



# ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

SPRING  
2026

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS / March/April/May 2026

### ADORATION

#### FIRST FRIDAY'S

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

March 6th until 6:00 p.m. then  
Stations of the Cross,  
April 3-Good Friday-no Adoration,  
May 1

#### ALL OTHER FRIDAY'S

@ 8:00-9:00 a.m. (except April 3)

### ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. EDWARD

First Wednesdays @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
March 4, April 1, May 6

### ADORATION & BENEDICTION AT ST. MARTIN

Wednesdays @ 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
March 18, April 15 & May 20

### ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

@ 6:00 p.m.- Manning Center  
TBD

### ADULT STUDY GROUP

@ 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m.  
March 8, 15, 22, 29  
April 12, 19, 26  
May 3, 10, 17

### BIBLE STUDY with Msgr. Martin

Most Mondays @ 6:30 p.m.  
March 2, 9, 16, 23 (No Bible Study  
March 30, Holy Week)  
April 6, 13, 20, 27  
May 1, 4, 11, 18 (No Bible study on  
May 25 Memorial Day)

### CARING HANDS

Second Monday @ 10:00 a.m.  
March 9, April 13, May 11

### CHRISM MASS at ST. AUGUSTINE CATHEDRAL

March 31 @ 2:00 p.m.

### COFFEE AND DONUTS

after both Sunday Masses  
March 22-Last one until the fall

### CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

Sunday, March 15  
@ 3:00-5:00 P.M.

### CONFIRMATION

Sunday at St. Augustine Cathedral  
May 26 @ 6:00 p.m.

### CONFIRMATION SPONSOR RETREAT

Sunday, April 19 - 11:00 Mass  
To 5:00 p.m.

### EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4 @ 9:30 a.m.

### FARMER'S BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Sunday March 29 at St. Edward after  
9:30 Mass  
April 12, May 10 at St. Martin

### FIRST CONFESSION

Saturday, March 21  
@ 10:00 a.m.

### FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

Saturday, April 11  
@ 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

### FIRST COMMUNION

Sunday, April 26 @ 11:00 a.m. Mass

### HALOS

Third Tuesday @ 1:00 p.m.  
March 17, April 21, May 19

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Sunday, May 31 @ 11:00 a.m.  
Mass and Brunch after Mass

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.  
March 24, April 28, May 26

### LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday @ 5:30 p.m. dinner  
March 10, 17, 24

See flyer & poster for details

### LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

Sunday, March 8 @ 3:00 p.m.  
See bulletin board for other parish  
opportunities

### LENTEN SOUP & BREAD SUPPER

Fridays during Lent following  
Stations of the Cross  
March 13, 20, 27

### MAY CROWNING

Sunday, April 26 after 11:00 a.m.  
Mass

### MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

Saturday, March 7, 8:30a.m.-3:30  
p.m.

### O.C.I.A.

Thursday @ 7:00 p. m.  
March 12, 19, 26 Easter vigil, April 4  
April 9, 16, 23, 30

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSINGS

April 3, Good Friday, May 25,  
Memorial Day

### PRAYING GRANDPARENTS

1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 9:45  
March 18, April 1 & 15, May 6 & 20

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.  
March 15, 22 (no class on 29)  
April (no class on 5), 12, 19  
April 26 Last Class

### ST. VINCENT de PAUL

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

March 9, April 13, May 11

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS & BENEDICTION

Fridays of Lent @ 6:00 p.m.  
March 13, 20, 27, April 3 no Stations

### SHARING JOE'S MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

First & Third Thursdays @ 5:45 a.m.  
March 19  
April 2, 16 (30th is fifth Thursday,  
Holy Hour-no breakfast)  
May 7, 21

### YOUTH EVENTS

See Youth Events On page 5

### ***EASTER SCHEDULE***

*Holy Thursday, April 2, @ 7:00 p.m.*

*Holy Saturday, April 4 @ 9:00 p.m.*

*Easter Sunday, April 5,*

*Palm Sunday, March 28/29, usual Mass times*

*Good Friday, April 3, @ Noon*

*No 4:00 p.m. Mass at St. Edward, No 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Martin  
usual Sunday Mass Times*

## Deacon's Corner

I watched a news story some time ago about an ophthalmologist who was living in South Sudan doing pro bono laser surgery. Much of his work was cataract removal but he also performed surgery which gave sight to people who were blinded and some who had never seen before. A number of things struck me about this story. First was the fact that he was giving his time and expertise to needy people for free.

He could have been making much more money and living a much richer lifestyle in the U.S. Second, was the sheer joy and thankfulness of the people he helped, and finally, how materially destitute the people were. I had been told by a grade school buddy of mine, who served as a missionary priest in South Sudan for over 50 years, how poor the people were. The majority of the people I saw had very few teeth and some of these seemed to be rotting. Most were severely underweight and looked generally

unhealthy.

When the story ended, the scene shifted back to the news desk and anchors. Boy, what a difference! They were nicely dressed, clean, and didn't look like they had missed many meals recently. It hit home how lucky we are in this country, at least materialistically. We could do as Jesus asked the rich man to do, and what many saints have done, give up all our possessions, and still, living on government welfare alone, we would have much more than the people of South Sudan.

During this time of Lent, we're called to fast, pray, and give alms. I believe the eye doctor is certainly praying and giving alms. May we do what we can to help others, not only this Lenten season, but every day of our life.

God bless, Deacon Tom



**\*\*\*Pray for our catechumens and candidates as they prepare to receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil on April 4th. Please consider being present to celebrate with them and welcome them.\*\*\***

## Adult Education

By Sue Maneikis

The Adult Education Committee will be hosting a series of talks on Lenten Tuesdays on the theme of "Why do Catholics do That?" The dates of the talks will be February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24. A dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. followed by the presentation of the talk at 6:15p.m. The topics will be: The Mass, Church Structure: From the Pope to the Laity, Customs and Sacramentals, Prayer Types and Forms, and The Sacraments.

A full schedule with speakers, topics and dates is on a bulletin insert, the poster in the narthex next to the Sign-up table, and on the St. Martin's website/Facebook page.

We think this will be an enriching series for all this Lent.

## Social Media

If you are able to follow our Facebook Page for St. Martin of Tours, you may have seen increased activity and engagement over the past year. This helps to meet our Parish goal based on the 2023 Parish Survey to further efforts towards communication, evangelism and parish outreach.

Our engagement has increased online 2,000% and it serves to strengthen the existing communication efforts we have always had with our bulletin, newsletters, the use of Flock Note for text alerts, and our signs in the Narthex for special events.

Last November a group from our Parishes traveled with Youth Ministry to hear and participate in the first ever Live Steaming event with kids at National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Pope Leo came on a giant screen LIVE from the Vatican and answered questions from the students in real time. Were the kids thrilled? Yes!

Is this useful? To many of us who have to be on our phones, it can be very convenient to add calendar reminders for Masses, Bible study, special events and holy days via digital outreach. The use of apps like Hallow and Formed are popular to drive daily prayer and reflection.

Social networking also allows us to share Vatican and United States Conference of Catholic Bishops timely news and messages related to our Catholicism in the context of current events, the liturgy, feast days and prayers.

It's important to note that technology is rapidly evolving and not all sites which claim to be Catholic in nature are actually trustworthy or appropriate as to church doctrine.

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## Sharing Joe – Men’s Prayer Breakfast

The calendar and our schedule fell in such a way that we only met once (January 15<sup>th</sup>) for our normal breakfast meeting, but it also afforded us the opportunity (January 29<sup>th</sup>) for a Holy Hour.

When we met on February 5<sup>th</sup> we reached a milestone, which is why this group was started. It felt like it had been so long since we met, and there was so much to catch up on, which led to conversations of men sharing real life experiences that included our joys, our struggles and our sorrows. As was stated when we first started the group, we may have an agenda but if a topic comes up that needs to be discussed at that moment, then we would set the agenda aside and that topic would take precedence, and that is exactly what we did.

In February we started preparing our hearts and minds for the Lenten Season with our prayer focusing on the Sorrowful Mysteries and their associated Fruits. We also started exploring the Apostolic Exhortation to Catholic Men written by the Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmstead, Bishop of Phoenix, as part of the Building the Domestic Church Series titled Into the Breach. We extended an invitation to men of the Parish to follow along with us, even if unable to attend our meeting, by supplying extra books in the Narthex (while supplies last), publishing our reading assignments in the bulletin and encouraging them to seek other men out to discuss the material and take up the challenge.

We are evolving, and we are experimenting with our format, with time dedicated to sharing at our tables but also time dedicated to sharing as a group. Our numbers have fallen off slightly since the first of the year, but we are still averaging between 13 and 15 men. Perhaps it’s due to the weather, perhaps it’s the time we meet or maybe this just isn’t for everyone, and that’s okay. But one thing is for certain, for those of us who have stayed, we have taken another step closer to becoming a band of brothers. All are welcome, come check us out, who knows you may find some relationships that will help you draw closer to Our Lord.

Your Brother in Christ, ED

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### *Continued from page 2*

Recently, Father Mike Schmitz from University of Minnesota student ministry and Ascension Press Bible in 365 Fame, has found his videos so leveraged that “fake” AI generated copies of his videos which look authentic have been circulating both soliciting for donations and spreading messages he would never endorse. He had to quickly broadcast counter messages to educate and tell his followers “that’s not from me, even though it appears to be from me!”

You may view his video addressing this here:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DSTKgfjBYD/?igsh=MW5qbXh6bWwxbHVvaw==>

Please know that when we share something to our digital platform it has been vetted as a genuine Catholic Source and all effort is made to credit every source used. We returned to live-streaming Masses in rotation with St. Edward the Confessor in Mendon each week. This practice began in 2020 when a camera was installed to allow for Mass to be broadcast during Covid. When you are unable to attend Mass in person due to illness or travel, it’s a wonderful thing to be able to tune in and hear Monsignor and our Deacons give the Mass and Homily and to participate in this remote way. It also affords some who have had their loved one’s Funeral Mass here to be connected to those who cannot attend in person via a broadcast of the Funeral. These happen on a case by case basis, upon request.

May God’s grace and peace connect us as a parish family as we navigate this age of technology and find ways for it to strengthen our love for Christ in positive ways, together!

Audrey Seilheimer

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**St. Vincent de Paul - Pat Cline**

St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) is full of Gratitude!

Yes, SVdP is full of gratitude!! At the 11:00 Mass on January 11, 2026 Msgr. Tom commissioned two new members, Jim Gaugier and Regina Petoskey. All other members renewed their commitment to SVdP for another year. A luncheon reception was enjoyed by all with catering by Mary Evelyn Wills. (Our very own SVdP chef extraordinaire)!

Our monthly numbers for our Friends in Need (FINs) are as follows:

<u>Month</u>	<u>FIN's Served</u>	<u>Rent</u>	<u>Utilities</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total</u>
November	31	\$3,801	\$1,985	\$100	\$5,886
December	16	\$1,750	\$874	\$50	\$2,674
January	10	\$900	\$106	\$150	\$1,356

We are so grateful for generous donations from an anonymous donor and from our Knights of Columbus. Thank you so much! We had very heavy needs in the months of October and November that we were able to meet for our Friends in Need due to your generosity!!

We man phone lines all seven days of the week by volunteers who assist with rent and utility needs. Will you consider joining us?

**"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the suffering and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the Spirit of God." St. Vincent de Paul**

**Religious Education 2026**

**Dear Parish Family!**

We have less than two months of Religious Education left until we hit summer and there is a lot going on between now and then! I am going to ask for your prayers please for our kids, families, and catechists as we hit this home stretch, which has and will include:

**-Our Catechists** are diving into their final Professional Development for this school year. During this year we have tackled topics such as "Deposit of Faith: Introduction to the Catechism" and "Prayer: Introduction to the Spiritual Life of the Catechist".

**-Holy Week** and the Easter Triduum takes place during spring break. Don't forget the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday!

**-Retreats** for both our First Communion and Confirmation (with their Sponsors) kids will be happening during April.

**-The last class** day for Religious Education is Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, which also has First Communion and May Crowning happening at the 11:00 am Mass.

**-And a bit beyond the above**, Confirmation (which will be at St. Augustine Cathedral) is Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

Thank you very much for your witness to a lived Catholicism that speaks so well to the presence of Jesus Christ that you offer to all in our parish and community... especially to all of the dear children.

Thank you each and God bless,

Tim

**ANYTHING GOES – 2026, Tim Baker**

The Monsignor Martin Parish Hall was transformed into a beautiful Valentine for the 35th Anything Goes party on Saturday, February 14. Over 150 people enjoyed Hors d'oeuvres of Chicken Wings, Meat & Cheese, & Vegetable Trays. The Dinner included Beef & Noodles, Chicken & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Corn, and Rolls & Butter. Doug's Bar was a huge hit, as various kinds of beer and wine were served, along with soft drinks, water, and a newbie to the menu, "Love Potion #9"!

Our very own DJ, Joe DeBiak was cranking out the tunes, which also included some very good karaoke. This year, an old tradition was brought back, and that was the crowning of a King & Queen. A little different as in the past, four ladies' and four men's names were drawn. They each picked a Paczki, and inside one of them was a Jesus statue. Whoever got that, was the King and Queen for the night. This year's Queen is Mary Curtis, and the King is Larry Atkinson. They both enjoyed a royal dance and were presented with a box of chocolates.

After this, a very competitive game of "Bakerdy" (think Jeopardy), with the Cleansed team made up of Monsignor Martin, Father Bob Creagan, Vicki Cessna, and Tim McNamara defeated a competitive Uncleansed team 360-80! The Uncleansed team: Dan Schener, Tom Salayer, Jim Rasmussen, Sarah Wisser. A Big Hit this year was our Photo Booth! Our professional photographer, Audrey Seilheimer, did an outstanding job of preparing a Valentine background. 5X7 photos were made available. Be sure to pick yours up in the narthex.

After this everyone enjoyed dancing and listening to music, which wrapped up around 10:30. It was a great night for our parish members and friends. Next year's party will be on Saturday February 6, 2027.

Your host Tim Baker would like to thank his team of "Minions" for their hard work and creativity in making this year's event a success. Those parishioners are: John & Anne Creek, Lisa Irwin, Ed & Beth Lambrix, Kathi Lovell, Dave & Sue Maneikis, Tim McNamara, Regina Petoskey, Audrey & Mike Seilheimer, Doug & Deb Stafinski, Joe Stockoski, Colleen Takacs, and Ron and Anita Wisser.



**On Friday, March 6, 2026, St. Martin was honored to have Bishop Lohse and Fr. Garzon celebrate Mass with Msgr. Tom and Dcn. Dave. Jamin Herold assisted.**



**YOUTH MINISTRY EVENTS**

- March 8 Youth Night 5-7:30 p.m.
- March 15 3:00-5:00p.m. Work with the Knights of Columbus
- March 28 Church Cleaning with the HALOS
- April 4 Easter Egg Hunt
- April 19 Fun Outing
- May 3 Youth Night 5-7p.m.
- May 17 Last Youth Night of the year 5-7p.m.
- May 31 High School Graduation Mass 11:00a.m.

**HALOS**

The HALOS have been busy providing meatless soup and bread after Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings.

In March we plan to clean the church with our Youth Group. A few of us are taking the Virtus training to comply with the Diocesan guidelines.

Lent is a busy time. We wish our parish family a very Blessed Easter!