

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

FALL
2021

Help us to generously share the compassion and light of Christ with all we meet

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

ADORATION

FIRST FRIDAY'S

@ 8:00-9:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.
-7:00 p.m.

October 1 and November 5

ALL OTHER FRIDAY'S

@ 8:00-9:00 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Begins Sunday, **September 19th @ 9:30-10:45 am**

(Follows the Religious Education Schedule)
Sept. 19, 26

Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31,

Nov. 7, 14, 21,

No Class on Nov. 28

CARING HANDS OF ST. MARTIN

@10:00 a.m. to Noon

Second Monday each month

Sept. 13, Oct. 11, Nov. 8

COFFEE AND DONUTS

4th Sunday after both Masses

Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21

ENCOUNTER THE FAITH EVENT

Friday, September 24

@ 5:30-7:30 pm

For all parishioners

FARMERS BREAKFAST

2nd Sunday each month except

September 19 for 1st one

Oct. 10, Nov. 17

HALOS

3rd Tuesday @ 7:00 pm

Sept. 21, Oct. 10, Nov. 16

HOLY HOUR OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION & BENEDICTION

1st Wednesday at St. Edward

Oct. 6, Nov. 3

3rd Wednesday at St. Martin

Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. in the
Manning Center

Sept. 28 Oct. 26, Nov. 23

MEN'S GROUP

Saturday Morning @7:30a.m. in
the Manning Center

September 11, 18, 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

November 6, 13, 20, **no meet 27**

PARISH COUNCIL

Next meeting to be determined

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

November 25-28 for Thanksgiving

PARISH PICNIC

Sunday, September 12 after the
11:00 am Mass

R.C.I.A

Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

September 23, 30

October 7, 14, 21, 28

November 4, 11, 18, 25

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays @ 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

September 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

November 7, 14, 21, **no class 28**

ST. ISIDORE GUILD

Mondays, 9:00 am in the

Mary Garden

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

3rd Monday @ 7:00 p.m. in the

East classroom

Sept. 20, Oct. 18, Nov. 15

YOUTH GROUP

See your September calendar on
page 4 next to St. Vincent de Paul

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 and want to meet other parishioners? Are you wanting to learn more about your faith and how to share the faith with your family and others?

Encounter is open to all parishioners 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 a craft for young kids, and closes with a time of family-friendly adoration. Please mark your calendars for Friday

September 24th from 5:30 - 7:30 pm in the Msgr. Martin Parish Hall and get ready to encounter our parish community and our Lord Jesus Christ! For questions, please reach out to Tim at dre@stmartinvicksburg.org.



Deacon's Corner

As summer draws to a close, we start to get ready for the beginning of the school year and other activities that will be getting underway. One of these is the RCIA program that begins in September each year. RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults. It is the standard discernment and formation process for adults wishing to learn more about our Catholic faith and to prepare those interested for their profession of faith, entrance into the Church and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. This occurs at the Easter Vigil Mass each year, and will occur on Saturday, April 16, 2022 next year.

The RCIA process is composed of several parts. The first is the period of Inquiry, in which we learn general information about the Church, such as our core beliefs, devotions, types of prayer, Mary and the saints, and general practices and teachings of the Church. This period lasts from September until about the beginning of the new year. At that time we begin the Catechumenate, a period in which we learn about the seven Sacraments of

the Church. At the beginning of Lent the Catechumens go through the Rite of Election. This takes place at St. Augustine Cathedral, at which time they are greeted by the Bishop. During this Rite, the Catechumens progress to the stage of Illuminati. During Lent we continue to study the Sacraments and Church teachings. It is also during this time that the Illuminati discern at a deeper level their upcoming initiation into the Church and reception of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation.

If you know of anyone interested in becoming Catholic, possibly a spouse or friend, or anyone who would just like to learn more about our faith, please contact the church office or let me know. We typically meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 P.M. We will also accommodate those who are interested but cannot attend at that time. We plan on a starting date of Thursday, September 23. We hope to see you then!

Deacon Tom

Record-breaking 2021 Rummage Sale

Congratulations to the approximately 100 volunteers that turned out to make our 23rd annual rummage sale a huge success. Some of you worked a few hours, many of you worked days, more than a dozen provided lunch, and several even worked daily for more than two weeks straight to raise more than \$14,000 for our Building Maintenance fund! This year's addition of a tent for the clothing, shoes, and luggage was a resounding success, and allowed an additional 300 square feet of interior display space to make our sale more shopper-friendly. We were also able to partner with South County Community Services for a discounted shopping experience for those in need. In addition to the funds raised, our leftovers benefitted almost a dozen additional charities – Salvation Army, St. Luke's Thrift Shop, the Caring Network, Discovery Shop, and several others.

We made many notes of successes and opportunities during this year's sale and next year's sale will be in early August, so mark your calendars. We need YOU to make these sales successful in furtherance of the Church's mission.

Thank you to all who donated, shopped and worked our sale!

Nick Ostrosky



New Parishioners

We are so blessed to welcome these new parishioners to our St. Martin of Tours family!

Aaron and Kyle Baker
Robert and Ann Pefley
Nathan Burleigh
Dominic and Melissa Centofanti
Mike and Sybil Fordos
Terri LaGuardia
James and Nina Laney
Matthew and Sandra Thorne
Cara Wheeler



HALOS-SMCCW

Our first meeting since February 2020 will be Tuesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm in the Manning Center. We have a business meeting once a month, September through May.

The Caring Hands craft group meets the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the Manning Center. We work on service items to continue Christian Ministry. If you do not want to work on creating an item, we always need help with organizing materials, so come visit.

All ladies of St. Martin are members of the HALOS group. We are members of the Council of Catholic Women. Our monthly meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. The meetings are short. We focus on service and social. If you would like more details or have suggestions for the group, please feel free to ask a current member or leave your name and phone number in the church office.

Kathi Lovell, President

Adult Education

The Sunday morning adult study group will be exploring the "Gospel of Luke" by Pablo T. Gadenz and from the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture Series. We follow the Religious Education schedule, and will begin on Sept. 19th. We meet in the East classroom (kindergarten room) from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

The Adult Education Committee is excited to begin planning some programs for the 21/22 year. If you have ideas, please speak to Jane Guido, Kathi Lovell, Sue Maneikis, Richard Furney, Kathleen Waldron or Lisa Irwin.

ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS

Baptisms

Cole Gordon Johncock, son of Travis & Samantha Johncock

Logan Jeanette Baker, daughter of Aaron & Kyle Baker

Deceased

Elizabeth Sehy

James Barrett

Ellen Zemek

Mary Carolyn Howard

Norman Mills

Patricia Hageman

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

This column belongs to you, St. Martin parishioners. If something important is happening that you would like to share, please let us know. You can leave a message with the office or email to me: kmlov2003@yahoo.com. This could include special birthdays (90+ years), special anniversaries (50+ years), marriages, births and/or adoptions, special awards, etc. If it is extra important to you, then it is to your parish family.

Thank you, Kathi Lovell, Editor



St. Vincent de Paul - Lisa Irwin

Our St. Vincent DePaul Conference has stayed busy in spite of getting less calls for help. We expect that situation to change as the various government COVID relief programs wind up. One way we kept busy was to volunteer at the Aleman Center, a Diocesan program to assist migrant families, again this summer.

Thank you to all who have been contributing to the Donation box in the Narthex! Weekly donations have ranged from \$1 - \$78. We are getting close to our appeal for donations which the parish has always responded to very generously. The donations to the poor box have kept us funded until we can do the appeal. The appeal for donations will likely look different this year. We are considering sponsoring a Walk for the Poor. You can walk virtually or physically, whichever is your preference. Look for more info in the bulletin once the details are completely confirmed.

Thank you for your faithful support of this ministry to those in need!
God bless! Lisa

Youth Group Calendar:

Wed. Sept. 8th
Middle School Fall
Kick-Off Night 6-7:30PM

Sept. 11 & 12:
Red Envelope fundraiser after Masses
by NCYC attendees

Wed. Sept. 15th:
High School Fall
Kick-off Night 6-7:30PM

Sept. 24th: Parish
Wide Encounter
the Faith Event: 5:30-7:30PM

Sept. 26th: 12-4PM Youth Group
field trip to Eucharistic
Miracles of the World at St. Mary's Kalamazoo

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2021 – 2022

We are blessed to be able to offer another season of Religious Education here at St. Martin of Tours! To go along with our incredible and dedicated catechists who offer Catholic instruction selflessly to our 2nd – 12th grade students, we also are able to provide our Kindergarten and 1st grade families with family instruction that meets monthly to encounter the faith together while also providing instruction to be engaged between parent and child at home. Please keep all children, parents, families, and catechists in prayer that this may be a fruitful year of growing closer in relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church!

The Diocese of Kalamazoo is offering us two opportunities this year that supports our involvement in the life of our local Church. First, Bishop Bradley is calling this year a “Jubilee Year of the Holy Spirit” that is meant to be an intentional time of prayer for us all to invite the Holy Spirit into our lives, the lives of our families, and the life of our parish. For more information on this important and special year, please visit www.diokzoo.org/holy-spirit and pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to permeate your life!

Second, we are replacing our Touching Safety program with the Gorette Project, a joint union between Protect Young Eyes Protect app and the Diocese of Kalamazoo to provide parents with relevant material to talk with their children about physical and digital safety. This app will be free for all registered families in Religious Education as families, together at home, will complete one lesson from Protect Young Eyes and one lesson from the Gorette Project each school year. For more information or any questions, including accessing the app, please let me know!

Thank you each! Please know of my prayers and please keep us in your prayers. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

Tim

Youth Group

On Encounter Camp

The famed story of St. Martin cutting his cloak, giving half of it to a beggar on the roadside, and dreaming he saw the face of Christ in that beggar, is one many of us are familiar with. Yet as I gaze upon the statue of Martin and the poor Christ in the narthex, I now see in it my own experiences of service and encountering Christ.

In June I had the opportunity to participate in Encounter Camp here at St. Martin's. The service projects themselves varied: simple yard work done for older residents, helping in food distribution centers, serving meals to the homeless; but in all of them one thing remained constant. In each and every person I found a treasure: the inherent dignity of being made in the image and likeness of God. This dignity makes each human being worthy of respect and love, worthy of my time and effort. I was surprised by the gratitude with which each person returned our service efforts. In my eyes, I felt like I was doing a very small thing by cleaning up someone's yard, but I guess even the smallest thing done with love is valued in the eyes of someone in need.

One of my favorite moments was the joke one of the homeless men swapped with us, "What do you call a dog with no legs? It don't matter, he ain't going nowhere." I found throughout all four days there were no grandiose moments but rather a large harvest of small moments such as this, which bring a soft smile with the memory. Encounter is truly the best word to describe this experience, because like St. Martin, I have served the hidden Christ.



Grace Flanagan

On Feeding the Hungry

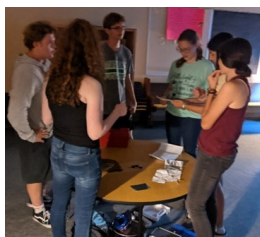
Helping serve food to our unhoused neighbors has been a very eye opening experience. At first I had my prejudgments about the people and what would happen but I was very much mistaken. What I encountered was gratefulness and community, something we lack in normal society today. I'm so blessed to have had this opportunity to see God in these individuals, and serve Him through this.



Sydney Kaiser

On Youth Group

Hi! My name is **Reagan Triemstra** and I am part of the youth group. There are lots of activities like setting up the Easter egg hunt to things we do in the summer; like kickball slip and slide! There are so many activities I just can't list them all. So here is my favorite one. My favorite activity was the escape room. The Middle School group all worked together to escape St. Peter's jail cell, (the nursery), before the Romans came to execute us! There were many different boxes to open and four sets of keys, with many different keys on them. We had to find the keys and boxes, which were hidden. We had to unlock the boxes when we found the right key. Clues were hidden in the boxes. Once we got the clues we could unlock the padlock on the door! This activity taught all of us what teamwork can do!



Hi! My name is **Ian Triemstra** and my favorite activity was soccer. Youth group is very fun and I love meeting once a week with my old and new friends. So come join us! Youth 6th-12th grade invited!



As always, thank you, St. Martin of Tours family, for your prayers and support!

Shannon Sheets
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
ym@stmartinvicksburg.org