

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the
Heart of Jesus as a Fountain of Mercy for us,

I Trust In You!

DIVINE MERCY

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:** Apr 16 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

Apr 15 5:30p Mass †Leo Swiat by Mike & Kathy Walsh

Apr 16 8:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin

Apr 16 9:00a Farmer's Breakfast till 1:00p

Apr 16 9:30a Rel Ed Classes & Adult Study

Apr 16 11:00a Mass †Leo Swiat by Gail Turner

Apr 16 12:30p Parish council meeting

Apr 17 6:00p Bible Study with Msgr

Apr 18 1:00p HALOS

Apr 19 9:00a Mass For the intentions of the S. Kim Lee family by S. Kim Lee

Apr 19 6:30p Holy Hour at St. Martin

Apr 20 7:00p RCIA

Apr 21 8:00a Adoration till 9:00a

Apr 21 9:00a Mass †Leo Swiat by Rita Sokolowski

Apr 22 7:30a Men's Group

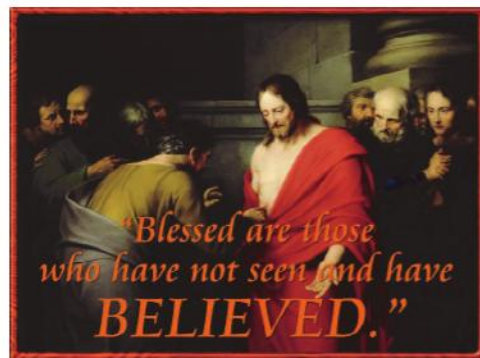
Apr 22 10:00a Reconciliation till 11:00a

Apr 22 5:30p Mass †Carol Wunderlin by Walt Wunderlin

Apr 23 8:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin

Apr 23 11:00a Mass †Leo Swiat by Victor & Barb Ceru

Apr 23 12:30p "No Greater Love" film/Parish Hall



LECTOR & USHER SCHEDULE

Apr 22 5:30p Lector: Tammy R

Ushers: Nick & Barb O, Brian C, volunteer

Raise Rite: Doorlag

Apr 23 8:00a Lector: Priscilla S

Ushers: Ron & Jan G, Joe S, volunteer

Raise Rite: Bloom

Apr 23 11:00a Lector: Jacqueline P

Ushers: Jack & Lilli C, Walt Z, volunteers-

Raise Rite: Musselman

WORD OF LIFE

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is available. Select "Find Help" from the menu on www.hopeafterabortion.org to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you. USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, "Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion" www.usccb.org/bridges-of-mercy

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INSIDE OUR PARISH

THANK YOU!!! A big thank you to all who donated their time, money, candy, prayers and support for our successful Easter Egg Hunt! A thank you to our families as well who came out to support and spend the morning with us! It is all so much appreciated. We'll see you next year and God bless!

FARMER'S BREAKFAST THIS SUN, APR 16 from 9:00a - 1:00p in the parish hall. Proceeds from this breakfast will go toward the victims of the war on the Ukraine and the Archdiocese of Military Services. All are welcome.

WE WILL CONDUCT THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL IN OUR PARISH over the next few weeks. All our diocesan programs & ministries serve people in ways that we as a parish alone could never do. Please prayerfully consider what you as an individual & as a family can pledge to support the educational, pastoral and religious programs & services offered by our diocese. Our parish goal is 100% participation and \$65,133. With your gift we can do it. Remember, no gift is too large or too small.

"NO GREATER LOVE" is a unique film that reveals not just who Mother Teresa was, but how her singular vision to serve Christ through the poor is realized to this day, through the religious order she founded, the Missionaries of Charity. Our Knights of Columbus Council #13305 will be hosting a viewing of this 115-minute film in our parish hall after the 11a Mass on Apr 23rd. Theater food will be provided. We encourage you to bring the whole family and enjoy a movie that shines a light on this saint of our times and may change your lives in the process. Please sign up in the narthex to let us know how much food to prepare.

SPRING IS IN THE AIR, and the Gardening Guild of St Martin's is ready to spruce up the Mary garden for another season of beauty and enjoyment for our parish family. As always, we are in need of volunteers to keep the garden gorgeous. No experience is necessary! Please prayerfully consider volunteering for an hour a week, or an hour or two a month. Children are always welcome! Please call or text Sharon for more details and information-324.1267. God Bless!

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PANTRY REQUESTS FOR APRIL: granola bars, mayonnaise, canned diced tomatoes, baked beans, peanut butter & jelly. Household needs: Shampoo. Thank you for your generous donations!

ENCOUNTER: An Evening of Faith-Filled Community for All! Are you looking for a church activity for your family in between Sundays? Are you new to the parish & want to meet other parishioners? Are you wanting to learn more about your faith & how to share the faith with your family & others? Encounter is open to all parishioners & 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 & fellowship, praise & worship music, a presentation with a craft for young kids, & closes with a time of family-friendly adoration. Please mark your calendars for Fri, Apr 28th from 6p – 8p in the Parish Hall & get ready to encounter our parish community & our Lord Jesus Christ! For questions, please reach out to Tim at dre@stmartinvicksburg.org.

PRAYERS! Please pray for our 4 receiving First Communion (Apr 30th) and our 5 receiving Confirmation (May 21st) and all the folks receiving the Sacraments of Initiation through the RCIA process this year!

PARISH SUPPORT APRIL 09

Envelopes:111	Weekly Goal:\$6,730
Collection envelopes:	\$10,054.00
Mailed in envelopes:	\$585.00
Total Collection:	\$10,639.00
Holy Land Collection:	1,764.00
Purchase Raise Right cards after all Masses and in the Church office M-F 9a-4p.	

PLEASE PRAY FOR

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

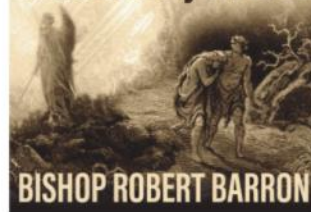
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Seven Deadly Sins Seven Lively Virtues



Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues by Bishop Robert Barron

Join noted professor of theology and author Bishop Robert Barron in this revealing presentation as he sheds light on the seven deadly sins—those great spiritual blocks that inhibit our relationship with God and others—and the antidote to them, the seven lively virtues!

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An offering from the AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE and SPACIOUS PRAYERS

A Whole Ocean of Graces Divine Mercy Sunday

Saint Faustina reports in her Diary what Jesus told her about Divine Mercy Sunday:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, & especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession & receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins & punishment. On that day are open all the divine floodgates through which graces flow" (Diary #699).

That day is today! It is the Feast of Divine Mercy! Today's feast is among the newer feasts in our Church. Though Jesus' desire that this feast be celebrated on the eighth day of Easter was spoken to Sister Maria Faustina Kowolska back in 1931, it was not solemnly instituted until the year 2000. On April 30 of that year, Saint Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina & inaugurated the Feast of Divine Mercy as a universal feast within the Church. Because this Feast is so recent within the Church, we can be certain that we still have much to learn about the message of this Solemnity as well as the numerous messages about God's mercy revealed in Saint Faustina's Diary.

Among the many messages contained within her Diary, Jesus revealed to us that this Sunday, the eighth & final day of the Octave of Easter, is a day like none other. Though grace & mercy are continuously poured out from Heaven upon us, Jesus is very clear that today is unique. Today, "a whole ocean of graces" is poured forth upon souls who approach the font of His mercy. Sit with that image for a time. "A whole ocean of graces." What does that mean?

Symbolically speaking, a whole ocean is meant to depict the infinite. Try to imagine what it would be like to have the entire ocean poured upon you—it's beyond comprehension! Thus, God is saying that the infinity of grace is given today. The question for us all to ponder is this: How receptive am I to those infinite graces?

By analogy, imagine that your life was like a thimble, & an ocean of water was poured upon you. As a thimble, you could not contain all that was given. Therefore, we should realize that God wants to stretch our capacity to receive His mercy more abundantly by widening our capacity for mercy. What if your soul were like a large pond? Still, the waters of the ocean could not be contained within that pond. What is it that is capable of receiving an entire ocean of mercy? Only an ocean can contain an ocean. For that reason, God desires to first prepare our souls to receive an infinity of mercy by transforming us into vessels of infinite capacity.

Saint Teresa of Ávila, in her spiritual classic, "Interior Castles," teaches us that the soul is, indeed, capable of infinite capacity for the simple fact that God dwells within. The soul is like an interior castle with many interlinked dwelling places through which we must pass so as to arrive at the central chamber. She teaches that the goal of the spiritual life is to travel through these various dwelling places to the center of our souls where the infinite God dwells so that we can be present to Him there. Therefore, we must understand that our souls are indeed capable of receiving the infinite waters of mercy, because God created us with this ability when He chose to live within us. The key to being able to fully receive this fullness of mercy is to seek out the infinite God, dwelling within. How is this done?

The heart of the path laid out in the Diary of Saint Faustina is as follows: Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion so as to obtain complete forgiveness of sins & punishment. However, as many of the great spiritual writers explain, such as Saint Teresa of Ávila, there are many levels we must pass on our spiritual journey so as to be able to encounter God in His fullness. This, of course, includes encountering God's mercy given to us in Holy Communion and Confession. Those who receive these Sacraments while dwelling only in the first dwelling places, for example, will never benefit from them to the extent that those who dwell in the seventh & central mansion where the King dwells in fullness. Thus, mercy is given in its fullness but unless we make the transforming journey to God through conversion & purification of our souls, we will never be able to receive the ocean of graces God bestows.

Reflect, today, upon this ocean being poured forth upon you. How much of this mercy are you able to receive right now in your life? As you humbly admit your limited openness to God's grace, know that God patiently waits for you, dwelling in His fullness deep within you, waiting for you to make the journey to Him. Commit yourself to this journey by prayer, fasting, penance, the reading of Scripture, the celebration of the Sacraments & spiritual reading. There is an ocean of the fullness of life waiting for you. Dive in & allow His mercy to deepen your capacity to receive Him most fully.

My Lord, You are The Divine Mercy, the source of all grace and the Bestower of this grace in superabundance. I thank You for the infinity of Your generosity and pray that my soul will be more fully disposed to receive You. Please stretch the capacity of my soul through my ongoing journey of purification and conversion so that I will receive all that You wish to bestow.

Jesus, I trust in You.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

To comply with the policies and procedures set forth by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo Office of Safe Environment, the information below is run once per month in parish bulletins: The Diocese of Kalamazoo has and will continue to cooperate with the Michigan Attorney General's investigation and encourages anyone with information related to misconduct to call the reporting number set-up by the Michigan Attorney General's office at: 844.324.3374

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service (CBAR) has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit ReportBishopAbuse.org or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities.

Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential

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