



# ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

## Fall 2016

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 2016

### ADORATION

#### FIRST FRIDAYS

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

September 2, October 7, November 4

#### ALL OTHER FRIDAYS

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

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

@ 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

September 12, 19, 26  
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 30  
November 6, 13, 20, 26

### ADULT STUDY GROUP (Wednesdays)

@ TBA

September 21, 28  
October 5, 12, 19, 26  
November 2, 9, 16

### ADULT STUDY GROUP (Sundays)

@ TBA

September 18, 25  
October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
November 6, 13, 20

### BIBLE STUDY WITH MSGR. MARTIN

@ 6:30 p.m.

September 12, 19, 26  
October 3, 10, 17, 24  
November 7, 14, 21, 28

### CHOIR PRACTICE

@ 6:30 p.m.

September 6, 13, 20, 27  
October 4, 11, 18, 25  
November 8, 15, 22, 29

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

September 5

November 24, 25

### FARMER'S BREAKFAST

@ 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

September 18, October 9,  
November 13 (Tentative)

### HALOS

@ 7:00 p.m.

September 20, October 18,  
November 15

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

@ 7:00 p.m.

September 13, 27  
October 4, 18  
November 8, 22

### MEN'S GROUP

@ 7:30 a.m.

September 10, 17, 24  
October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
November 5, 12, 19, 26

### MOMS GROUP

@ 10:00 a.m.

September 8, 15, 22, 29  
October 6, 13, 20, 27  
November 3, 10, 17

### PACK THE HOUSE DINNER

@ 5:30 p.m.

October 5 & November 2

### PACK THE HOUSE SPEAKER

@ 6:30 p.m.

October 5 & November 2

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

@ 1:00 p.m.

October 16,  
(Open to all parishioners)

### PARISH PICNIC

@ 12:30 p.m.

September 11

### PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

@ 10:00 a.m. in Youth Center

September 12, October 10,  
November 14

### R.C.I.A

To Be Determined

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Tentatively September 18 and 21  
Registration in late August / Early  
September

### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS FESTIVAL

@ After 6:00 p.m. Mass

November 12

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

@ 7:00 p.m.

September 12, 26  
October 10, 24  
November 14, 28



## Msgr. Thomas Martin, J.V., J.S.D. Welcome Back!

From 1995 to 1999 Fr. Martin served St. Martin of Tours as Parochial Vicar. From 1999 to 2004 Fr. Martin served St. Martin of Tours as Pastor.

On July 1, 2016, Msgr. Martin returned to St. Martin of Tours as our Pastor. He was greeted by many old friends and many new faces. So nice to have you back Msgr. Martin!



**Potluck, bring a dish to pass  
Sunday, September 11th  
after the 11:30 a.m. Mass**

Deacon's  
Corner

As we enter the end of summer, I think about how busy it was and how things should settle into more of a schedule in the coming months. However, I know I'll find that, even though there is more of a routine, life is still VERY busy. As we get carried away in a new set of activities, it's so easy to make these things our life's priority and let our relationship with God take a back seat. This can be especially true of our prayer life. Busy and hectic times are usually when we need to pray the most.

We know that prayer is simply talking with God. It's always good to talk to a friend when we have troubles and need some peace or slowing of our lives. What better friend to talk to than Jesus? He *really is* the best friend we have, even though we don't always take the time to realize it. We all want to keep an active line of communication with our God, but

it's often difficult with today's hectic, fast-paced lives. It's hard to *make the time*.

There are many ways we can spend a little time with God, such as quiet reading – some pleasure reading with God - or a quick stop in church just to say hi to Jesus. One way I try to take time is when I'm driving. I often turn off the radio during my commute. When I do, I find I don't miss it at all! Who can figure? Another way for time with God is morning and evening prayer. Maybe it was drilled into me at an early age, or maybe I figure that at my age I need the exercise, but I still get on my knees next to the bed every morning and evening, just to say good morning and good night ... and thanks for everything. It gives me peace, happiness, and a feeling of closeness to God. That's a good thing! In the months ahead, I hope we can all take some time to kick back and spend some quiet time with God.

God Bless!

Deacon Tom



By Fred Maxa

Welcome back, Msgr. Tom Martin! Did you know Msgr. Martin was our first Chaplain and is a member of the 4th degree?

Our Council received the Knights Star Council Award for achieving membership goals & various activities for the past year. This award is to all for their hard work.

Welcome to our newest Brother Knights: John Klein and Marsellis Rivard. We are glad to have you. The following are Knights of the Month for the past three months: Bobby Burris, Matthew Montgomery and Frank Penar. Families of the month were Ed and Amanda Klein, Scott and Pat Cline and Pat and Kathy Hammer. Fred Maxa was awarded Knight of the Year. Congratulations to all!



Council Officers were installed for the coming fiscal year in July. Serve well, brothers.

A grand time was had by all who attended our council picnic on Sunday, July 31st at Tom and Vickie Kelley's home. Thank you for hosting us! The youngsters really enjoyed the water, boat rides, and banging at the pinata filled with goodies. We will be starting our monthly breakfasts on September 18th. Brother Knights, try to volunteer for at least one breakfast.

Last but not least, pray for our departed brothers, loved ones and all who are ill, along with our spiritual leaders.

## HALOS-SMCCW

The ladies had a nice picnic and time visiting at Vicki Kelley's home on Portage Lake. Thank you to Vicki for hosting. We had a group of 18 ladies and pot luck dishes from our good cooks. It is so fun to see everyone and catch up on summer activities.

Thank you to those who stayed to clean the kitchen on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Toni Dibble set the ovens on the stoves to auto clean so they were ready to be washed. Kathy Laske unloaded the freezer and shut it off to defrost so it could be washed and put back together. The refrigerators and pantry were cleaned. Those are always a big job. Let's all do our best to keep things cleaned and organized when using the kitchen for our many activities.



Kris Bryant, Devon Swiat and Connie Zablocki



The Prayer Shawl group is going strong. Please remember to request a shawl for a loved one in need. I can attest firsthand how much comfort it brings. I took mine to the hospital for back surgery and had it with me to cuddle and bring comfort. It is a wonderful reminder of those praying for you. In my case, it was healing of body. It could also be healing of mind.

If you are looking for a way to get to know the ladies of your parish, please join us for a fun event or our business meetings which are the third Tuesday of each month September through May at 7:00 p.m. Our business meetings usually last only one hour.

Kathi Lovell, President

## Until We Meet Again Fr. Chris

On Sunday, June 26, 2016, a crowd of around 250 parishioners gathered to bid Fr. Chris blessings on his new assignment and show him our appreciation for the time he spent at St. Martin of Tours. It was a pot luck after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

The parish included several large options prepared with the pork that Fr. Chris and Lenny Jaworski bid on at the 4H fair each year and donated to the church. We are so thankful by the many good meals we enjoyed.

The local chapter of the Knights of Columbus presented a plaque to Fr. Chris as a thank you for being their chapter chaplain.

We send Fr. Chris off with many prayers for his new assignment and appreciation for the time and spiritual leadership he shared with us at St. Martin of Tours.



## Rummage Sale 2016

was the best thus far, because of all the items so generously donated, the workers (at least 48) who worked tirelessly to set up, sort, price, and straighten all 3 days of the sale, and the shoppers who came from far and wide to get some REALLY great deals!! We are looking for creative comments and suggestions to take to our 2017 Sale, so please call or leave a note at the parish office, or contact one of the committee members, who include Johe Schwieterman, Janet Kosacek, Sue Maneikis, Deb Stafinski, Barb and Nick Ostroski, or Deena Anderson. Thanks!



## Adult Education Committee

By Sue Maneikis

Fall Greetings everyone! Our first Pack the House for the season will be on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Our featured speaker will be Mr. Paul Stankewitz from the Michigan Catholic Conference who will be speaking about Faithful Citizenship which is a timely topic for this election year. As always, our dinner will begin at 5:30pm followed by our speaker at 6:30pm. Other topics for the Pack the House season include the Saints or more specifically St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta for November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our speaker is not firm as yet. No Pack the House is planned for December this year. In January, we will have a later than usual Pack the House on January 18<sup>th</sup> featuring Msgr. Martin speaking on the Jewish roots of our Catholic faith. We will skip over February into March when Msgr. Martin will present his Lenten Lecture series on Wednesdays beginning on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Sunday Adult Study Group will be using the book, *Coming Soon: Unlocking the Book of Revelation and Applying Its' Lessons Today* by Michael Barber for their weekly discussions between the Sunday Masses. They will meet in the East Classroom beginning in September. We need a facilitator and a book or topic for discussion for our Wednesday Evening Adult Study Group at this time.

The Rite of Christian Initiation classes for anyone who is interested in joining the faith; those who may need to complete their Initiation process with the Sacraments of First Eucharist or Confirmation; or those who may wish to enrich their Catholic faith will also begin in September.

Watch for more information about each of the offerings mentioned above in future parish bulletins, or contact the parish office at 269-649-1629.

## St. Vincent de Paul

By Lisa Irwin

Every summer we volunteer at the Aleman Center, a diocesan ministry to migrant workers that is housed at Immaculate Conception Parish in Hartford. We work on Tuesday nights from 6:30- 8:30pm, sorting clothes and household items like sheets and towels, and helping with the distribution of food. Depending on the weather and available work, we might have two families or twenty-five in that two hour period. Many of the migrants speak English, and there is usually an interpreter for those who don't. That is helpful because most of us are not fluent in Spanish!

We continue to serve those who contact us through the phone line: 649-1629 x70. Some weeks are pretty slow, and other weeks we have a lot of calls. Phone calls are answered by one of our members daily. We really strive to contact the person within twenty-four hours, although sometimes we play phone tag for a while. If you know of someone who needs assistance, whether a member of our parish or of the community, please give them the phone number and encourage them to contact us. We stand ready to serve because of your generous monetary donations. Requests are predominantly for utility shut-offs or housing. Occasionally we give a gas card to someone who needs to get to a doctor appointment or work. We refer people to South County Community Services for food, although on the weekends we sometimes respond to an emergency food request.

Please pray for us as we reach out to those in need in our area, offering a listening ear, a caring heart, and the love and mercy of God.

## UPDATE: Nursing Home Project

By Deena Anderson

I just wanted to thank all of you who donated Rosaries, medals, prayer cards and other Sacramentals. We have thus far sent 16 pounds of religious articles to Theresa, our contact in Monroe, LA. Theresa sent a second "Thank You" note, which reads:

*"Please let everyone who contributed to our Nursing Home Project know how much we appreciate everything that was collected and sent. We have so many things going on this summer that all the articles you sent will be distributed. All of you will certainly be blessed for your kindness. Peace in Christ --- Theresa M. Curry"*

In a phone call, Theresa told me their St. Vincent de Paul organization holds an auction in the fall, and the proceeds go to the pharmacy to pay for prescriptions for the poor. Everything that is not used in the schools, the prison ministry, or during parish retreats is given to the auction. They will certainly benefit from the donations from our generous St. Martin parishioners!

## Religious Education

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Ellen Chenier and I am honored to take on the position of DRE at St. Martin. I have served as DRE/YM secretary for the past several months and I am very excited to be able to serve the wonderful families of St. Martin in this new role. My husband Dan and I live in Schoolcraft with our four children and have been parishioners at St. Martin since 2011. I am also newly employed as a preschool aide at St. Augustine Cathedral School with whom I will share my time. I look forward to working with all of you as we grow in faith together.

Registration for religious education classes will begin in Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> with classes beginning on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. We are still in need of a few catechists and co-catechists! Please let me know if you are willing to share your gifts with our youth. You can e-mail me at [dre@stmartinvicksburg.org](mailto:dre@stmartinvicksburg.org).

## St. Martin Youth Group

By Kathy Laske

Youth Group continued through the summer months and seemed to be enjoyed by the youth who attended. In July we had to say goodbye to Kathy Williams and Cecelia Molina, a sad send off. The youth and parents wished them many blessings and thanks for all their time with them. August proved to be a wet month which caused a flood in the youth basement area, The group moved to the Laske's pool for an unexpected fun night of swimming, sloppy joes and night prayer on their patio.

With the leaving of Kathy Williams, our new CYM is Kathy Laske. She has been working along-side Kathy Williams for the past 3 years and has been greatly welcomed by all the Youth. CHWC fundraisers are underway. Our donut/hotdog stand fundraiser was held during the Rummage sale and currently they are collecting receipts from Family Fare, D&W fresh Market and other SuperNash stores. Please stop by the Youth table for participating stores and Spread the word to all family and friends. Place receipts in the envelope provided on the youth table in the narthex. Consider joining us each Sunday evening, 5 -8 p.m. in the Youth Center. Grades 6-12 are encouraged to spend time to grow in faith with their catholic peers.

## Sister Camp 2016

By Kathy Laske

Sister Camp 2016 was all about God's mercy. It was held during the week of June 13th this summer. For a third year in a row St. Martins was fortunate to receive members from the Dominican Sisters of Mary of the Eucharist Community located in Ann Arbor Michigan.. This year we welcomed Sr. Marie Bernadette and Sr. Savanna We had a total of seventy students. Many St. Martin of Tours volunteers along with Fr. Chris, newly Ordained Rev. Jose Haro, Deacons Jeff Hanley & Max Mightingale and Seminarians Jake Thomas, Biak Sang, and Matthew Montgomery also spent time interacting with the students.



## A Rookie's View

By Simon Swager

Everybody was talking about how crazy awesome it was going to be, but I didn't really understand until I actually got on the bus. Everyone slept for the first few hours, and I didn't really talk to anyone I didn't know until we got to New York where we spent the first night. We played games and I got to know some of the people with our group that I didn't know already. Grace Pierucci loved the bus, and was so enthusiastic about it. She would have spent the night on it if she could!

When we got to the host school in Groton, Massachusetts, it was huge, and I didn't know where anything was. I thought it would be like a regular high school, but it was more like a castle. We were all happy just to get off the bus! The camp staff was crazy happy to be there! We took care of our stuff and started to meet some of the other campers. We played frisbee with some people, and I met some people from Wisconsin and we hung out the whole week. Mass was good that night. After that I met my work group (Team 10) and they were pretty cool. They were from all over: Connecticut, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and Maryland...and me. We spent the week at 3 different work sites. We finished the first one in 2 days and really enjoyed getting to know our resident, Barbara. We painted her shed, weeded a LOT, and played with her pet bird, Punkin. I felt sick during the first 2 -3 days with a bad cough and sore throat, but thanks to all the prayers, I felt better and could enjoy abundantly the time I had left.

Our next worksite, we primed and painted the entire exterior of the house. She made us treats: pineapple upside-down cookies. They were really good! That night, I really saw God at the Four Corners experience. This was an opportunity to get guidance on your relationship with God, through reconciliation, and praying with the adult volunteers. I cried my eyes out. Afterwards I was talking to other people, and they found it really moving as well, but not everyone cried.

The next site for Team 10 was a beautiful, landscaped, hand-built house that belonged to a Swiss gentleman who has

overcome being paralyzed in half of his body from a stroke. Almost everything in his home was hand-made. He has difficulty walking, but he LOVES his pond and his property, and his son was coming to visit. Team 1 (Lennon Swager's group) had worked at this site all week, and we joined them for the last work day, to remove weeds and shrubs and small trees so he could have a better view of the pond. Emil, the Swiss gentleman, came to the program the last evening where he shared with the whole camp and other residents about the work that we did for him and how blessed he felt to have the help.

That night we left for Boston. We had to say goodbye to our groups which was hard, since we'd gotten to know each other really well over the last week. Thankfully, through social media, we can keep tabs on each other! We spent the night on Father Joe's floor at a church near Boston. We got up early the next morning and spent the day exploring Boston, Massachusetts. I went in a small group of newly-found friends from our parish group and explored some American Historical sites.

I'd like to thank all the people that donated money or prayers, because without them, none of this trip would have been able to happen. I gained some valuable social skills, muscles from the heavy lifting, and a strengthened prayer life. Some people don't get to experience this in their lives, but I am very grateful to have people willing to support me through all of my experiences.

