



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

Winter
2024

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / December/January/February 2024

ADORATION

FIRST FRIDAY'S

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

December 1, January 5, February 2

ALL OTHER FRIDAY'S

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

ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. EDWARD

First Wednesdays @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.
December 6, January 3,
February 7

ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. MARTIN

Third Wednesdays @ 6:30-
7:30 p.m.
December 20, January 17,
February 21

ADULT EDUCATION

Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
December 12, January 9
(New Members Welcome)

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

@ 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.
December 3, 10, 17
January 7, 14, 21, 28
February 4, 11, 18, 25

ANYTHING GOES PARTY

@ 6:00 p.m. Saturday
February 10

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 13 @ 6:00 p.m. Vigil at
St. Edward
February 14 @ 9:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
At St. Martin

BIBLE STUDY with Msgr. Martin

Most Mondays @ 6:00 p.m.
In the Manning Center,
December 4, 11, 18 (no class Dec. 25
& Jan. 1)
January 8, 15, 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26

CARING HANDS OF ST. MARTIN

@ 10:00 a.m.
Second Monday each month
December 12, January 8,
February 12

COFFEE AND DONUTS After Sunday Masses

No coffee & donuts in December
January 28, February 25

FARMER'S BREAKFAST 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

January 14, February TBA

HALOS

Third Tuesday @ 1:00 p.m.
No December Meeting
January 16
February 20

HALOS BINGO W/ST. EDWARD

@ 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, February 3
Parish Hall

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
December 26 (tentative) January 23,
February 27

LENTEN SOUP & BREAD SUPPER

Fridays during Lent following
Stations of the Cross, beginning
February 16, 23

(See Lenten Series below)

MEN'S GROUP

Saturday Morning @ 7:30 a.m.
December 16 future TBD

O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Thursdays @ 7:00 p.m. Manning Ctr.
December 14, (no class 21/28)
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
February 18 @ 2:00 p.m. Sunday
Rite of Election, St. Augustine
Cathedral

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

December 22 (half day)-January 1,
will reopen on January 2

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Parish Hall @ 11:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.
Friday, January 5

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
December 3, 10, 17 (no class 24-31)
January 7, 14, 28, (no class on 21,
Catechist In-Service)
February 4, 11, 18, 25

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

2nd Monday @ 6:00 p.m.
In the east classroom
December 11, January 8,
February 12

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

@ 6:00 p.m. Fridays during Lent
February 16, 23

YOUTH MINISTRY, ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

See Youth Ministry page 5 for dates
and events

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 24 @ 8:00 a.m. St. Martin
Sunday, December 24 @ 9:30 a.m. St. Edward
Sunday, December 24 @ 11:00 a.m. NO MASS St. Martin
Sunday, December 24 @ 4:00 p.m. St. Martin (Children)
Sunday, December 24 @ 6:00 p.m. St. Edward
Sunday, December 24 @ 10:00 p.m. St. Martin
Monday, December 25 @ 8:00 a.m. at St. Martin
Monday, December 25 @ 9:30 a.m. at St. Edward

We wish you all a very BLESSED CHRISTMAS and a safe New Year!

PACK THE HOUSE, Saturday, January 20
Brunch @ 10:30 a.m., Speakers @ 11:15 a.m.

LENTEN SERIES, The Eucharist, Tuesdays
@ 5:30 p.m. Light supper, speaker @ 6:15 p.m..
February 20, 27; March 5, 12, 19



Deacon's Corner

On Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, I have the privilege of baptizing my third grandchild. As I reflect on this, it seems fitting to welcome a new soul into the Church at the beginning of this season of preparation for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. When parents choose to have their infant children brought into the Church through baptism, it speaks to the importance they see in bringing up their children in the faith. I think it is so critical to immerse children in the faith during those young, impressionable, formative years. The book of Deuteronomy gives this instruction concerning the words of the Lord: Teach them to your children, speaking of them at home and abroad, whether you are busy or at rest. Deut. 11:19

Whether we realize it or not, we are always teaching our children. They soak up everything we say or do and want to imitate us. I was recently reminded of that when our four-year-old grandson referred to a "crazy" driver as we were coming down Westnedge Avenue as a "pain in the butt." It made me wonder

how many times he has heard me use that terminology.

If our faith is important to us, it will be important to our children. "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." Matt. 6:21 If we look at our Catholic faith as a burden, as something we should do even though it is not what we want to do, they will have the same attitude. But, if we have a spirit of gratitude to our Lord and love God making him the center of our lives, they will have a similar attitude. So let us choose to make this Advent season a time of transformation in our relationship with God so that it will have a similar effect in those around us.

Peace be with you!
Deacon Dave



HALOS-SMCCW

On October 7th, the HALOS hosted Purse Bingo. We had seventy players and enjoyed lunch before the games began. There was a raffle for door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. It was great fun. See photos on the extra page at the end of the newsletter

Thank you to those who support our fund raising events. We were recently able to donate \$200.00 to the Giving Tree committee to purchase treat bags for the twenty families assigned to St. Martin. We were also able to donate \$300.00 to the heating collection at Catholic Charities.

The group decided to forgo the cleaning of the church with the youth group during the Christmas season and do it during the Easter season as we did last year.

We had so much fun at the summer gathering with the ladies of St. Edward, we decided to plan a winter event. More information will be in the bulletin.

We wish a very Blessed Christmas to all our families.

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 1:00 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

Religious Education

Hi all!

Happy Advent! Advent is one of my favorite seasons in the life of the Catholic Church. Advent marks the beginning of the Church new year, as we'll be hearing from the Gospel of Mark and his account of the ministry of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We have heard Jesus begin the First Sunday of Advent with the words, "Be watchful! Be alert!", which serves as not just a perfect kick-off to Advent but truly as a motto for our relationship with Jesus. Our attentiveness to Jesus, by faithfully looking for Him in the moments of our life and seeking to conform ourselves to Him more and more with the goal of growing closer and closer to Him, is simply critical. If we don't have a relationship with Jesus, than being Catholic is just a club or another thing that we do, and not the life-centering, life-fulfilling gift that it is meant to be.

How do you and I grow in relationship with Jesus? Go to Mass, every Sunday. Not just to fulfill the obligation that Jesus and the Church sets for us to stay out of mortal sin (although this is important!), but to listen to Jesus' voice in the readings, to meet Jesus in the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist on the altar, to encounter him in our sisters and brothers in the parish (and beyond) by sharing our joys and struggles. This most important connectivity with Jesus through Mass unites us to His Church and properly centers us in such a way that our entire lives (personal, professional, social, recreational, etc.) are ordered to our Savior first and thus provides us with a peace that is a gift.

May we each be blessed and seek to find our living and loving Lord Jesus during this season of waiting in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior into our lives. Please know of my prayers, and please let's keep all in our parish community in prayer, especially the young souls (and their families) as they prepare for the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

God bless you all --- Tim



By Bill Zeman

The Knights of Columbus is a group of Practical Catholic men who are committed to serving their family, Parish Family and the community.

Thank you for your generosity this fall. Our fall breakfasts included raising funds for Catholic Radio, Coats for Kids, an Ultrasound and assistance for local families in need. Thank you for the support of the yard sign campaign and we were able to get 50 reminders to "Pray for the Nation". 2024 Breakfasts will support a seminarian, the youth of the parish and the military archdiocese. We will cook a fantastic Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner to support the youth on St. Patrick's Day for Catholic Heart Work Camp.

As we begin the New Year, we celebrate the birth of Christ as an order with an annual Christmas Party which includes a visitor from the North Pole. The donations collected from the Christmas party and the Christmas card sales were used to support St. Vincent DePaul Society in the parish. The council sent out three care packages to the military members from our parishes.

The Council is a charitable organization that helps support the parish, Catholic organizations and those at need in the community. Our organization values fraternity and unity of the men and promotes patriotic activities. The council is always searching for men to join to protect their families, become a fraternal member and assists in our mission no matter how small the contribution.



St. Vincent de Paul - Ron Markan

The Season of Advent is upon us. In the Catholic Church it is a time of new beginnings. But sometimes, as the song says, we need a little help from our friends. In my family there is such a story. It was the end of summer and time to go back to school. My father and his brother needed new shoes. My grandfather had been unemployed for many months and did not have the money. He took his two sons to a church operated clothes closet and asked for help. The worker declined his request. He persisted and a second church worker became involved. The second worker asked why he was declined. The answer was that "he is not one of us." In fairness, my grandfather did not belong to that church. Eventually, the second worker did approve his request, and my father and his brother received their shoes. While walking home my father asked his father why he was crying. Grandfather replied that "sometimes it is just so hard." My grandfather never escaped the morass of poverty. But his sons and their children did escape. Sometimes a little help can be the start of a new beginning. Many families have similar experiences in their history. We are all only one incident away from disaster. In the end, all we really have is each other to turn to for help.

Please consider helping through The Saint Vincent de Paul Society by making a financial donation. The donation box is in the Saint Martin Church narthex. Donations can also be mailed to Saint Martin of Tours, 5855 East W Avenue, PO Box 264, Vicksburg, MI 49097. The Society serves individuals in the Saint Martin and Saint Edward parish areas. If you are interested in joining the Society or know someone who may need help, please contact St. Martin at (269) 649-1629 ext. 3 or email us at svdp@stmartinvicksburg.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Adult Education by Lisa Irwin and Kathi Lovell

Pack the House is back! In September, the survey committee presented the results. A great discussion followed and listening sessions were scheduled for further discussion.

In October, we shared a meal and then Deacon Dave Guido gave a brief account of the Roman Catholic devotional tradition of spending an hour in Eucharistic Adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Then all proceeded into the church for Eucharistic Adoration.

We were treated to an evening with Msgr. Tom on Nov. 29th as he spoke about the Jewish Roots of the Mass at Pack the House. Msgr. Tom explained how our liturgical practices and community worship grew from the worship rituals and practices of the Jewish people. He also emphasized the importance of the Mass as the shared prayer of the assembled community, not "me and God" time for individual people. To learn more, Msgr. Tom recommended the book *Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* by Brant Pitre. You can also sign in to Formed.org and watch the video *The Last Supper with Dr. Brant Pitre*, <https://watch.formed.org/videos/the-last-supper-with-dr-brant-pitre>

Mark your calendars for the next Pack the House on Saturday morning, January 20th and our Lenten speaker series on Feb 20 and 27, March 5, 12 and 19.

Advent ushers in a new year of grace. May our parish have a Happy New Liturgical Year! Throughout this new year may we deepen our faith in our Triune God, strengthen our fellowship and community, and reach out in loving service to our brothers and sisters in need.

Youth Ministry

"It is Jesus you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you...it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your hearts your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be grounded down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal." -St. Pope John Paul II

If there's any one thing that St. Martin's Youth Ministry hopes to impart upon its young people this year, it is that "Jesus is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you." In fact, He is there whether we acknowledge Him or not- He is always present and wants to have a relationship with all of us, including the youth of our parish. We owe it to Him to seek and strive for that relationship.

With the close of our Fall Semester in youth ministry, my hope is that our teens experienced moments of encounter with our Lord- through prayer, joy and friendship. Some of our events included service opportunities, such as mulching the church garden and raking leaves in the local community. (The youth seem to especially enjoy service opportunities.) Our youth nights included time with Parish Leaders, discussion on prayer, reading scripture, and focusing on Mary and the Rosary. Overall, we have a great group of young people with wonderful families who participate in our program. There is much to look forward to! Bringing our prayers before "Jesus who is our happiness," let us ask Him to continue to bless our youth. Let us pray that we do our best teaching them how to become His disciples. May God bless you all abundantly!

Best Wishes, Michelle Klein (Youth Ministry Coordinator)

Upcoming Events- Advent Party, Caroling at a Nursing Home, Ice Skating, Spring Retreat, Regular Youth Nights

Youth Ministry Calendar

Youth Nights-Sundays 5-7pm
Youth Center

December 3rd-Advent Party

December 17th Caroling at nursing home, after the 11am Mass

January 6th Ice Skating

January 14th Youth Night

January 28th Youth Night

February 11th Youth Night-Meals to shut-ins

February 24th-25th Overnight retreat



Msgr. Tom, Deacon Dave, Deacon Tom and Adam Wysocki met with the youth to witness their calling to their spiritual life.



St. Martin Youth
Thank you for your service!



ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS

Baptisms

08/06/2023, Paige Elizabeth Chadderdon, daughter of Timothy & Debbie Chadderdon

09/17/2023, Leona Josephine Bush, daughter of Mark & Katie Bush

Marriages

10/07/2023, Danielle Nicole Hunter & Jordan Riemersma

10/21/2023, Kassandra Seeds & David Mora

11/04/2023, Cayla Rochelle Hart & Michael Flanagan

Deaths

08/28/2023, Jesus "Chey" Escamilla

09/23/2023, Leonard Grabowski

10/11/2023, Kenneth Stiver

11/11/2023, Rita Sokolowski

Welcome the following Parishioners and their Families

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

WELCOME TO ST. MARTIN NEW PARISHIONERS

Newly registered in the last six months

Miguel Maldonado
Kevin & Eileen Adams
Mark & Katie Bush
Scott & Carolyn Grace
Michael & Cayla Flanagan
Michael & Danielle Klein
William & Anna Kring
Patrick & Angela Pearson
Dean & Vivian Crawford
Edward & Beth Lambrix
Charles & Jacquelynn Detmar
Harold "Skip" & Laura Magee



Check in for
Purse Bingo
October 7th.
HALOS
sponsored
event.
Patt & Lynn

Door prize winners,
Norabelle Gingrich &
Marion Compton



THANK YOU

A Big Thank you is due to so many people who participated in this years Giving Tree ministry.

Thank you to all the parishioners who took tags from the tree and returned the gifts unwrapped and on time. Many extras were also very thoughtfully given. Your generosity was overwhelming.

Thank you to the Halos for their donation which helped filled the baking bags for the families, and thank you to the ladies who worked so hard assembling the gift bags. You definitely deserve your Halos.

Thank you to all the ladies who cheerfully volunteered their time and talent helping to wrap all the gifts. What a wonderful group of ladies we had working on this project. You are very much appreciated.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for donating the proceeds from the December Farmers Breakfast. What a gift it was to be the recipient of your contribution . All your hard work and support is a blessing to so many people.

Thank you to everyone who helped in anyway, big or small, time or talent, prayers or presents. We are grateful to all of you.

Thank you to St. Martin of Tours parish for allowing this opportunity to help 17 families. " Lord, if your people need us, we will not refuse the work, your will be done " - St Martin of Tours .

God Bless You.

Janet Kosacek. Elaine Stockoski. Judy LeVan

