

FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

The Carrying of the Cross

FOURTH 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 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

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

- Mar 18 5:30p Mass** †Leo Swiat by The Albert family
Mar 19 8:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin
Mar 19 9:30a Rel Ed Classes & Adult Study
Mar 19 11:00a Mass †Maureen Simms
by Henry & Anne Sehy
Mar 19 9:00p Farmer's Breakfast till 1:00p
Mar 20 6:00p Bible Study
Mar 20 6:30p Lent Penance service @ St. Thomas More
Mar 21 5:30p Third week of Lenten video
series. Supper at 5:30p followed
by video at 6:00p in parish hall
Mar 22 9:00a Mass For the conversion of the heart
of America to faith and love of God
by S Kim Lee
Mar 22 6:30p Holy Hour of Adoration at St. Martin
Mar 23 7:00p RCIA
Mar 24 8:00a Friday Adoration till 9:00a
Mar 24 9:00a Mass For all the souls in Purgatory
by S. Kim Lee
Mar 24 6:00p Encounter Middle/High school Parish Hall
Mar 24 6:00p Stations of the Cross followed by
Soup and Bread supper in Parish Hall
Mar 25 7:30a Men's Group
Mar 25 5:30p Mass For the intentions of Doris Huey
on her 98th Birthday
by Dcn Tom & Pam Thamann
Mar 26 8:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin
Mar 26 11:00a Mass †David Crumley
by Judy McWaters

LECTOR & USHER SCHEDULE

- Mar 25 5:30p Lector:** Pam T
Ushers: Nick & Barb O, Sharon Z, volunteer
Raise Rite: Doorlag
Mar 26 8:00a Lector: Thomas R
Ushers: Joe R, Larry & Judy L, volunteer
Raise Rite: Kosacek
Mar 26 11:00a Lector: Lisa I
Ushers: Mike & Kris B, 2 volunteer
Raise Rite: Van Dalen



40 DAYS FOR LIFE CAMPAIGN goes until
Apr 2 in Kalamazoo Mon-Sat; 8a-8p. We pray
outside of Planned Parenthood at 4201
W. Michigan. All are welcome to join us at any
time. Please sign in one of three ways:
1. <https://www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo>
2. Email 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com
3. Call Joe 989-992-6085



†Jay Smith

Jun 26, 1938 - Mar 09, 2023

Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord

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INSIDE OUR PARISH

FARMER'S BREAKFAST IS THIS WEEKEND MARCH 19 FROM 9A-1P IN THE PARISH HALL. ALL ARE WELCOME FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 13305. THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Wheelchair Sunday was an AMAZING success thanks to all of you: those who helped me collect funds, buy, cook & serve food, those who donated checks & cash directly for wheelchairs, & those who added more to what you usually offer for your food at the Farmer's Breakfast. As Knights, Charity is our first & primary principle. You have all helped us to care for & tend to some of what many perceive as the least important members of God's family: The poor, The mentally impaired, Those who are persecuted, The unborn, The sick, and The elderly. We collected more than \$16,650 (enough for 111 wheelchairs!). Everyone's generosity is truly appreciated. The money & requests for memorials have been sent to KofC Global Wheelchair Mission, & thus will soon be funding new Wheelchairs for the most deserving. GK Bill Zeeman/Treasurer Karl Kerchief

LENTEN VIDEO SERIES - Your Adult Education committee is presenting a 5-week video series in the parish hall. Tuesday, March 21 at 5:30p. We will have a simple supper along with the video presentations. There will be a brief discussion after if there are questions. This weeks video is Timothy Cardinal Dolan 2023 speaking on "The Church, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Please check which dates you plan to attend.

HOLY HOUR OF ADORATION & BENEDICTION EVERY WEDNESDAY

DURING LENT from 6:30p-7:30p. The first Wednesday of each month will be at St. Edward: April 5. The remaining Wednesdays are at St. Martin's: March 22 & 29.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & MEATLESS SOUP & BREAD SUPPER ON

MARCH 24. We need donations of soup & bread please. A sign-up sheet is 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.

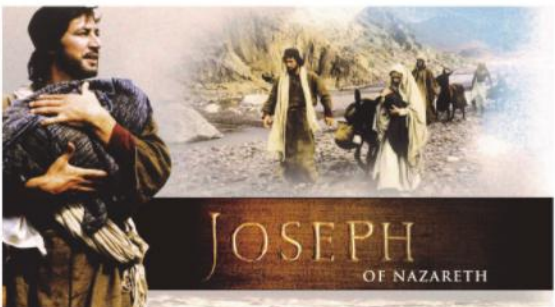
FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION SIGN-UP SHEET NEEDS TO BE UPDATED. We have many open hours available. Even if you have signed up before, please sign up again. The old schedule is gone because many are unable to come to First Friday Adoration. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex. April 7th is Good Friday so there will be no Adoration on that day. Our next First Friday Adoration will be on Friday, May 5.

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PANTRY requests for March are: Crackers, Boxed Potatoes, Kidney/Chili Beans, Canned Peaches & Pineapple, Canned Pasta (Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs, etc.) Household Needs: Dish soap.

EASTER EGG HUNT! Join us on Holy Sat., Apr 8 from 9:30a – 11a as kids ages 3 – 11 along with their parents learn a bit about the Catholic understanding of the Easter Egg & how it relates to Jesus Christ, get involved in some related crafts & activities, & of course hunt for eggs on our lovely parish grounds! Please see the Religious Education table in the narthex to sign-up for the day as a participant, to see how to get involved as a volunteer & to support

through your generous donations. Questions, please reach out to Tim at dre@stmartinicksburg.org. Thank you and God bless!

THANK YOU!!! A word of thank you from our youth to the Knights of Columbus, our adult chaperones, our parents, and our parish community for the tremendous support shown through the Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner! The generosity shown by so many of you is a true witness of Jesus Christ's love present. Thank you again so much, God bless, and please keep the youth of our parish, especially those preparing to attend Catholic Heart Workcamp, in your prayers.



FORMED THE CATHOLIC FAITH, ON DEMAND.

JOSEPH OF NAZARETH

Joseph of Nazareth: The Story of the Man Closest to Christ

Celebrate the feast of Christ's foster father with even more joy and respect this year by watching a movie about him! Enter into the life of this great saint through the movie Joseph of Nazareth!

Our parish has a FORMED subscription. Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish. Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.

An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SPARKED PRESS

PARISH SUPPORT MARCH 12

Envelopes:78	Weekly Goal:\$6,730
Collection envelopes:	\$6,341.00
Mailed in envelopes:	\$806.00
Total Collection:	\$7,147.00

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

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 AND CONFIDENTIAL PRAYERS

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

INSIDE OUR DIOCESE

HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY! Catholic Charities' Bread of Life Food Program provides free supplemental food weekly to families in need throughout Southwest Michigan with no income requirements. Just \$20 will feed 3 families! Please donate today at www.ccdok.org/donate-today/. During Lent, we are running a "Text to Give" campaign to raise money for the Bread of Life. All you need to do is text the word BREAD to 50155.



SHARING SUCCESS

Most people in Turkana, Kenya raise livestock, and a few are farmers. But the hot and dry climate makes this work difficult—and climate change is making it even harder. Rebecca and Lotiang participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that installed a water well and taught them new farming techniques. They can support their family with their crops and are teaching others in their community what they learned. How can you use your skills and knowledge to help others? Visit crsricebowl.org to learn more.

THE HOLY DRAMA OF GRACE

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, *"Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered and said, "Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "I do believe, Lord," and he worshiped him. John 9:35–38*

This is the conclusion to the story of the healing of the man born blind. It is the fifth of seven signs (miracles) in John's Gospel that point to the divinity of our Lord. This healing especially confirmed Jesus' teaching from the previous chapter: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus was the Light Who came to dispel all darkness, and now He illustrates this fact by opening the eyes of the blind man. This story is quite long and detailed. The details it includes makes it much more than a miracle. It is also a dramatic story revealing both the consequences of rejecting Jesus, as well as the blessings received by one who turns to Jesus in faith.

We begin with the detail that this man has been blind since birth. It was a common misconception at that time that such a birth defect might have been caused by the sins of the parents. In part, this came from a misreading of Exodus 20:5–6 in which God said that He inflicts punishment "on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation." Jesus makes it clear that this was not the case; this man's blindness was a result of the natural disorder experienced by humanity as a result of original sin. If humanity had never been cast out of the Garden of Eden, disease and natural disorders would have never existed. For this reason, we should understand that we are all "blind" in the sense of being born into the state of original sin and are, therefore, in need of the grace of spiritual sight.

The healing of this man is done purely on Jesus' initiative. This shows that God's healing action in our lives is always His initiative. But Jesus clearly offered this man healing because He knew the man would eventually come to faith in Him, which is the far more important healing that took place in this story.

After the man is healed, a very interesting drama unfolds. The Pharisees hear of the healing and begin to interrogate the man. Afterwards, they also interrogate the man's parents and then the man for a second time. Throughout their interrogations, two things happen. First, the Pharisees slowly become more agitated, more irrational and end by completely rejecting both this miraculous sign and Jesus Himself. The man, however, begins with what appears to be a bit of ignorance about Jesus, but as he is interrogated and challenged to explain his healing, he deepens and clarifies his convictions, ending in the deepest faith when he cries out to Jesus, "I do believe, Lord." Then we are told that the man worshiped Jesus.

The dramatic unfolding of this story teaches us that when we are given the grace of God by hearing His holy Word spoken and witnessing His mighty hand at work, we must make a choice. Either we will respond in faith and slowly be drawn deeper into that faith, or we will rationalize it away and reject God's saving action in our lives. It is not possible to simply remain indifferent to the Gospel when we hear it spoken or when we see its effects changing us or others.

Reflect, today, upon the two paths this sign from Heaven had on those present to this miracle. You, too, are present to this miracle through your reading of it. How will you respond? Will you imitate the Pharisees and discount the deep spiritual truths this action conveys? Or will you open yourself to the transforming power of this healing? Commit yourself to the path of this blind man. Say to our Lord, "I do believe, Lord." Apply those words to every action of Jesus in your life and allow that faith to lead you into worship of Him Who is the Light of the World.

Jesus, Light of the World, You came to dispel the darkness caused by original sin. You came to heal our blindness and open the eyes of our souls to Your true Light. Please open my eyes so that I may see, and give me the courage I need to profess my faith in You and worship You with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

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