



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS THE MESSENGER

Fall 2025

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

St. Martin of Tours Church 5855 East W Ave. P.O. Box 264 Vicksburg, Michigan 49097 (269) 649-1629 www.stmartinvicksburg.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS / SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

ADORATION

FIRST FRIDAYS

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

September 5, October 3, November 7

ALL OTHER FRIDAYS

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

ADORATION & BENEDICTION At St. Edward

@ 6:30-7:30 p.m. First Wednesdays
September 3, October 1, November 5

ADORATION & BENEDICTION At St. Martin

@ 6:30-7:30 p.m. Third Wednesdays
September 17, October 15,
November 19

ADULT EDUCATION, meeting

@ 6:00 p.m.
September 23, Manning Center

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING STUDY GROUP

@9:30-10:45 a.m.
September 14, 21, 28
October 5, 12, 19, 26
November 2, 9, 16, 23, no class 30th

BIBLE STUDY WITH MSGR. MARTIN

@ 6:30 p.m. Mondays-Manning Ctr.
September 8, 15, 22, 29
October 6, 13, 20, 27
November 3, 10, 17, 24

CARING HANDS

Second Mondays @ 10:00 a.m.-noon
September 8, October 13,
November 10

COFFEE & DONUTS

After Sunday Masses-Once a month
September 28, October 26,
November 23

FARMER'S BREAKFAST

@ 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
September 14, October 12,
November 9

HALOS

@ 1:00 p.m.-Manning Center
September 16 (2:00 Dedication of
Angels in Garden), October 21,
November 18

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

@ 7:00 p.m.-Manning Center
September 23, October 28,
November 25

LIFE CHAIN

October 5 @ 2:30-3:30

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS

@7:00 p.m. Thursday
Begins September 11

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

tbd

PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

September 1, Labor Day
November 27-30 Thanksgiving wknd

PARISH PICNIC

@12:00 p.m. September 7

PURSE BINGO

@11:30 a.m., Parish Hall
October 11

@ 7:00 p.m.-Manning Center

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays @9:30-10:45 a.m.
Registration on line or call the office
September 7-Catechist meeting
September 14-First class, Parent meet
September 21-Catechetical Sunday
September 28 class,
October 5 Class, Fire drill
October 12, 19
No class 26-Catechist Day
November 2, 9, 16, 23, no class on 30
Thanksgiving weekend

RESCUE PROJECT

October 5, 12, 19, 26, November 2
@ 4:00-7:00 p.m.

ROSARY

October-Before each Mass, Leaders,
please sign-up in narthex

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

@ 6:30 p.m.-east classroom
September 8, October 13,
November 10

Walk for the poor September 28

@1:30 p.m., Opening prayer,

YOUTH MINISTRY

See page 5



WALK FOR THE POOR

September 28, 2025

Vicksburg Recreational Area & Trail
12538 S. Sprinkle Rd., Vicksburg

Begins at 1:30 pm
Registration starts at 1:00 pm
Welcome from Msgr. Thomas Martin
Walk Your Desired Distance



Donations from this event are used toward housing needs, utility shut-offs, food and miscellaneous needs for our "Friends in Need."

The Registration forms for walkers and information about donations are available on the St. Martin of Tours parish website at (www.stmartinvicksburg.org)

Sponsored by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Conference at St. Martin of Tours, Vicksburg, MI and St. Edward, Mendon, MI. • 269-649-1629 ext. 3

Deacon's Corner

As summer draws to a close, we begin to get ready for the beginning of the school year and other activities that will be getting underway. One of these is the OCIA program that begins in September each year. OCIA stands for the Order 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 in 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 4, 2026, next year.

The OCIA 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, where they are greeted by the Bishop. During Lent we continue to study the Sacraments and delve more thoroughly into Church teachings. It is also during this time that we discern at a deeper level the 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 us know. We typically meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:15 P.M. We will also accommodate those who are interested but cannot attend at that time. We plan on starting September 11. We hope to see you then!

Deacon Tom

ADULT EDUCATION

The Sunday Morning Adult Study Group will resume on Sept 14th. We meet in the east classroom from 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. We will start with The Mass, a 6 part video series by Bishop Robert Barron. In October we will start a scripture commentary on either the Book of Ezekiel or the Book of Sirach. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Lisa Irwin 269-598-2519 or Jane Guido 269-370-5657.

The next session of "The Rescue Project" will begin on Sunday, October 5th starting with dinner at 4:00 p.m., and each session runs until 7:00 p.m. It is a commitment of five weeks, ending on Sunday, November 2nd. Sign-up sheets will be out soon.

We are planning for the fall and spring programs. If you are interested in the education we offer to our St. Martin parish family, we would welcome you to join the Adult Education committee. Please leave your information with the parish office. We will add you for future meeting information.

The parish library has been reorganized by subject. See the information on page 4.

Lisa Irwin and Kathi Lovell

GRANDPARENTS

Some of us grandparents have expressed an interest in meeting for prayer, positive discussion and active planning to strengthen Catholic participation of OUR children / grandchildren. Our shared experiences as well as printed materials would be used to facilitate discussion.

Questions/comments/available times? Call or text Annette Janofski at 1-269-998-7604.

Possible times: T 7:00 p.m., W 9:45 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. or F 9:45 a.m.?

Once or twice monthly.



St. Martin's 2025 Rummage Sale Soars to New Heights!

Our beautiful parish has been referred to as a “Beacon of Light” which continues to attract new parishioners, community members, and visitors from near and far! If you were able to join us for the 2025 Rummage Sale, you probably experienced the outreach, the energy, the comradery, and the many blessings, connected to this yearly event; the team work, the friendships, the generosity of time and talents, and of course the “RUMMAGE” which all arrived in a timely manner. We gather in God’s House to do God’s work and all went according to His plan!

It takes a Parish Family to conduct an event of this magnitude. Each day prior to the sale date there were loads of donations dropped off and about 25 volunteers each day, working to get everything sorted and sale ready. On the sale days we had thirty volunteers ready to serve the hundreds of people who found their way to our parish doors. Maybe it was the Beacon, the signs, the advertisements, Face Book, or memories of treasures acquired at previous visits to our great sale that triggered the throngs of shoppers to join this unifying event. Whatever brought people out, we are thankful for everyone’s participation!

Each year we work to improve the sale while focusing on our “Win, Win, Win” strategy, contributing to our Church, Community and Environment. This year the Church received \$23,000. The sale provides the funds needed to maintain our church buildings, which we know can be costly, but the sale also provides many needed items to our community members and beyond. This year the organizations receiving items were Catholic Charities, Aleman Center, South County Community Services & Generous Hands, Rescued Treasures, Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, Jody’s Closet at Calvary Community Church, Burr Oak Missionary Church, Legacy Thrift Shop, Animal Rescue, Satellite Records, Vicksburg & Portage Libraries, Discovery Shop, Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Vincent de Paul, St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Shop, and Twelve Basket! And that’s not all. To protect our environment we recycled all cardboard, metal, and plastic. It is a big job, but working together we do make a difference! Thank YOU for being a part of this amazing event!

Deb Stafinski



Dear Parish Family,

May the Lord bless you and keep you and bring you peace! This Fall, we are looking forward to another year in youth ministry, with whatever the Lord has in store for us. Thank you for your continued support and prayers regarding forming our young people in the faith! We had a nice, relaxed summer with CHWC and a few other events, but now it’s time to move forward.

Recently, along with St. Monica and other youth ministry groups, we tried out our first region-wide “youth rally” to help kick off our different groups in the Kalamazoo area. This year we are also trying out some new ideas, including a couple of “Youth” Masses and family activities in Advent, in order to help strengthen our parish community and increase our presence at St. Martin.

If you know any 6-12 graders, please send them our way! We have various events on our schedule this year, such as our regular meetings (Youth Nights), service opportunities, and fun outings. On a different note, please don’t hesitate to contact me at the office on Wednesdays or via email if you have any questions about what we do as a ministry. Also, if you are so inclined, we are grateful for your support, whether that be in prayers or in other ways. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you are interested in what we do. I love being able to help this ministry by communicating with our parish family. As always, wishing you the best of God’s blessings, now and forever!

Michelle Klein



St. Vincent de Paul Conference

The volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul have been busy assisting 47 “friends in need” for the months of May, June and July of 2025. We have five volunteers that man the phone lines each day of the week to assist these “friends in need.” For our second quarter of 2025 we have dispersed \$8,763.36 in funds for rent/housing and utilities.

Does this charity work sound of interest to you? 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 your 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. This is our only fund raiser for the year. We need you to make our walk a success!

Thank you, Pat Cline, secretary, SVdP Vicksburg

HALOS by Kathi Lovell

Fifty plus ladies from St. Martin and St. Edward met at Main Street Pub in the middle of July. It was good to visit with our friends we miss in the summer. The HALOS group does not have monthly meetings during the summer months. We will be meeting again the third Tuesday of September at 1:00 p.m.

Special at the 2025 summer get-together was the celebration of Mercedes Beebe who turned 100 years old in August. The cake and birthday wishes were a surprise and Msgr. Martin joined us for the surprise. Mercedes is a member of St. Edward.

The next HALOS event is Purse Plus Bingo on Saturday, October 11th at 11:30 a.m. Tickets will be on sale in September for a \$12.00 donation. You can get your tickets from a HALOS member or after weekend Masses, September 20/21, 27/28, October 4/5.

All ladies of St. Martin are members of the HALOS.

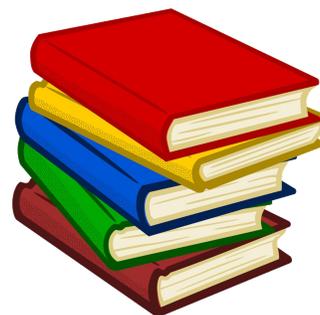


PARISH LIBRARY

The Parish Library in the Manning Center has books, videos and CDs for your spiritual growth and enjoyment.

We have a children's section too.

Stop by to browse the collection and choose a title to enrich your spiritual journey.



Religious Education – Fall 2025

Happy September! With the return of fall we are pleased to welcome back Religious Education as well. It is our hope that God’s grace will shower down upon all of our students, our families, and our catechists during this new year!

Along with our education program in which we invite and inspire all into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church, we are excited to yet again offer the Senior Brunch (Sunday January 25th) in which our youth have chance to connect with our more seasoned parishioners. Our catechists will be offered three separate times throughout the year to connect with each other and explore learning modules together, to grow in their own relationship with Christ.

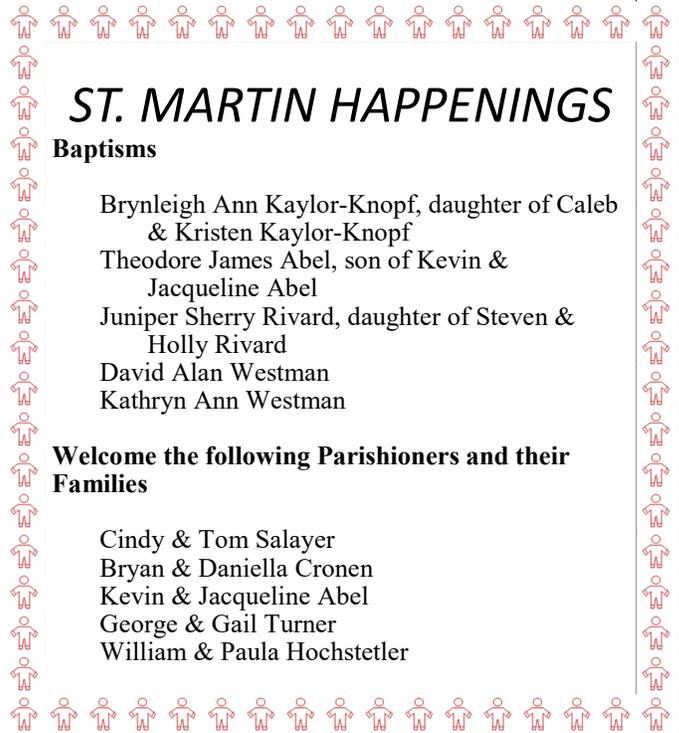
New for this year is the opportunity for each family to spend intentional time in the church to be with Jesus present in the tabernacle (more information at our Parent Meeting – please see below) and also the offering of an Advent Family Offering on Sunday December 14th in which we’ll have time to dig into the great season of Advent.

Thank you each so very much! I hope everyone has had a blessed summer! Our Parent/Student Meeting is Sunday September 14th in the church followed by our Meet the Teacher. Please keep our students, parents, families, catechists, and all of the good people of St. Martin of Tours in your prayers as we journey to meet our living Savior and King, Jesus Christ.

God bless you and yours! - Tim

Youth Ministry Fall Dates:

- Sept. 7 Parish Picnic: Hoop Contest & More
- Sept. 14 Youth Night
- Sept. 28 “Youth” Mass (11am), Youth Night
- Oct. 4 Community Service: Mulching Party & Meetup
- Oct. 12 Pilgrimage to Shrine of the Holy Relics
- Oct. 26 Youth Night: Pumpkin Carving
- Nov. 8 Community Service: Raking Leaves
- Nov. 16 Youth Night
- Nov. 30 Youth Night
- Dec. 6-7 Ladies Retreat: Cookies & Jesus, (Also, Tentative Young Men’s Retreat; whole group Christmas Caroling at Nursing Home (s))
- Dec. 14 Community Service: Advent Family Activities



ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS

Baptisms

- Brynleigh Ann Kaylor-Knopf, daughter of Caleb & Kristen Kaylor-Knopf
- Theodore James Abel, son of Kevin & Jacqueline Abel
- Juniper Sherry Rivard, daughter of Steven & Holly Rivard
- David Alan Westman
- Kathryn Ann Westman

Welcome the following Parishioners and their Families

- Cindy & Tom Salayer
- Bryan & Daniella Cronen
- Kevin & Jacqueline Abel
- George & Gail Turner
- William & Paula Hochstetler