

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR ...

In lieu of my column this week I am going to print a message from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB. During their recent November meetings, they drafted this statement and it was approved by a 216-5 vote of the bishops of the US

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity. Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation’s immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks.

The Church’s teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God’s compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (Zechariah 7:10). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (2 Corinthians 8:9), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (Luke 10:30-37), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (Matthew 25). The Church’s concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord’s command to love as He has loved us (John 13:34).

(CONTINUED UNDER FAITH FORMATION COLUMN)
-Fr. Daniel Dillard

MASS INTENTIONS

December 07, 2025

Sun	12/07	07:00 AM	Hazel, John & Arthur Chandler
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners
Mon	12/08	07:00 AM	Florence Stodghill
Mon	12/08	04:00 PM	St . Martin Parishioners
Tue	12/09	07:00 AM	Gene Schell
Wed	12/10	06:55 AM	Patricia Bumm
Thurs	12/11	07:00 AM	Antoinette Ebelhar
Fri	12/12	07:00 AM	Kenny Self
Sat	12/13	04:00 PM	Angela Crowe
Sun	12/14	07:00 AM	Bill & Rose Thompson
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners



COMING UP IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

DECEMBER 7	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
DECEMBER 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception 7:00 am Mass	D H A Y L Y
DECEMBER 10	St. Martin Penance Service 6:00pm	
DECEMBER 14	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
DECEMBER 20- JANUARY 4	School Christmas Break	
DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE MASS 4:00 P.M.	
DECEMBER 25	CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 8:00 A.M.	

MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 6th— 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Mark McCarty
Eucharistic Ministers:	Robynn Clark Nicholas Fischer Kathy Simmons
Altar Servers:	Corley Cheek & Tanner Cheek
Sunday, December 7th —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Isaac Murphy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Will Clayton Lauren Ebelhar Erica Tapp
Altar Servers:	Luke Murphy & Abi Murphy
Sunday, December 7th — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Keith Evans
Eucharistic Ministers:	Cheryl Clark Nancy Greenwell Michaeline Chandler
Altar Servers:	Ali Williams & Jude Evans
Saturday, December 13th— 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Stacy Thompson
Eucharistic Ministers:	Nicholas Fischer Jena Hayden David Clark
Altar Servers:	Emmie Buck & Noah McBride
Sunday, December 14th —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Sherry Krampe
Eucharistic Ministers:	Betty Hamilton Darlene May Mike Wade
Altar Servers:	Hagan Ebelhar & Eli Murphy
Sunday, December 14th — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Darlene Berry
Eucharistic Ministers:	Cheryl Clark Nancy Greenwell Debi Hopkins
Altar Servers:	Spencer Medley & Jude Evans
	58 (BB) 763 889 503
TODAY'S MUSIC: The Advent of Our King Open My Eyes Now We Remain On Jordan's Bank	
TODAY'S READINGS: Ritual Song #1093	

STEWARDSHIP

November 30, 2025	
(Includes Picnic & Fundraising Deposits / Insurance Claim Money Excluded) (These numbers consider only actual income vs. budgeted income and do not consider any expense; therefore, budget income less expenses may reflect something different).	
Regular Collections:	\$ 6,483.00
Building Fund:	\$ 0.00
Special/Designated Collections:	\$ 6,423.09
TOTAL:	\$ 12,906.09
Weekly Budget:	\$ 10,692.31
Collections (YTD):	\$ 227,518.57
Budget (YTD):	\$ 235,230.70
Over/(Under):	\$ (7,712.13)

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

is in session this Sunday, December 7. We will also meet on Sunday, December 14th.

Schedules are in the vestibule of church, or you can have one emailed to you. Remember, it is never too late to join us. All children are welcome here!

CONFIRMATION NEWS

The date of the next Confirmation session is Wednesday, December 17. Students are encouraged to bring their sponsor, and / or parent. We likely will meet in the parish hall for more room. Reminders will be sent out, and we hope to have a special evening planned. Please make every effort to attend.

WHAT IS SPECIAL ABOUT FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN AT ST MARTIN PARISH?

This is a subject that I am decidedly biased about. Counting the Confirmation group, we minister to 38 children. There are 9 catechists (counting myself) and one assistant. We all try to have a good relationship with the children. They know us and we know them. Most of them have come here over several years. The children can be comfortable in this parish environment. They are loved here, they learn about their Faith here. They are corrected when necessary, and always with understanding and compassion. We laugh a lot, pray a lot, study the Scriptures together, and learn together. Children are great teachers. Most of our volunteers return year after year, although they can always opt out. The best way to find the answer to the question, "What is special about Faith Formation for Children at St Martin?" Ask any of our dedicated volunteers:
Darlene Berry, Cheryl Clark, Rachel Evans, Caron Head, Allee Kirtley, Sara Mowers, Holly Smith, Teresa Young

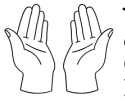
Please contact Debi with any concerns and /or questions: debihopkins7@hotmail.com or 270-316-2580, or you can always leave a message at the parish office; 270-685-0339

-Debi Hopkins

(CONTINUED FROM PASTORS COLUMN)

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26). You are not alone! We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.



WE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR: All serving in foreign countries and all over the World, the victims of natural disasters, and for Jack & Delores Beyke, Kristin Bucio, Danny Campbell, Phillip Cecil, Allen Coomes, Cindy Coomes, Theresa Crowe, Jean Dennis, Anita Dixon, Barbara Dixon, Judy Duncan, Arlene Dunn, Delaney Ebelhar, Harold Ebelhar, Elaine Glenn, James Glenn, June Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, Wayne Hamilton, Bob Hayden, Lorraine Hayden, Rose Hayden, Meredith Hendershot, Tommy Hermann, Dena Hiller, Lucy Hines, Dan Hopkins, Steve Hopkins, Dorothy Howard, Julie Jackson, Donna Kamuf, Jeremy Leet, Brent McCarty, Ella Meyers, Debbie Millay, Theresa Murphy, Patrick O'Bryan, James Payne, Robbie Phillips, Rosalee McCarty, Theresa Rhinerson, Martha Riney, Susan Risse, Carissa Roberts, Mark Roberts, Matthew Roberts Family, Will Roberts, Adam Rone, Barbara Schell, Jennifer Self & Family, Todd Self, Jane Shelton, Wayne Shelton, Aaron Simmons, Jimmy Simmons, Erica Tapp Family, Ashton Thompson, Ben Thompson, Betty Wedding, Jerry Wink, Patti Wink, Theresa Wyatt & any others in need of prayer. *Any changes: nicole@grayskymusic.com*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

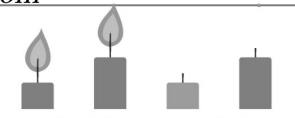


12/01	Mackenzie Murphy
12/02	Hayden Davis
	Xavier Evans
12/03	Spencer Medley
12/04	John McCormack
	Gary Bickett
	Joe Paul Bickett
	Marilyn Chandler
12/06	Jason Hundley
	Linda Powers
12/07	Theresa Crowe
12/09	Julia Kennedy
12/12	Nancy Greenwell
	Benjamin Marks
	Jackson Bittel
12/13	Holly McCormack
	Shane Riley
12/14	Kristin Aull
12/16	Mary Etta Schrecker
12/17	Holly Smith
	Anthony Mowers
	Tammy Murphy
12/20	Megan McCabe
12/21	Maddox LaHugh
12/23	Elizabeth Clayton
	Delaney Rae Ebelhar
12/24	Caleb McCarthy
12/26	Katelyn Knott
12/27	Emma Clancy
12/29	John Baird

HAPPY Anniversary

12/14/90	Luke & Kristin Aull
12/16/23	William & Brittany Clayton
12/27/03	Jeremy & Sara Mowers
12/30/23	Caleb & Mary-Kaittynne McCarthy
12/30/23	Shane & Celia Riley

To have your birthday or anniversary listed or if your birthday or anniversary date is missing, call the office. (270) 685-0339.



Second Week of Advent

As we move into the second week of Advent, we light the candle of Peace.

This week invites us to quiet our hearts, trust more deeply, and welcome the calming presence of Christ into our lives.

May we slow down, breathe, and let God's peace fill the places where worry tries to live.

Come, Lord Jesus—bring peace to our homes, our hearts, and our world.



WHY WE SHOULD GO TO CONFESSION DURING ADVENT

Advent penance services help us prepare our hearts for Christmas by turning back to God. In this penitential season, we acknowledge our sins, seek forgiveness, and experience the healing grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Through prayer, Scripture, and individual confession, these services offer spiritual renewal and a fresh start. They remind us that God's mercy is always available and invite us to welcome Christ with a clean, peaceful, and ready heart.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS!

KIDS ARE INVITED TO JOIN OUR CHRISTMAS CHOIR WITH JUST A FEW SHORT REHEARSALS:

- SAT 12/13 & 12/20, 2–3 PM
- TUES 12/09 & 12/16, 6–7 PM

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT BECKY BUCK, MARY REISZ, OR DAVEN EDMONDS.

MEN'S CLUB MEETINGS

Men's club meets the 1st Monday of the month. 6:00pm in Winter & 7:00pm in Summer

GOSPEL REFLECTION

JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARS IN THE DESERT OF JUDEA CALLING THE PEOPLE TO REPENTANCE. PROCLAIMING, “REPENT. FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS AT HAND.” HIS MISSION FULFILLS ISAIAH’S PROPHECY OF A VOICE CRYING OUT IN THE WILDERNESS TO PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD. JOHN LIVES SIMPLY. WEARING CAMEL’S HAIR WITH A LEATHER BELT AND EATING LOCUSTS AND WILD HONEY. CROWDS FROM JERUSALEM. JUDEA. AND THE SURROUNDING REGION COME TO HIM AT THE JORDAN RIVER. CONFESSING THEIR SINS AND BEING BAPTIZED.

WHEN THE PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES ARRIVE. JOHN REBUKES THEM SHARPLY. CALLING THEM TO TRUE CONVERSION RATHER THAN RELYING ON THEIR HERITAGE AS DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM. HE WARNS THAT EVERY TREE NOT BEARING GOOD FRUIT WILL BE CUT DOWN. EMPHASIZING THAT AUTHENTIC REPENTANCE MUST BE SHOWN THROUGH ONE’S ACTIONS.

JOHN EXPLAINS THAT HIS BAPTISM WITH WATER IS ONLY A BEGINNING. SOMEONE FAR GREATER—ONE WHOSE SANDALS HE IS UNWORTHY TO CARRY—IS COMING. THIS MESSIAH WILL BAPTIZE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE.

WITH THE IMAGE OF A FARMER SEPARATING WHEAT FROM CHAFF. JOHN DESCRIBES THE LORD’S JUDGMENT: THE FAITHFUL GATHERED TO SAFETY. AND THE UNREPENTANT FACING UNOUECHABLE FIRE.

2026 UNCLAIMED Contribution Envelopes

David & Patty Bartley	Tom & Lucy Hines
Jack & Delores Beyke	Jason & Jeanne Hundley
Luke & Lauren Bickett	Linda Kamuf
Gene & Mary Bittel	Julie Lewis
Dylan & Sarah Brown	Ben & Katie Marks
Mary Celeste Clary	Jeremy & Sara Mowers
John & Michelle Clayton	Isaac & MacKenzie Murphy
Steven & Janel Donahue	Robert O'Bryan
Michael & Becky Ebelhar	Bill Roberts
Mary Freels	Wendell & Melissa Sloan
Mary Lou Hoskins	Elizabeth Thompson
Charles & Caron Head	William & Kelly Wathen

If you did not have contribution envelopes in 2025 but would like envelopes for 2026, please contact the office.

NEW
Offering
Envelopes

Time is running out

Just a friendly (EARLY) reminder ...

Those wishing to make any year-end and tax-deductible contribution to St. Martin Parish to be considered for 2025 tax purposes, your donation must be received and dated no later than Wednesday, December 31st.