPPER AFTER STATIONS OF THE CROSS. Starting on Fri, February 24 for six weeks ending Fri, March 31. We need donations of soup and bread please. There is a sign-up sheet on the west bulletin board. If you can make a pot of meatless soup or donate bread, please sign under the date. Stations start at 6p and all are invited to join for the simple meal.

YOUTH ENCOUNTER! Encounter is open to all middle and high school aged students and offers an intentional time to experience our beautiful Catholic faith outside of the worship we do at Mass or within the religious education classroom. This evening event features a time of food and fellowship, praise and worship music, a presentation with small group discussion, and closes with a time of adoration. Please mark your calendars for Friday February 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm in the Msgr. Martin Parish Hall and get ready to encounter our Lord Jesus Christ! For questions, please reach out to Tim at dre@stmartinvicksburg.org.

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES - Your Adult Education committee, with the suggestion of Msgr. Tom is presenting a 5-week video series in the parish hall. The first date is Tuesday, March 7th at 5:30 p.m. We will have a simple supper along with the video presentations. There will be a brief discussion after if there are questions. Please see the flyer for all the dates and the topics. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. All 5 dates are on the sheet. Please check which dates you plan to attend.

ST. PATTY'S DAY CELEBRATION is March 12. The Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner is served from 3p-5p. See bulletin insert for details.

CLEAN UP WITH THE HALOS! Attention all middle and high school aged youth! Following the 11 am Mass today (Sunday February 19th), stick around in the church after your prayers and help our wonderful ladies tidy up our beautiful worship space. It won't take long! Afterwards, we'll be treated to a lovely lunch and should be ready to head home at 2 pm. See you soon and God bless!

KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS, if you are looking for a winter project, the Caring Hands group could use help with Prayer Shawls. We do meet once a month, but if you don't have the time to meet at church that is fine. We have extra yarn if you would like to use it. Ask in the office where the bin of yarn is kept. If you would like to donate your time to make a shawl or two, that would be appreciated. There has been a great need recently. Thank you!

PENANCE SERVICES - REVISED SCHEDULE St. Augustine had to change their penance service date and time (Was March 8, Now March 7) Please see the bulletin insert this weekend reflecting their new date of March 7!

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Jody Cunningham
Karen Garcea
Jennifer Goldberg
Christina Kelley
Tony Pearl
Jennifer Stocki
Steve Vogler
TJ Williams
Aiden Woodard

WORD OF LIFE

"We often assume parenthood happens easily after 'I do,' but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility. If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, & his Church desires to walk with you. God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple. respectlife.org/navigating-infertility

PARISH SUPPORT**FEBRUARY 12, 2023**

<u>Envelopes:</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>Weekly Goal:</u>	<u>\$6,730</u>
Collection envelopes:			\$5,448.00
Mailed in envelopes:			\$1,104.00
Total Collection:			\$6,552.00

Purchase Raise Right cards after all Masses
and in the Church office M-F 9a-4p.

**FOR IMMEDIATE AND
CONFIDENTIAL PRAYERS**

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

FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.**Whole 40: Making a
Spiritual Plan for Lent**

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Dr. Elizabeth Klein to discuss the purpose of the season of Lent, how to prepare for it, and why it is such a fruitful season in our life of faith.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
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INSIDE OUR DIOCESE

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN KDCCW Lenten Day Retreat Mar 18. All women of the Diocese are invited to join their sisters in Christ to Encounter Jesus in a deeper way through the Eucharist & Reconciliation Saint Augustine Cathedral--Crowley Center. The day begins with Mass at 8:45a, preceded by the Rosary in the Cathedral & Confessions are available in the Crowley Center during the day. The cost is \$25/ includes lunch. Doors open 7:45a & ends at 3p (after the Divine Mercy Chaplet). REGISTER NOW: Ann Vrablic (517) 812-3727 or annie.vroom@gmail.com. Provide your name, email, phone, & your Parish name & city. Please, register before March 6. Mail checks before March 1st to: Treasurer Ann Vrablic 387 Progress Drive, Coldwater, MI 49036. Please, call to register even if you are paying at the door before March 6. Scholarships available with prior approval. Bring your mom, adult daughters, sisters, & friends for a beautiful day of ENCOUNTERING THE LOVE AND MERCY OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR! Questions? Contact KDCCW President Becky Borglin at becky.borglin@gmail.com or call (269) 325-1354 and leave a message.

LOVING EVEN YOUR ENEMIES

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

“You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” Matthew 5:43–45

Nowhere in the Old Testament does it say that we should hate our enemies. Note that Jesus did not say “It has been written...” Instead, He says, “You have heard that it was said...” So who said this? Some traditions among the scribes and Pharisees held this erroneous belief. Because some held that position, Jesus addressed it.

In this passage and in many others, Jesus calls us to a new depth of love that many thought impossible. In fact, even Jesus Himself acknowledged the height of His teaching when, at the conclusion of this passage, He says, “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Too often in life we settle for everything other than perfection. And though we may never achieve that level of holiness in this life, it must be our constant goal. In regard to our “enemies,” perfect love for them must become our daily mission.

So who is your “enemy?” Though Jesus does not define this for us, we should consider it to be anyone with whom there is some form of tension or discord. Perhaps there is someone who hates or dislikes you and speaks ill of you or treats you poorly. Or perhaps there is someone whom you dislike and find yourself angry at or even judgmental toward. So begin by trying to identify anyone with whom you have a lack of perfect affection. In truth, there might be many more people on that list than on the list of those you “love.”

Once you identify those who fall into the category of enemy to one extent or another, consider whether you love them. One Church Father says that we love our enemy “when we are not sorrowful at his success, or rejoice in his fall.” This is a very helpful definition to consider. Ultimately, this is the definition of envy.

If someone whom you dislike succeeds in something praiseworthy, how do you react interiorly? If there is an immediate visceral reaction or if you find yourself trying to figure out why they should be congratulated, then you might struggle with this sin. Or consider what you think, say or feel if you hear that someone you dislike has some problem, gets into some trouble, or encounters some misfortune. The ideal response is empathy and a desire for their well-being. If this is not the response within you, then pay attention to that.

Jesus concludes His teaching by saying that His Father “makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust.” In other words, God bestows His perfect love and mercy upon everyone equally. The only difference is that some people choose to accept that mercy and others reject it. As for ourselves, just like our loving God, we must offer love and mercy to everyone equally and as completely as we can. And though some may reject that love, just as they reject the love of God, it must always be offered and never rescinded. This is love of neighbor and also love of our enemies.

Reflect, today, upon those with whom you struggle to love to perfection. Perhaps that list is long. Start with those you encounter most often or those to whom you have a strong negative reaction. As you call them to mind, pray for them, for their good and for God’s blessings upon them. Try to see some goodness in them. Try to thank God for them, and try to remove any disordered feelings or thoughts you might have about them. This is the first step in your mission to fulfill Jesus’ new command of love.

My loving Lord, You love and bestow Your unlimited mercy upon all people, the good and bad alike. I pray that I may always be open to that love and receive it deeply into my own life. I pray also that Your love may shine through me into the lives of those who need it the most. Jesus, I trust in You.

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OF EACH MONTH.

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