



ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

Summer
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 / JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2016

ADORATION

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

June 3, 10, 17, 24

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

August 5, 12, 19, 26

ADULT STUDY GROUP

Resumes in the Fall

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP

Check with Kathy Williams, DRE

CHOIR PRACTICE

@ 6:30 p.m.

June 7, 14, 21, 28

July 5, 12, 19, 26

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

July 4

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR

@ 9:30 a.m.

June 8, 22

July 13, 27

August 10, 24

FARMER'S BREAKFAST

Resumes in September

HALOS

No Meetings in the Summer

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

@ 7:00 p.m.

June 14, 28

July 12, 26

August 9, 3

MEN'S GROUP

@ 7:30 a.m.

June 4, 11, 18, 25

July 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

August 6, 13, 20, 27

MOMS GROUP

Does NOT meet in the Summer

PACK THE HOUSE DINNER

Resumes in the Fall

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

@ 12:30 p.m.

Third Sunday of each month

Tentative during the Summer months

Check bulletin

(Open to all parishioners)

PARISH PICNIC

September 11

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

@10:00 a.m.

June 13, July 11, August 8

R.C.I.A

Classes resume in the Fall

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

@11:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.

July 15

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES & ADULT STUDY

Classes resume in the Fall

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Classes resume in the Fall

RUMMAGE SALE SET UP

August 14 between & after Masses

RUMMAGE SALE COLLECTION

August 15-20

RUMMAGE SALE

August 25-27

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

@ 7:00 p.m.

June 13, 27

July 11, 25

August 8, 22

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL/ SISTER CAMP

@9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

June 13-17

June 7, 2016

Dear Friends,

Thank you for all of your prayers and support during these past few weeks following the death of my mom. The outpouring of love this parish has shown to me is overwhelmingly beautiful. I'm not surprised by this because St. Martin's is an awesome parish. It will be a sorrowful transition as I make my way to the Battle Creek parishes.

Thank you for these past 6 years. Thank you for welcoming me as your priest. You helped me in so many ways to grow into the priesthood. I will never forget the people of St. Martin's. Msgr. Martin once told me that this parish is a place of holiness, a place where the Divine Will is followed, and a place where people find Divine Mercy. He was right. As I leave I only have one bit of advice, with a spiritual punch in the arm, "Keep your eyes on Jesus."

Please pray for me as I continue to pray for you.

Peace and all good,
Fr. Christopher J. Ankley

ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS

Baptisms

Alec Kitzmiller, son of Andrew and Lisa Kitzmiller- April 17
Elaine Stimson, daughter of Jason and Kaitlyn Stimson - April 17
Gabriel Wysocki, son of Adam and Nicole Wysocki - May 8

Adults baptized at the Easter Vigil, March 26, 2016.
 Welcome to the Catholic Faith!

| | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Scott Block | Tammi Brown | Carol Brunett | Brian Evans |
| Cindy Hetrick | Daniel Kalee | Jack Kelley | Jennifer McKillop |
| Scott Sell | Deborah Stacey | Carol Whitfield | |

Marriages

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Tammi Brown whose marriage was blessed at the Easter Vigil

Happy 50th Anniversary

Dave and Janet Kosacek - June 18, 2016

Welcome the following Parishioners and their Families

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin (Tonya) Howden

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: kmlv2003@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, Leandro Filiputti, Layout Editor and Kathi Lovell, Editor

Deacon's Corner

We are back in Ordinary Time. Pentecost marks the end of the Easter season and what a wonderful Paschal-tide it has been! At Easter we had 10 people enter the Church here at St. Martins and St. Edwards, the largest number in recent memory. During the Easter season we also celebrated First Communion and Confirmation. It has been a time of new beginnings and a time of great joy!

But what is actually meant by Ordinary Time? Of course, it is the period in the liturgical calendar outside of the major seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. But the term "ordinary" isn't meant to imply that this period is unimportant. Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" because the weeks are numbered. This comes from the Latin word "ordinalis" which refers to numbers in a series. Ordinary Time is the ordered life of the

Church. We are neither feasting, as in Christmas and Easter; nor are we in strict penance, as in Advent and Lent. Rather we are in a period of watchfulness and expectation of the second coming of Christ.

Ordinary Time (as stated on the USCCB website) is a time for growth and maturation, a time in which the mystery of Christ is called to penetrate ever more deeply into history until all things are finally caught up in Christ. The goal toward which all of history is directed is represented by the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

So with that in mind, let's take this time to grow closer to the Lord and deepen our spiritual lives. Let's deepen our prayer life, read the Scriptures, unite more deeply with the Lord in the Eucharist, and become more holy.

God bless you,
Deacon Dave



By Fred Maxa

A heartfelt welcome to the new members of our Council; Scott Block and wife Amy, Leland Greymountain and wife Robin, Ken Koole and wife Roxanne and Don Chenier and wife Ellen.

Officer elections will be held soon. If any Brother Knight is interested in running for an office or serving on a committee, please contact Grand Knight Gary Klein. Dates and installation will be announced at a later date.

We are having a taco booth at the Vicksburg Old Car Festival. The date is June 11th. We will need 25 volunteers to help set-up, serve in the booth and to clean up.

The annual Council family picnic will be in August. The date has not been determined at the time of this newsletter. It will be posted in the bulletin.

A donation was made to the district Knights of Columbus to purchase an ultrasound machine. Nationally the Knights have gotten behind the initiative to provide ultrasounds to approved pregnancy centers. Additional donations were given to the St. Martin Youth Group, Boy Scouts, St. Vincent DePaul and the HALOS. Thank you to parishioners and friends for your support of our events and your donations.

Congratulations to Devin Debiak, son of Joe and Amy Debiak, who made it to the finals in our recent Knight sponsored free throw contest. The championship in the girls group was awarded to Kelsey Deikman.

The following Knights were recognized as Knights of the Month: Tom Klein, Deacon Dave Guido and Mike Bryant. The following families were recognized as Knight Families of the Month: Matt and Julie Mayer, Walt and Connie Zablocki and Joe and Stephanie Klein. Last but not least, Fred Maxa was recognized as Knight of the Year! The Council extends sincere appreciation for all that our Knights and families contribute.

Please pray for our departed Brother Knights, those who are ill, all of our parishioners and the troops serving in the US military. God Bless!

HALOS-SMCCW

What a busy time of the year for St. Martin. The ladies managed to add their annual fashion show to the mix, and what a show it was. The biggest crowd yet! The tables and hall were beautiful and the lunch was great. We would like to thank all the ladies that helped achieve this success. A special thank you to Lynn Timko for contributing to the table decorations that were raffled off at the end of the show. She quilted lamp shades and coasters to fit on wine glasses. The decorating ladies, chaired by Kris Bryant and Patt Brumleve, added spring flower rings and flicker lights. I believe fun was had by all that attended. If you missed this year, we hope to see you at the next one.

The prayer shawl group is discussing continuing to meet in the summer. Most activities cease in the summertime, but we enjoy the time we spend together. The details will be announced in the bulletin when a time schedule is decided. In addition, we have another bin of shawls ready for Fr. Chris to bless. If you have someone who is in need of comfort and our prayers, please let the office know. They will arrange for a shawl to be delivered. Prayers can be for healing or comfort in time of crisis. We all have life events that could use some comfort!

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 7:00 p.m. May will be the last meeting until we resume in September. Tradition is we have a summer picnic. Those plans will be discussed at the May meeting and posted later. All ladies are welcome to come to the picnic.

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



Kathy Laske, Arlea Swager, Marion Vogler, Jamie Corder, Julie Maher, Maia Fleck, Amy Snow and Rachel Grosso, manager from the Dress Barn



RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS NEEDED

Our annual rummage sale is scheduled for late August. This year we need your time and talents more than ever! **URGENT!** We need one or two volunteer coordinators to organize the sale and work with our very experienced rummage sale volunteer team. This is our one and only fund-raiser and the proceeds go toward paying off our building loan debt. Please know that you will find lots of support for your efforts, both from our great rummage sale team and from the staff of St. Martin's. If you are interested and/or need more information, please call Sue at the Parish Office; 269.649.1629. Volunteers are needed for all phases of the sale. Right now, our main concern is to find one or two coordinators, but if you can share your time and talents in any way, know that your help will be greatly appreciated!

Adult Education Committee

Sue Maneikis

We had a successful Pack the House season! Thank you to all who worked in the kitchen to prepare the Pack the House dinners, to our Emcees who introduced the speakers, to Deacon Dave and Jane Guido who set up tables and chairs, to all of our parishioners who attended the events and to anyone I have missed.

Our R.C.I.A. class was one of the larger ones in recent years with the following people who were welcomed into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil: Scott Block, Tammi Brown, Carol Brunett, Brian Evans, Cindy Hetrick, Daniel Kalee, Jack Kelley, Jennifer McKillop, Scott Sell, Deborah Stacey and Carol Whitfield. May God abundantly bless all of you! The R.C.I.A. class continues until the end of May with the Oremus class on prayer. Our adult study groups have wrapped up their discussions for the school year. The Adult Education committee will be brainstorming ideas for the 2016-2017 education season. If you have ideas to share for adult study groups and/or Pack the House, please feel free to call Sue in the parish office for meeting details. We always welcome new members!

St. Vincent de Paul

By Lisa Irwin

Even though the winter was relatively mild, we helped a lot of people with heating bills. There are two programs that we can access that enable us to provide more assistance to our friends in need. The Diocesan Heating Assistance Program provided \$2,413.15 in assistance to ten families. The Michigan Agency for Energy grant program has just closed for this heating season. This program enables us to address large shut-off bills and provided \$3,140.60 in assistance to 7 families. Participating in both of these programs allows us to stretch our local funds (your donations) further. Actually, your donations provide funds for the Diocesan Heating Assistance Program through the annual Diocesan Heating Assistance second collection that is held in November. Your generosity really does help people in many ways. The example above, heating, is only one!

As summer approaches we are preparing to volunteer once again on Tuesday nights at the Aleman Center, which is located on the grounds of Immaculate Conception Parish in Hartford. This Diocesan program provides assistance to the migrants families that travel to Michigan to work in the fields. From asparagus season through apples, over 30,000 people travel to our little corner of Michigan to work. Our work at the Aleman Center consists of sorting donations of clothing, bedding, towels, and household items. We also help in the food pantry. We would like to invite any interested parishioner to join us for one of more Tuesday evenings from June through August. We leave from St. Martin's about 5:30pm, work at Aleman from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. and arrive back at the parish about 9:30. Sometimes there is an ice cream stop on the way home. You don't need to speak Spanish, although it is a great place to practice if you do, and your language skills will be highly valued by the volunteers! If you are interested contact Lisa Irwin or Liz Polasek.

Thank you for the financial sacrifices you make to enable us to reach out to those in need in our community. In this Year of Mercy may we continue to bring God's grace and mercy to those we meet.

Religious Articles Project

By Deena Anderson

While reading the Classified Ads in Our Sunday Visitor, I came across the following: URGENT NEED: for Rosaries, Medals, Holy Cards & other sacramentals for Nursing Home Projects. This was followed by an address in Louisiana.

I decided to collect a few of my unused religious articles and send them to the address. What followed pleasantly surprised me! I received a "Thank You" letter from the coordinator of the Nursing Home Project, thanking me for my contribution, detailing the possible use of the items, and suggesting I tell my family and friends about their collection and distribution of religious items.

With Fr. Chris' permission, I introduced this idea to the Parish Council, and have a slightly different idea of how to disperse any collected items. Suggestions ranged from sending prayer cards to our own diocesan prison ministries to finding local organizations who might distribute such items.

This is where you, our parishioners, become involved.

1. Please donate any unused rosaries, medals, holy cards or other religious items to the basket in the Narthex.
2. Contact me with names of local individuals or organizations who might want such items to distribute to local schools, prisons, nursing homes and/or hospitals. Easiest way to contact me is by phone (269) 303-8016 or email deena.christine@yahoo.com. Or contact the parish office.

To sum up this article – I have volunteered to collect any of the above items and distribute them. Now I need to know to whom they should go. Thanks in advance for any items that you wish to donate.

Spiritual Development

By Deena Anderson



Because of the generosity of St. Martin parishioners and guests on Mother's Day, the Caring Network will

receive \$281.00 as a result of the Rose Sale. Please thank Kris Bryant, who ordered the roses, and cut off ALL the thorns before she delivered them to the church! We would also like to recognize Ashley Kettenbeil, Sharon and Knute Bee, Lorna Atkinson, Nancy Eicholtz, Debbie Spacey, Kathy, Jessi, and Anessa Laske, and Kathy Williams who helped distribute the roses.

Congratulations to all of those from our parish who received the Sacrament of Confirmation



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|------------------|-----------------|
| Charles Brunett | Rebecca Crawley |
| Brian Evans | Colin Evans |
| DJ Kalee | Jacklyn Kelly |
| CJ Laske | Angie Loriso |
| Kathryn Mitchell | Jonah Novak |
| George Richards | Therese Thamann |
| Jack Waldron | Andrew Zeman |
- (Not pictured: Reilly Puhalski)

Congratulations to all the students who received their 1st Communion



- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Reed Binney | Addyson Brown |
| Emily Cheatham | Mary Cheatham |
| Ariana Pillot | Dante Pillot |
| Maddox Rosalin | Ethan Sehy |
| Kathryn Swager | Joseph Thole |
| Reagan Triemstra | Shelbie Walton |
| Thomas Withers | |

Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Seminary

A number of students and adults ventured to the other side of the state to visit Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, Michigan and were given a tour by our favorite seminarian, Matthew Montgomery. We also visited the Solanus Casey Center in Detroit. There we learned about the life of Solanus Casey and his case for canonization. It was a wonderful pilgrimage and a joy to spend time together in community and visiting places where we could all grow in holiness.

