



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

2025

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / June/July/August

ADORATION

FIRST FRIDAYS

@ 8:00-9:00 a.m. July 4 (only)
August 1 @ 8:00-9:00 a.m. &
@ 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

ALL OTHER FRIDAYS

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

ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. EDWARD

First Wednesdays @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.
July 2, August 6

ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. MARTIN

Third Wednesdays @ 6:30-
7:30 p.m.

June 18, July 16, August 20

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, June 10 @ 6:00 p.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Will resume in September

BIBLE STUDY with Msgr. Martin

Manning Center
Most Mondays @ 6:00 p.m. in the
Manning Center
June 9, 16, 23, 30
July 7, 14, 21, 28
August 4, 11, 18, 25

CARING HANDS

@ 10:00 a.m. to Noon
Second Monday each month
June 9, July 14, August 11

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

June 7 - 14 to Champaign, IL

COFFEE & DONUTS

Will resume in September

FARMER'S BREAKFAST

Will resume in September

HALOS

Meetings resume in September

HALOS CHURCH CLEANING

Tuesday, June 10 @ 10:00 a.m.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m. in the
Manning Center
June 24, July 22, August 26

OCIA - Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Will resume in September

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

August 3 @ 12:30 p.m.

In the Manning Center

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

Friday, July 4

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

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

In the parish hall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Will resume in September

RUMMAGE SALE

Set up Parish Hall, July 27
Collection days, July 28, 29, 30, 31
Sale August, 7, 8, & 9

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

2nd Monday @ 6:30 p.m.
in the east classroom

June 9, July 14, August 11

YOUTH EVENTS

Catholic Heart Work Campers
leave for Champaign, IL on
Saturday, June 7

Return Saturday, June 14

Other upcoming Youth events,
please see on page 3



Join Formed's Summer with the Saints!

12 weeks of faith-filled videos and family-friendly activities, delivered weekly to your mailbox. When you sign up for Summer with the Saints, you'll receive a calendar that includes the saint for each week of the summer, titles for the accompanying movies and shows on Formed, and an overview of activity ideas so you can plan ahead. Go to <https://formed.org/summer-with-the-saints>. If you haven't already signed up for Formed, the parish provides it to all parishioners for free. Go to <https://stmartinvicksburg.org/formed-the-catholic-faith-on-demand> to learn how to sign up.

Parish Library

The parish library has been organized and catalogued. Grab a book for some great summer reading! Record the book you checked out in the spiral notebook.

Returned books and donations can be placed in the wicker baskets.



Deacon's Corner

The Paschal Candle

We see the Paschal Candle, or the Easter Candle, placed in an area of prominence in the sanctuary of the church. But it is not always there. Why? And what is this significance of this candle?

The Paschal Candle has been a central part of our Catholic tradition since the early Church. Its origin can be traced back to the fourth century, and its symbolism has evolved and developed over time. Today, it is an integral part of the Easter Vigil liturgy, the most important celebration in the Church calendar.

As the name suggests, the Paschal Candle is closely associated with the Paschal Mystery – the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It represents the triumph of light over darkness and life over death. Its use in the liturgy symbolizes the presence of the risen Christ among His people and serves as a reminder of His victory over sin and death.

There are distinct decorations that adorn the candle. The cross on it serves as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice and His victory over death. It is a symbol of hope and salvation for all believers. The Greek letters Alpha and Omega represent the eternal nature of God as mentioned in the Book of Revelation where Jesus says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end" – the eternal God who transcends time.

The five grains of incense inserted into the candle recall the aromatic spices with which His Sacred Body was prepared for the tomb and of the five wounds in his hands, feet, and side. The Pascal Candle is marked with the current year to remind us that God is here with us today and is constantly guiding all creation to Himself.

During the Easter season – which goes from Easter Sunday until the Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after Easter – the candle remains near the ambo (the pulpit where the readings and homily are proclaimed) and is lit every time the church gathers for the liturgy. Outside of the Easter season, the candle is found near the baptismal font in our parish. It is used for funerals to represent the light of life that conquers the darkness of the tomb, and for baptisms because this sacrament enlightens us and gives us the light of faith.

The Paschal Candle is not just a mere decoration, but a powerful symbol of the Resurrection and the ultimate victory of Christ over sin and death. So, whenever we gaze upon its beauty may its flame ignite our faith, fill our hearts with hope and love, and be a reminder of Christ's triumph over sin and death.

Peace be with you!
Deacon Dave



Adult Education

Many thanks to all who attended the Lenten series on the Ten Commandments. The presentations by our five speakers, all of whom were priests, were enjoyed by all who attended. We apologize for any difficulty in hearing the speakers at times. Brey Hansford did a fine job with the audio taping of each week's talks and the talks should be on our website soon. We have begun brainstorming ideas for future programs.

We are planning another Rescue Project series for the month of October. This one will also be on Sundays from 4:00-7:00pm. More information and sign-up details will be coming later. We will have a Rescue Reunion evening for all who have already participated in the series on Thursday, June 26th at 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Hall. This will be an informal gathering where we will have time to visit with each other over coffee and cookies.

Currently, we are considering a program for Grandparents and their Grandchildren entitled, "Grandparenting with Purpose." Several parishioners are studying the Leader's Manual and will report at our meeting. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 10th at 6:00 p.m. in the Manning Room. New volunteers are always welcome to the Adult Education Committee. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact the parish office and leave your contact information.

Sue Maneikis

HALOS-SMCCW

Thank you to all who donated to Soup and Bread during Lent. Because of your generosity, we were able to make a donation to the Mary Garden for the purchase of supplies and flowers,

Ladies of St. Edward and St. Martin, mark your calendar for Thursday, July 17 at 5:30 p.m. We will have our summer ladies' night out. Sign-up sheets will be out the end of June so we can give a count to Main Street in Vicksburg for seating. Let's have a big group!

Our one fund raising event of the year will be Saturday, October 11th at 11:30 a.m. Purse Plus Bingo. Includes lunch and the ticket donation will be \$12.00. There will be a donation basket out the end of the summer for slightly used purses or regift items you have to donate. Thank you!

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., September through May. 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

To our wonderful Church Family,

How quickly time flies! Another year in youth ministry has drawn to a close, and summer begins! Thank you to our whole community for all your prayers, support, and kindness regarding youth ministry here at St. Martin of Tours. We truly have an amazing parish. This past Spring we prepped for Catholic Heart Work Camp, had a fun outing bowling, tried out The Rescue Project as a retreat, and ended the year with a couple of Youth Nights. I am personally grateful for all your prayers that allow us to minister and do God's work. While the regular youth ministry year ends, we still have a few things this summer to offer our youth! This includes some fun summer meet-ups and outings like hiking, our "pool party," and even a trip to the Shrine of Holy Relics in Maria Stein, OH. As always, it is a blessing to be a part of this ministry and continue to help our young people grow in faith and a relationship with Jesus and His Church. Please keep our youth in your prayers as our Catholic Heart Work Camp group experiences their service trip here in June. We also pray that the youth of our whole parish truly experience God and their faith while on summer break! May the God of Hope bless you and keep you close to His Heart. Michelle Klein

ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS**Baptisms**

Lena Marie Sirotti, daughter of
Dominick and Jessica Sirotti

Wren Elizabeth Sullivan, Daughter of
Kevin and Baylee Sullivan

New Parishioners-Welcome to St. Martin Since March

Logan Eldridge

Alvaro & Rosa Malerva-Ramiro

William & Kathleen Castleberry

Erin Gehrman

Michael & Jill Cullitan

Tom & Cindy Salayer

**Deceased since March 2025**

Mark Poehlman 3/9/2025

Margot Shick 4/21/2025

Debbie McCloud-Delaney 5/21/2025

May they rest in Peace!

Youth Summer Activities

Saturday, June 28 "Hiking & Culvers"

Wednesday, July 9 "Summer Meet-Up: Youth Night"

Sunday, July 20 "Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Holy Relics" (Maria Stein, OH)

Saturday, Aug. 2 "Pool Party at the Hesslings Home"

Sunday, Aug. 17 Youth Rally at St. Monica



St. Vincent de Paul - Pat Cline

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) Happenings

The volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul have been busy assisting 50 “friends in need” for the months of January, February, March and April of 2025. We have five volunteers that man the phone lines each day of the week to assist these “friends in need.” For these first four months of 2025 we have dispersed \$8,865.09 in funds for rent/housing and utilities.

This month of June, SVdP had a “Meet & Greet” to assist parishioners in learning more about the work of this volunteer group. We would welcome any interested parishioners on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm for our monthly meeting in the far east classroom.

Mark you calendars for September 28, 2025 for our Fifth Annual Walk for the Poor!! Registration starts at 1:00 pm with a welcome by Msgr Tom and the walk begins at 1:30 pm. Gather your friends to get pledges and join you on our once-a-year fund raiser to help those in our Vicksburg, Schoolcraft, Mendon, Portage and Kalamazoo area. We need you to make our walk a success!

St. Martin of Tours 27th ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE - Deb Stafinski

The beauty of spring is upon us! The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing, and God’s “busy bees” are thinking SPRING CLEANING! Every year about this time I am ready to get my house in order. That may sound a little drastic, but honestly, this year I plan to take a good look to see what I will donate to the Rummage Sale! I know the sale is not until August 7th, 8th and 9th, and that seems like months away, but we all know how spring and summer fly by!

During the busy month of July when we are knee deep in summer tasks and summer fun, we will be receiving notices that the Rummage Sale “drop off” has begun! It will feel so good knowing my donations are all boxed up and ready to go! Delivering my donations to the church always feels like a “Win Win” experience!

The Rummage Sale brings a wellspring of thoughts to mind: will we have plenty of donations, will our parishioners volunteer to help, and will the shoppers show up? The next thought is always a reminder of the many BLESSINGS brought to light by this amazing sale! If you have donated to the sale, you know how good it feels knowing others will benefit from your thoughtfulness. If you volunteer at the Rummage Sale, and we hope you do, you will experience the joy of working with your fellow parishioners and the satisfaction of knowing your time, talents and energy are helping our Parish. You will also experience the energy and joy of the shoppers who show up in droves from all over Southwest Michigan in hopes of finding needed items, great deals, and treasures, making their lives a little better! We hope you will join us this year by sharing your time, talents, and donations. You are a BLESSING!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

Rummage Sale Donation Drop Off Dates: July 28, 29, 30, & 31

Rummage Sale Dates: August 7, 8, & 9

Religious Education - Tim McNamara

With another year of Religious Education having flown by, I wanted to share with each of you some of the highlights from this exciting year:

Catechists: We are blessed to have 11 full-time Catechists and 2 willing substitutes

First Communion: We celebrated reception of First Eucharist with our 5 second grade students

Confirmation: We will have 11 confirmed by Bishop Lohse on Thursday June 5th

Our Catechists completed the workshop entitled "Essential Link Between Liturgy and Catechesis" from the Catechetical Institute at Franciscan University, which supported their continued growth and development as Catechists. Our Parents were given the opportunity to opt-in to the Diocesan "The Goretti Project" which offers safe environment training for both parents and children in navigating the physical and digital world. Finally, our Confirmation candidates and high school students "The Rescue Project" retreat to consider and engage our Catholic faith from a different perspective.

I hope everyone has a blessed summer! Please stay close to Jesus Christ and His Church and allow our Savior to be a part of each and every moment of your life. See you in the fall and God bless you and yours! - Tim

May Crowning April 27



First Communion May Crowning Sunday, April 27, 2025

Deacon Tom Thamann
Msgr. Thomas Martin
Zandro Espinosa
Everly Sheets
Charlee Plukas
Angelica Hillard
Christopher VanDalen
Teacher; Karen Szwaja



Easter Egg Hunt 2025



Sunday, June 1, 2025
11:00 a.m. Mass Honoring Graduates

From Left: Lani Bogen, Meredith Chenier,
Sam Bleeker, Jack Curtis
Msgr. Tom Martin, Deacon Dave Guido
Missing Graduate; Frankie Loriso