



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS THE MESSENGER

2026

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

ADORATION

FIRST FRIDAYS

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

December 5, January 2, February 6

ALL OTHER FRIDAY'S

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

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

At St. Edward

@ 6:30-7:30 p.m. First Wednesdays
December 3, January 7, February 4

ADORATION & BENEDICTION

At St. Martin

@ 6:30-7:30 p.m. Third Wednesdays
December, none, January 21,
February 18

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Sundays @9:30-10:45 a.m.
December 7, 14, 21 (no class 28)
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22

ADVENT PENANCE

See below

ANYTHING GOES PARTY

Saturday February 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES

February 18, (Mass times TBA)

BIBLE STUDY WITH MSGR. MARTIN

@ 6:00 p.m. Mondays-Manning Ctr.
December 1, 8, 15, (no class 22, 29)
January 5, 12, 19, 26
February 2, 9, 16, 23

CARING HANDS OF ST. MARTIN

@10:00 a.m. to Noon
Second Monday each month
December 8, January 12, February 9

CHRISTMAS MASSES

See below

COFFEE & DONUTS

After both Sunday Masses
December (no coffee & donuts)
January 18, February 22

CURSILLO MEETING

January 17, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Manning Center

FARMER'S BREAKFAST

Second Sundays @ 9:00 am-1:00 pm
December 14, January 11, Feb. 8

HALOS

Third Tuesday @ 1:00 pm
(no Dec) January 20, Feb. 17

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Fourth Tuesday @ 7:00 pm
(no Dec) January 20, Feb. 17

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday @ 12:30 p.m.
January 18

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

December 22 & January 1

PRAYING GRANDPARENTS

First and Third Wednesdays
@ 9:45 a.m.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, January 2
@ 11:00 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

*** THE REST OF THE
CALENDAR
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YOUTH CALENDAR ON PAGE 2

Advent Penance Services:

St. John Bosco-Sunday, December 7th @4:30 p.m.

St. Ann, Gull Lake-Wednesday, December
10th@6:30 p.m.

St. Mary, Paw Paw-Sunday, December 14th
@3:00 p.m.

St. Ambrose, Parchment-Tuesday, December 16th
@6:30 p.m.

St. Monica-Wednesday, December 17th@6:30p.m.

St. Martin of Tours-Sunday, December 21st at
3:00 p.m.

St. Joseph, Kalamazoo-Monday, December 22nd
@4:00 p.m.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

Wednesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. at St. Martin;

3:30 p.m. Children's choir/skit

6:00 p.m. at St. Edward;

10:00 p.m. at St. Martin

Thursday, December 25

8:00 a.m. at St. Martin

9:30 a.m. at St. Edward

Wednesday, December 31

4:00 p.m. at St. Martin

Thursday, January 1

9:00 a.m. at St. Edward

Merry Christmas
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Deacon's Corner

Deacon's Corner

Very recently, my wife, Jane and I had the opportunity to attend the priestly ordination of Brother Alexander Mosko to the priesthood at The Philadelphia Oratory at St. Francis Xavier Church in Philadelphia. Fr. Alexander J. Mosko, C.O. is my cousin and it was a wonderful experience to be present for his ordination!

I was intrigued to find out more details about the oratory because the members who are priests are not considered diocesan priests nor are they considered order priests. The initials C.O. appear after their names indicating that they are members of the Congregation of the Oratory. The Oratory is a society of apostolic life composed of Catholic priests and lay brothers, and was founded by St. Philip Neri. The term "oratory" means a "place of prayer" and the members live in community sharing a common life of prayer, study, fellowship, and service.

Oratorians do not take a vow of poverty as is typical of members of a religious order; rather they voluntarily commit to live communally and conform to the rules of the oratory. They typically wear a habit with a clerical collar different than diocesan

priests wear. Interestingly, each oratory is autonomous. It is approved by the Holy See and it operates independently under the leadership of its superior, the provost. He is a member of the community as well and his role is not unlike that of an abbot in a monastery.

The Philadelphia Oratory provides care for the St. Francis Xavier Parish and School where they are located. They support each other to grow in holiness as they carry out their ministry; together they participate in daily Mass, lectio divina, meditation, and daily prayer. May they be filled with abundant blessing as they work together.

Peace be with you,
Deacon Dave



Youth Events

December 6 & 7

- Young Ladies Retreat "Cookies and Jesus"
- Tentative Young Men's Retreat
- Whole group Christmas Caroling at Nursing Home's

December 14 Community Service

- Advent Family Activities

January 3 Snow Tubing

January 11 Youth Night

January 25 Community Service

- Senior Appreciation Brunch

February 8 Youth Mass (11 a.m.) Youth Night

February 20-22 Rescue Project

- Weekend Retreat

HALOS-SMCCW by Kathi Lovell

Thank you to everyone who bought tickets to our annual Bingo event. It was a big success. We have discussed how to handle the large crowd in the future and appreciate suggestions for improvement. It is our only fund raiser for the year. Because of the success, we are able to make purchases as needed for the kitchen, continue to use the laundry for the tablecloths and able to make donations as needed.

The Caring Hands group was asked to make 17-20 pot holders. They will be put in the baking items bag for the Christmas adopted families. They are ready to put in the bags. If you see a need for knitted and crocheted items, please let us know. We make prayer shawls, baby shawls, and plastic mats for the homeless.

All ladies of St. Martin are invited to join our group. HALOS meetings are the third Tuesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m.. Caring Hands meets on the second Monday at 10:00 a.m. We do not pay dues. HALOS does not have meetings in the summer months. Caring Hands does.

We wish for you and your families a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Greetings from the Knights of Columbus Council 13305

Knight of Columbus Update Fall 2025



The council would like to express our gratitude for the generosity of all the parishioners. The council has raised over \$100,000 for charities and is now accepting Venmo for payments. The Knights have been busy with breakfasts for AED updates, Coats for Kids, starting Morning Joe Men's group, Tootsie Roll drive, card and sign sales for Keep Christ in Christmas and support for local food pantries. The AED update of batteries and pads need to be replaced every three years and the Knights have taken on responsibility for the units. The AED in the hall is obsolete, and the entire unit will need to be replaced in three years.

Morning Joe Men's group meets the first and third Thursday of the month at 5:45 am and follows a format from the supreme council. The group finishes by 7:00 so members can get to work for the day. The group is open to any man and do not require him to be a Knight or even a Catholic man. This program is designed for fellowship, faith and formation of the men.

The Knights will be having their Christmas party on December 7, 2025, and will collect donations from the party along with the card sale money for St. Vincent DePaul Society. Our next Breakfast will be on December 14 as we raise funds for Holy Family Radio.

Our organization is open to any practical Catholic man over the age of 18 and can join by talking to one of the Knights or signing up on line at <https://www.kofc.org/secure/en/join/join-kofc.html>

Bill Zeman



St. Vincent de Paul Society by Pat Cline

...and The Greatest of These is Charity.

The parishioners of St. Martin's and St. Edward's churches are fabulous people. Their generous donations to SVdP during the "Walk For the Poor" event, which was held this past September, is truly Christ's hand at work. Because of their hard work and generous giving, we were able to raise \$20,796.00 from the "Walk for the Poor" event.

That is about a 30% increase from the previous year's WFP event. A 30% increase sounds like a lot, which it is. However, our need for funds has also increased over the years. To put our increase in perspective, consider this fact: In 2024 the total number of Friends-in-Need we assisted with financial aid was 153 at a cost of \$23,383.05. That was for the entire year. In October alone this year, we distributed \$5,700.00 to 30 Friends-in-Need.

The majority of the money we distribute is for rent assistance, utilities, food, and other needed expenses to maintain food and shelter for our Friends-in-Need.

Thank You,

The Volunteers of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul



Religious Education - Tim McNamara

Prayer

As the 2025 calendar comes down to it's last page and as we begin the new Church year with Advent kicking off, we also approach the near halfway point of our Religious Education year. Time is certainly flying and we have so much to be thankful for from our God!

One thing to highlight from this season of Religious Education is our amazing parents. An initiative that we have been undertaking this year has been to have a particular focus on prayer. During our hour and fifteen-minute class sessions on Sunday morning, our parents have been intentionally praying for the kids, catechists, families, and education at St. Martin of Tours. Spending this time before Jesus Christ present in the tabernacle, while I am sure is a blessing to these individual parents, has been a tremendous blessing to the children and teachers of our program.

There is a noticeable spirit of peace that has been over and in and through the classrooms. We have seen and recognized the joy of the students and teachers. The grace of this time in prayer is evident in instances such as these. Our community is being blessed by the Holy Spirit and this will only spill over into the larger community both within St. Martin of Tours, but also Vicksburg, Schoolcraft, Climax-Scotts, Mendon, Portage, and beyond.

Thank you, very much dear parents, for your prayers and please continue to stay fervent in these prayerful offerings! I encourage us all here at St. Martin of Tours to please continue to dive into prayer and may the blessings of grace from God our Father shower over us to enliven the world around us.

Thank you each and God bless,
Tim

Dear Parish Family,

May Christ's Peace be with you during this special Advent season, and may He always watch over you and your loved ones! As winter moves forward, so do our youth activities, along with our liturgical festivities in the Church. We had a great start to Youth Ministry this year- over 20 young people are registered with us. Plus, interest in our ministry seems to be steadily growing. This Fall, we participated in various Youth Nights (our regular youth group meetings), served our parish and local community by mulching the church garden and raking leaves, we've had our first "Youth" Mass, and we sent a group of high school students to the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis. It seems like God is on the move! Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to listen to God's voice for what He has in store for us. We greatly appreciate all the support we've received from the community- ranging from prayers to financial/food donations. Our vision is to have our already vibrant parish filled with youth who are passionate about their faith in Jesus Christ. May Lord guide you and bring you His Peace!

God Bless, Michelle Klein



Adult Education Committee Report

We concluded the latest session of The Rescue Project on November 2nd. We wish to thank all who participated and most of all everyone who dedicated their time to the project, especially Dave and Jackie Sirotti, Kathi Lovell, Brey Hansford and all of the Adult Education Committee members along with the gracious support of Msgr. Martin. We also greatly appreciate all of you who prayed for the participants. Currently, we are not sure when our next Rescue Project may be but we will keep everyone informed. We heard many positive things about the Rescue Project especially the sense of camaraderie and sharing with fellow participants during the sessions.

We had a very good turn-out for the End-of-Life Program which was held on Wednesday, November 12th. With the collaboration of Msgr. Martin and Steve McCowen from McCowen Secord Funeral Homes, we heard four different speakers talk about end-of-life issues, such as funeral planning, hospice care, and Catholic traditions.

We have two new groups in our parish. The Sharing Joe Men's Prayer Breakfast group meets every other Thursday morning from 5:45 a.m. until 7:00 a.m. in the Manning Center. This program is based on an international award-winning Knights of Columbus program called CORE which is short for courage. Its focus is formation, fraternity and prayer. Thus far we have seen 15-18 participants at each meeting. This program is led by Ed Lambrix, one of our St. Martin parishioners and a Knight.

Annette Janofski is coordinating a new program for grandparents called Praying Grandparents. The meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 9:45 a.m. in the Manning Center. The meetings begin with special grandparent prayers and discussions that explore ways to engage our grandchildren in the Catholic faith. As they grow into the teenage years, we discuss ways to assist them on how to make good life decisions and how not to lose them to the world as they get older.

The Sunday Morning Adult Study Group is reading and discussing the Book of Sirach which has led to challenging and fun discussions. Our group has grown to fourteen this year. We meet on Sundays at 9:30a.m. until 10:45 a.m. in the East Classroom.

We are now working on our Lenten program which will be titled, "Why do Catholics do that?" The program will be held on the five Tuesdays of Lent (not Holy Week). We will begin with supper at 5:30 p.m. with presentation at around 6:15p.m. Each week we will have a speaker talk about different things that Catholics do and the meaning or tradition behind them. More details will be coming in the near future.

Sue Maneikis

Grandparents

Praying Grandparents is a new group that started this fall at St. Martins. We are meeting the 1st and 3rd Wednesday after 9:00 a.m. Mass (9:45) in Manning Center for about 45 minutes.

The group comes together to specifically develop a plan to pray for our children and grandchildren, especially those struggling in their Catholic faith. We thank God for all our blessings and work to be specific in asking God, our parish, family and friends to touch their hearts. The December 3rd and 17th sessions will explore strategies / gifts to inspire young and old to seek God both during this Holy season and beyond.

All are welcome! Questions can be text to Annette Janofski at [269-998-7604](tel:269-998-7604).

Spiritual Development by Deena Anderson

Praying with the Gather Songbook

As we begin a new church year, it is suggested that you might want to begin a new spiritual practice when you come to Mass. Have you ever opened the front cover of the green Gather songbook that is in each pew? When you do, you will notice there are two prayers just inside the cover, and on the left side is a dedication card.

The Gather songbooks were actually purchased for the old St. Martin's church more than 25 years ago. Parishioners were invited to dedicate a book to a loved one, living or deceased. I actually discovered my mother-in-law's name in a book a few days ago, and that dedication was made a few years before my husband and I were married. When you open the cover of the Gather songbook before Mass, you could pray the "Vocations" prayer, because, in order for the Catholic Church to continue, we need people to commit themselves to the priesthood or religious life.

If there is time before Mass, you could pray a short prayer for the person whose name is listed inside the cover. I would guess that most of those folks are deceased, and, if still in purgatory, would appreciate our prayers for the repose of their souls. After receiving Communion, you could pray the "Anima Christi" prayer. If you are singing the Communion song, you could take a few minutes after Mass to spend time with our Lord and just ask for His blessings through that prayer.

Lastly, most obviously, the Gather songbook is used to further participate in the Mass by singing the songs listed on the board at the right front of the church. You could take a few minutes before Mass to familiarize yourself with those songs so you can more easily find them at the appropriate times of the Mass. You may already realize that the songs chosen for the Liturgy are based on the readings of the day or reflect the particular season of the year. They are prayers in themselves, poetry to help us draw nearer to the love of our heavenly Father, the joy of a relationship with our loving Savior, or the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

When you use the Gather songbook in these ways, you may notice that you are quieting yourself before Mass and beginning to focus on prayer, so that when the first hymn is announced, you are settled and ready to fully participate in the Liturgy of the day.

Sharing Joe – Men's Prayer Breakfast by Ed Lambrix

Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month 5:45am-7:00am in the Manning Center.

Sharing Joe – MPB follows the Knights of Columbus Internationally awarding winning program *COR*. *COR*, which is the Latin word for Heart, is also the root for the English word Courage. The three elements of *COR* are Prayer: lifting minds and hearts to God, Formation: Becoming like Christ, and Fraternity: Centering brotherhood on Christ.

Our initial meeting was on September 18 where we organized into smaller groups of 6 to 8 and laid down some basic ground rules which are: no politics, no church politics and confidentiality.

The month of October, we dedicated to exploring Fruits of the Mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary, paying particular attention to the Glorious Mysteries in preparation for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Also, since there were 5 Thursdays in October (the 30th) we had a Holy Hour in the Church with no breakfast that day.

The months of November and December, we've moved our attention to preparing our Hearts and our Minds for the season of Advent utilizing the series on Formed "How to Advent" and focusing of the Fruits of the Joyful Mysteries.

Breakfast responsibilities move from table to table each time we meet, with some tables raising the bar with a warm breakfast casserole and fruit versus the standard sweet roll. Some low lighting is provided in the Church approximately 15 minutes prior to our start so any man that wishes to spend some quiet time with our Lord is provided the opportunity. We are young and still figuring out what works best as we find our way, but we are dedicated to mission and each other.

All men high school age and up are welcome, come check us out!

OCIA-Order of Christian Initiation of Adults.

The parish families of St. Martin of Tours and St. Edward rejoiced at the Easter Vigil when Paula Hochstetler was received into the Church, and Danica Campbell received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In July we rejoiced again when David and Kathryn Westman received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist). They all participated in the OCIA program to prepare for reception of their respective sacraments. OCIA serves both St. Edward and St. Martin parishes.



Paula Hochstetler left of Msgr. Tom & Danica Campbell on the right with their sponsors.

If you have questions about the Catholic faith or this program, please call the church office: 269.649.1629.

Lisa Irwin & Deacon Tom Thamann



David and Kathryn Westman
With their sponsors

(Calendar continued from page 1)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays @ 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.
December 7, 14 Advent Family Gathering
(no class 21 & 28)

January 4 11, 18, 25-Senior Brunch
February 1, 8, (Youth Mass) 15, 22

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Second Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.
in the East classroom
December 8, January 12, February 9

SENIOR APPRECIATION BRUNCH

Sunday, January 25 @ noon
In the Parish Hall

SHARING JOE MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

First & Third Thursdays @ 5:45 to 7:00 a.m.
December 4 & 18
January 8 & 22 (moved to 2nd & 4th Thursday,
January only)
February 5 & 19

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-Holy Day of Obligation

Monday Dec 8
Mass Schedule
St. Martin, 9:00 a.m.
St. Edward, 6:00 p.m.
No Vigil Mass

YOUTH GROUP

See page 2

ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS

Baptisms

Amelia Elizabeth Bush daughter of Mark and
Kaitlyn Bush
Robin Martin Jensen, son of Dylan and
Katelyn Jensen

Deceased since August 2025

Andrew Wayne Terberg 8/29/2025
Sharon A. Zinser 10/21/2025

Welcome the following Parishioners and their Families

Bob & Cynthia Plotz

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