



# ST. MARTIN OF TOURS *THE MESSENGER*

Spring  
2018

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 / MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2018

### ADORATION

#### FIRST FRIDAYS

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

April 6, May 4

#### ALL OTHER FRIDAYS

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

During the Religious Education School year: second Sunday of each month— see bulletin for time.

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Sunday's @10:00-11:15 a.m.

No class Easter Sunday. Last class until fall is April 22

### BIBLE STUDY with Msgr. Martin

Most Mondays @ 6:30 p.m. (No class on March 26, April 2, May 28)

### CHOIR PRACTICE

@ 6:30 p.m..Tuesdays  
March 13, 20, 27  
April 3, 10, 17, 24  
May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

### CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE

March 18 - Serving 3:00-5:00 p.m.

### CHRISM MASS at St. Augustine

Cathedral Tuesday,  
March 27 @ 6:00 p.m.

### CONFIRMATION,

Sunday, April, 15 @ 11:30 a.m.,  
(practice Saturday, April 14 a.m.)

### CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

March 20-Good Friday  
April 2-Easter Monday  
May 28-Memorial Day

### EASTER EGG HUNT

@10:00 a.m.  
March 31-volunteers needed

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 1- time TBA

### EASTER VIGIL(HOLY SATURDAY)

March 31-time TBA

### FARMER'S BREAKFAST

@ 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
March 11, April 8, May 13

Summer Months-no breakfasts

### FIRST COMMUNION RETREAT

@ 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
April 28

### FIRST COMMUNION

@11:30 a.m.

May 6

### FIRST CONFESSION 2ND GRADE

@ 11:00 a.m.

March 24

### GOOD FRIDAY

March 30-time TBA

### HALOS

@ 7:00 p.m. (3rd Tuesdays)  
March 20, April 17, May 15  
Summer Months-no meetings

### HOLY THURSDAY

March 29-time TBA

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

@ 7:00 p.m. (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)  
March 13, 27  
April 3, 17  
May 8, 22

### LENTE LUNCH @ St. Martin

@ 12:15-1:00 p.m.

March 13

### MAY CROWNING

May 6 following 11:30 a.m. Mass

### MEN'S GROUP

@ 7:30 a.m.  
March 10, 17, 24, no meeting on 31  
April 7, 14, 21, 28  
May 5, 12, 19, no meeting on 26

### MSGR. MARTIN LENTEN LECTURE SERIES

@ 6:30 p.m. in church.  
March 14, 21

### PACK THE HOUSE DINNER

@5:30 p.m.

April 11

### PACK THE HOUSE SPEAKER

@ 6:30 p.m.

April 11

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

@ 1:00 p.m.

April 22, east classroom

(Open to all parishioners)

### PRAYER SHAWL GROUP

@10:00 a.m. in Manning Center  
March 12, April 9, May 7

### R.C.I.A

@ 7:00 p.m. Thursdays  
March 8, 15, 22 (no class 29, Holy Thursday) Mystagogy after Easter: TBD

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

@ 10:00-11:15 a.m. Sunday mornings  
March 11, 18, 25, Easter  
April 1, no classes Happy Easter  
April 8, 15, 22 which is last class

### ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

@ 7:00 p.m. (1st & 3rd Tuesdays)  
March ,19  
April 2, 16  
May 7, 21

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

@6:00 p.m. soup & bread supper  
follows in parish hall  
March 9, 16, 23

St. Martin's annual Rummage Sale will be held in the middle of August this year, August 9 – 11. Please watch the bulletin for meeting dates, drop-off dates, and volunteer needs as we plan for the biggest fundraiser for our parish. Thanks!



Rummage Sale

## Deacon's Corner

Boy, how time flies! It seems like yesterday that we began the church year with the first Sunday in Advent and now we are in the middle of Lent. Most of us are so busy in our lives that time and events just zip by and we don't seem to have much time to dwell on them. Sometimes our relationship with God works that way, which is why the church sets aside a special time each year to *slow down* and reflect where we are with our Creator. This special time is Lent. It is a time to prepare for Easter, the resurrection of our Lord.

The Resurrection is one of the fundamental beliefs of our faith. It is so core that St. Paul says without the Resurrection, our faith is useless. Without it, our salvation is not complete and there is no eternal life with the Lord. Easter is certainly something worth preparing for. Our level of preparation reflects how ready we are for eternal life, which provides a good reason to reflect on the state of our relationship with God.

How do we prepare for Easter? Everyone does it differently. Some of us give up treats, such as candy. Others might refrain from a bad habit or behavior. Another approach might be to do something nice for someone, or make peace with someone

we're mad at. Many of us try to devote extra time to prayer or stopping in church to be with the Blessed Sacrament.

The Church gives us many opportunities to prepare for Easter, such as days of fast and abstinence, in order to take our minds away from physical things so we can focus on God. There is increased emphasis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent, so we can put any possible strains in our relationship with God behind us. We'll be praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 6 P.M. – a wonderful tradition of following Jesus on His journey to the cross ... where He provides our salvation.

There are many wonderful ways to prepare for Easter and my prayer for all of us is that we take the *time* this Lenten season to do *something*, always realizing that God loves us very much and wants a strong relationship with us, so we can spend eternity with Him.

Have a very blessed and happy Easter!

Deacon Tom



**KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS®**

By Fred Maxa

Our deepest condolences and regrets go to Mrs. Jackie Houghtaling and family upon the loss of Brother Larry Houghtaling. He was a great friend and Brother Knight who will be missed. Our prayers are with you, God Bless.

The defibrillators are on back order, hope to hear more soon.

Coming events:

The annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner will be held on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm. Proceeds will go toward the youth Catholic Heart Work Camp mission trip in the summer. Tickets are on sale now. Pick them up after Mass or in the office.

The Tootsie Roll Drive will be held on Palm Sunday weekend. The annual drive benefits the mentally and physically handicapped.

The next Farmer's Breakfasts will be on March 11<sup>th</sup>, April 8<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. The breakfasts are held in the Parish Hall and run from 9am until 1pm. Volunteer Brother Knights are needed for the breakfasts, your time is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to the following Brother Knights on being Knights and Families of the Month: Mike Coppens, Adam Wysocki, Bret Verner, John Polasek, Rob & Deb Reibelung, Ed and Sue Sehy, Deacon Dave and Jane Guido.

Pray for all who are ill and have departed.

Thanks for all of our parishioner support during the past year. God Bless.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION-Clare Zemlick**

**ADORATION NEXT SUNDAY from 10-11 AM, During Rel. Ed Class!**

PARENTS! Take your child to class, then come to visit Jesus a while...

This Holy Hour is being specifically offered in conjunction with "24 Hours for the Lord" (March 9-10th), which is a 24-hour period of Eucharistic Adoration which is being celebrated in our Diocese in union with other Dioceses around the world! **What better way to spend some time this Lent than with Our Lord? Come & adore our Savior in solidarity with the Universal Church!**

During Lent, we dedicate ourselves for 40 days to **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** in preparation for the celebration of Easter. **By fasting, we tame the urges of our appetites (rejecting fleshly desires).** Christ Himself prayed & fasted constantly! Here are some practical ways to "fast" this Lent:

**FASTING: ways to fast this lent**

\* **Give up something small each day.** Don't put cream in your coffee (or don't have coffee); pray a decade (or an extra decade) of the rosary; fast from something at dinner that you really want; watch less TV than normal; or maybe dedicate a hard work-out routine: *Sacrifice something small, with prayer & with love, for a particular person or intention.* In the Divine "economy" of love, these sacrifices are powerful & can truly bring forth miraculous fruits!

\* **Print off a calendar for the 40 Days of Lent.** Write down a name of a family member or loved one on each day of Lent – then offer up a prayer & small "fasting" sacrifice for them on that day.

\* **Focus on Forgiveness.** Give up grudges this Lent. Forgiveness, after all, is what Christ offers us freely. And He promises us that unless we forgive others, our Heavenly Father will not forgive us. Say a prayer of forgiveness for those who have hurt you and ask God to bless them.

\* **Give up Grumbling.** Fast from complaining and negative comments. When someone asks something of you, say yes immediately & do it with a smile!

\* **Have a Simple Meal.** Maybe eat beans and rice, or PB & J for dinner one day a week, or maybe give up snacking between meals. Offer this up, along with prayer, for a special intention or for those who struggle with hunger around the world.

\* **Let someone else choose.** Often the hardest things to fast from are our own preferences. Try catering to other people's preferences as a way to fast this Lent. Let your spouse pick the TV show or the restaurant. Read to your children or sibling instead of looking at emails or Facebook.

\* **Abstain from meat on Fridays.** No meat can be eaten on Ash Wednesday and all of the Fridays during Lent. This applies to all Catholics 14 and older.

*"The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us to make a complete gift of self to God."*

**Adult Education**

**By:** Sue Maneikis

The Sunday Adult Study Group is enjoying the series *Mary: A Biblical Walk with the Blessed Mother* by Dr. Edward Sri. They will complete that in a few weeks. They will begin a study of the Passion and Resurrection Narratives March 18th.

In R.C.I.A. (The Rite of Christian Initiation) we have one Catechumen and two candidates who will be received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. We also have three adults who will be confirmed. The Catechumen and the two candidates attended the Rite of Election at St. Augustine Cathedral on February 18.

Msgr. Martin's Lenten lecture series on Wednesdays at 6:30pm is underway. The topic of each lecture will be published in the bulletin, advertised in the narthex and included in the pulpit announcements.

**Our next Pack the House will be on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> beginning with dinner at 5:30pm. Annie Bennett from Michigan Catholic Conference will be our presenter on the topic of Human Trafficking. This will be an important night for us to learn about this assault on human dignity which happens right here in SW Michigan, not just in big cities and far away places.**



### LENTEN PRAYERS FOR VOCATIONS

On Ash Wednesday, the ushers handed out purple prayer cards entitled “Lenten Prayers for Vocations”. If you received one, you saw a name and address of a priest, deacon, seminarian, or religious sister who lives in our diocese. Please pray for the person on your prayer card during Lent, and, if you would like to let them know you have done this, send them an Easter card after Lent.

The prayer inside the card was written by St. Pope John Paul II, which makes it a prayer for our current age. The people for whom you are praying will appreciate knowing they are being thought about each day.

If you did not receive a prayer card on Ash Wednesday, check the table in the Narthex that displays other Lent-related items. You may find one there!!

### ANYTHING GOES PARTY CABIN FEVER

The tradition at St. Martin’s is to have a party the last Saturday before Lent begins. The weather was not great and the crowd was small, but those who attended had a great time. Check out the camp fire that Kris Bryant put together,



### HALOS-SMCCW

Thank you for your interest in our service projects and taking time to visit our display table. We would love any additional ladies to join us. We meet once a month now and it is listed on the calendar as Prayer Shawl group. Because we do so much more than prayer shawls, we are having discussions to make a name change. Thank you also to the Youth who are making plarn (plastic yarn) so we can crochet the mats for the homeless.

Lent has started and so has the “Soup and Bread Suppers” on Friday evening after Stations of the Cross. If you have not signed up to contribute and would like to, the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board outside the office. Thank you to all who contribute soup and bread and donations. We plan to donate toward needed altar items.

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. 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

Thank you to all who helped put the Anything Goes Party together; cooks, bartenders, decorators and DJ for the great music! Thank you to Nick & Barb Ostrosky, our Social Committee Chairs. It was a great party!



### St. Vincent de Paul

By Lisa Irwin

January, February and March, and often into April, are times when we are busy helping people with their home heating bills. Hopefully our budgets can more easily absorb the increases in our heating bills from the cold December and January weather. For those whose budgets are already stretched thin, those higher bills can be disastrous. We are very grateful for the Michigan Energy Assistance Program (MEAP) and the Diocesan Home Heating Program which allow us to assist those in need who have larger bills. This year we are partnering with South County Community Services to administer MEAP funds. To date, \$15,468 has been granted to those in need through MEAP, and \$1,136 through the Diocesan Heating Assistance Program.

Please continue to hold those we serve in prayer. Your generosity touches their lives and affirms their human dignity. Know too that we keep all of you in prayer, and thank God for your generous support of this ministry.

Youth News

Hello all,

I pray that your Lent is fruitful. I am still on a retreat "high" after chaperoning for our diocesan high school retreat called the Presence. This retreat is a beautiful opportunity for high schoolers to get intimate with our Eucharistic Lord. During this retreat, students experience our Lord in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from Friday evening until Sunday morning and listen to reflections given by a keynote speaker. This year, the keynote speaker was Chris Padgett. He was perfect for our youth because he was funny and engaging. He told us that we are each unique and are given certain gifts that only we possess and as such, and we need to bring our uniqueness and gifts into our faith. Students also had opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is so amazing and AWESOME to see a long line of about 40 students at a time receiving this beautiful Sacrament.

As we enter into Lent and transition into the Easter season, we also prepare for the end of the school year and summer vacation. This means that we are preparing for the graduation of our high school seniors by having a trip to St. Thomas More Student Center in Kalamazoo. There we will attend Mass and go on a tour of St. Thomas More so students and parents may experience what student centers have to offer. Regardless of where you go, all colleges have a parish assigned to tend to the needs of college students. This event is open to all high school upperclassman and their families.

If you wish to be a part of this, or any other youth events, we are always in need of energetic adults to help mold the minds of our youth.

Thank you for supporting our youth,  
-Matthew Montgomery



This Winter/Spring prayer vigil corresponds with Lent this year. It begins February 14, and, as in the past, will be held on the sidewalks in front of Planned Parenthood on W. Michigan Ave. in Kalamazoo. Interested people of all faiths have been asked to keep a one-hour prayer vigil on any week-day during this 40 day campaign. People will be praying daily from 8:00 am until 8:00 pm. St. Augustine's parishioners will be praying on Thursdays, a day that abortions are actually being performed, and, if an individual is concerned about praying alone, that might be a good day to choose.

Obviously, our Heavenly Father hears your prayers, whether praying at home, at church, or in front of an abortion facility, so perhaps prayers for women who have found themselves with an unplanned or difficult pregnancy can be part of your prayer routine during Lent.

**ST. MARTIN HAPPENINGS**

**Baptisms**  
 Zandara Mae Espinosa—daughter of Andro & Sharon Espinosa  
 Liam Bradley Moore—son of Bradley & Sara Moore  
 Nicholas George Majoras—son of Robert & Stacy Majoras

**Welcome the following Parishioners and their Families;**  
 Sherry Bogdam  
 Brian Cook  
 Donald & Josephine Ruggiero  
 Anthony & Bridgett Garofola  
 Leonard & Judith Grabowski  
 Jim & Catherine Burgess

**Wedding;**  
 Mark Nelson & Angie Pearl

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: [kmllov2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kmllov2003@yahoo.com), your parish family. Thank you, Kathi Lovell, Editor