

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR ...



One of the most common questions I get as a priest is, “How do I know what is mortal sin?” What people are really usually asking in that situation is what is, what the Church would call, “grave matter?” Because there are three requirements for mortal sin, first is grave matter that it is something really wrong not just kind of wrong; second is knowledge they know their actions are wrong, and third is free consent the choose to do it anyway. While the second two are equally important to determining mortal sin they don’t usually enter in to the average person’s consideration. They want to know what the Church considers really wrong. Perhaps sometime in the future I will a column about what degree of knowledge and free consent are necessary for sin to be mortal, but for this week I am just going to focus on the first, grave matter.

I suppose I should begin by stating that yes, there are two levels of sin in Catholic theology, venial and mortal. A venial sin is an action that damages our relationship with God. It damages our capacity for grace, but it does not sever that relationship or render us incapable of receiving God’s grace. There are a multitude of ways to be forgiven for venial sin beyond simply confession. In fact, those sins are forgiven twice during every Mass you attend, once at the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass and the other by the act of receiving communion. Mortal sin on the other hand severs our relationship with God. It completely cuts us off from him. It renders us incapable of receiving his grace. With very rare exceptions these sins can only be forgiven through sacramental Confession. Catholic theology tells us that if we die in a state of moral sin we will be condemned to hell. This is because heaven is perfect union with God, and if we have rendered ourselves incapable of relationship with him because of our sins how can we be united with him in the world to come.

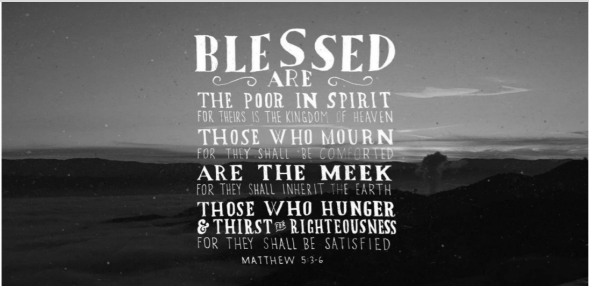
So, it is of great importance for us to understand what is and is not mortal sin. That brings us back to the topic of what is grave matter. My general answer to this question is look at the Ten Commandments and the Seven Deadly Sins. Any sin that is contrary to one of the Ten Commandments or Seven Deadly Sins CAN be grave matter. There are degrees even within these two categories. There is a vast difference between stealing a pen from work and stealing \$1000 for example. To help understand these categories I am going to spend the next several weeks in my columns going over the Ten Commandments and the Seven Deadly Sins.

-Fr. Daniel Dillard

MASS INTENTIONS

February 01, 2026

Sun	02/01	07:00 AM	Sylvester Fischer
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners
Mon	02/02	07:00 AM	NO MASS
Tue	02/03	07:00 AM	John & Josie Hayden
Wed	02/04	06:55 AM	Kathryn Thomas
Thurs	02/05	07:00 AM	Mary Freels
Fri	02/06	07:00 AM	Jason Roberts
Sat	02/07	04:00 PM	Gene Schell
Sun	02/08	07:00 AM	Norbert & Alberta McCarty
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners



COMING UP IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

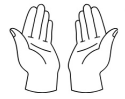
FEBRUARY 1	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
FEBRUARY 6	FISH FRY 5pm	
FEBRUARY 8	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
FEBRUARY 11	Confirmation Session 6:00 p.m.	
FEBRUARY 16	VBS 1 st Meeting 6:30 Parish Center	
FEBRUARY 18	ASH WEDNESDAY 7am and 6pm	
FEBRUARY 18	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 5-6PM	

MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, January 31st — 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Lillian Chapman
Eucharistic Ministers:	Steve Bittel Nicholas Fischer Jena Hayden
Altar Servers:	Corley Cheek & Tanner Cheek
Sunday, February 1st —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Isaac Murphy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Erica Tapp Will Clayton Lauren Ebelhar Abi Murphy & Eli Murphy
Altar Servers:	
Sunday, February 1st — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Michaeline Chandler
Eucharistic Ministers:	Darlene Berry Debi Hopkins Bobby Kennedy J.T. Edge & Hayden Edge
Altar Servers:	
Saturday, February 7th — 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Robynn Clark
Eucharistic Ministers:	David Clark Kathy Simmons Janice McCarthy
Altar Servers:	Emmie Buck & Noah McBride
Sunday, February 8th —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Sherry Krampe
Eucharistic Ministers:	Betty Hamilton Darlene May Mike Wade
Altar Servers:	Hagan Ebelhar & Luke Murphy
Sunday, February 8th — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Krystal Medley
Eucharistic Ministers:	Nancy Greenwell Caleb McCarthy Bobby Kennedy
Altar Servers:	Ali Williams & Jude Evans
<div><div></div><div>848 412 (BB) 886 601 (BB)</div><div>TODAY'S MUSIC: All Creatures of Our God & King These Alone Are Enough Want to Walk as a Child of Light Healing River of the Spirit</div><div>TODAY'S READINGS: Ritual Song</div><div>#1203</div></div>	
STEWARDSHIP <i>This is the most current financial information available at the time of printing</i>	
January 18, 2026 (Includes Picnic & Fundraising Deposits / Insurance Claim Money Excluded) <i>(These numbers consider only actual income vs. budgeted income and do not consider any expense; therefore, budget income less expenses may reflect something different).</i>	
Regular Collections:	\$ 4,429.00
Building Fund:	\$ 150.00
Special/Designated Collections:	\$ 800.00
TOTAL:	\$ 5,379.00
Weekly Budget:	\$ 10,692.31
Collections (YTD):	\$ 330,713.13
Budget (YTD):	\$ 310,076.87
Over/(Under):	\$ 20,636.26

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN is in session this Sunday, February 1. We are also in session on Sundays: Feb. 8, and Feb. 22. (Not on Feb 15) Remember, it is never too late to join us. All children are welcome here!
VBS: INITIAL PLANNING MEETING Monday, Feb.16, 6:30 pm, in parish center.
NEW DATE FOR 1st COMMUNION: The new date is Saturday, April 25, at the 4:00 pm Mass. It’s the same weekend as the former date, and was agreed on by all the parents.
CONFIRMATION NEWS The date of the next Confirmation session is 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 11th.
Confirmation Service Opportunities: Part of learning about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit that one receives in the Sacrament of Confirmation is learning that opportunities to use those Gifts present themselves quite often. Some good parish opportunities are coming up: - <u>February 6:</u> First Parish Fish Fry, in parish hall, volunteers should arrive by no later than 4:30 p.m. Help is welcomed earlier, if possible. - <u>Early Feb:</u> Birthright donations are to be delivered to their office. - <u>February 27:</u> Second Parish Fish Fry, same as Feb, 6 - <u>March 13:</u> Third Parish Fish Fry, same as above “Jobs” including serving food, filling drinks, helping guests, clearing tables, collecting trash, washing pans, cleaning up, and generally learning to be of service. Confirmation candidates are expected to have 2 service experiences. Contact Debi with any questions or concerns.
GENERAL NOTE TO THE PARISH AT LARGE: As our parish grows, so does the number of events, and the busy preparations for events. MANY of the current volunteers at St Martin are above 70 years old, and many are in their 80’s. To simply say that this is “not sustainable” is an understatement! While many of these dedicated volunteers, like those mentioned above, are quite capable, and truly enjoy their service to the parish, more parishioner involvement has to happen. This isn’t drudgery, it’s actually fulfilling, purposeful, and fun! Friendships and community grow in the shared activity of serving food, helping to decorate the church, “being there” for children at Faith Formation or VBS. There are many ways to volunteer that you cannot imagine you would ever try until you do. Please consider volunteering for an upcoming event. Just call, email or leave word at the parish office that you would like to know more.
-Debi Hopkins



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, Justin Blandford, 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, Fred and Connie Greenwell, 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, Elenor Turner, Betty Wedding, Dee Dee Wethington, Jerry Wink, Patti Wink, Theresa Wyatt & any others in need of prayer. *Any changes: nicole@grayskymusic.com*



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Anniversary

02/02/01 Gerard & Donna Johnson
02/23/73 Mark & Mary Keller
02/28/09 William & Janet Clancy

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



Parishioners are invited to bring palms from home to be used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday.

Please place your palms in the designated collection area before Ash Wednesday.

Thank you for helping us prepare for this sacred season of Lent.



FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE NEEDY ST. MARTIN PARISH

Dear Parish Family,
A basket is at the back of church for non-perishable food donations to help those in need.

Please bring items such as: canned vegetables/fruits/soups, pasta, rice, beans, cereal, peanut butter, tuna, or boxed meals.

This is an ongoing need—your generosity makes a real difference year-round.

As Jesus teaches in the Beatitudes, “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.” Let us show charity to our brothers and sisters. Thank you for your kindness!

HELP ST. MARTIN GROW!

Our parish is growing, but our volunteer base is aging. To keep St. Martin vibrant, we need you! Volunteering is a fun, fulfilling way to build friendships while serving our community. From decorating to youth events, every hand helps. Please contact the parish office to find your place today.



Fish Fry Dates:
02/06, 02/27, 03/13
Doors Open: 4:30 PM
Serving Begins: 5:00 PM

Adults \$ 13.00
Kids (6-12) \$ 10.00
Kids < 6 FREE



~ DINE - IN OR CARRY OUT ~

GOSPEL REFLECTION

THIS PASSAGE FROM MATTHEW 5:1–12. PART OF JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT. DESCRIBES THE BEATITUDES—A SERIES OF BLESSINGS JESUS SHARED WITH HIS DISCIPLES WHILE SITTING ON A MOUNTAIN. TEACHING ABOUT WHO IS TRULY HAPPY AND FAVORED IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

JESUS EXPLAINS THAT TRUE BLESSING COMES NOT FROM WORLDLY SUCCESS. POWER. OR COMFORT. BUT FROM HUMBLE. FAITHFUL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS. HE LISTS EIGHT (OR NINE. DEPENDING ON COUNTING) GROUPS OF PEOPLE WHO ARE "BLESSED":

- THE POOR IN SPIRIT (HUMBLE. RECOGNIZING THEIR NEED FOR GOD) — THEY ALREADY POSSESS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
- THOSE WHO MOURN (GRIEVE OVER SIN. LOSS. OR INJUSTICE) — THEY WILL FIND COMFORT.
- THE MEEK (GENTLE. PATIENT. NOT AGGRESSIVE) — THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.
- THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (DEEPLY DESIRE JUSTICE AND HOLINESS) — THEY WILL BE FULLY SATISFIED.
- THE MERCIFUL (KIND AND FORGIVING TO OTHERS) — THEY WILL RECEIVE MERCY.
- THE PURE/CLEAN OF HEART (SINCERE. UNDIVIDED DEVOTION TO GOD) — THEY WILL SEE GOD.
- THE PEACEMAKERS (THOSE WHO WORK FOR HARMONY AND RECONCILIATION) — THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.
- THOSE PERSECUTED FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS (SUFFERING BECAUSE THEY FOLLOW GOD'S WAYS) — THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.
- FINALLY. JESUS ADDS A PERSONAL NOTE: WHEN PEOPLE INSULT. PERSECUTE. OR FALSELY ACCUSE YOU BECAUSE OF YOUR FAITH IN HIM. REJOICE—YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN IS GREAT.

IN SIMPLE TERMS. JESUS FLIPS COMMON IDEAS OF HAPPINESS UPSIDE DOWN: REAL BLESSING BELONGS TO THE HUMBLE. COMPASSIONATE. AND FAITHFUL—EVEN WHEN LIFE IS HARD OR UNFAIR—BECAUSE GOD'S KINGDOM VALUES INNER CHARACTER OVER OUTWARD ACHIEVEMENT. (WORD COUNT: 248)

Q&A
Q1: WHAT DO THE BEATITUDES TEACH ABOUT HAPPINESS?A: THEY TEACH THAT TRUE HAPPINESS ("BLESSEDNESS") COMES FROM SPIRITUAL QUALITIES LIKE HUMILITY. MERCY. PURITY. AND STANDING FOR WHAT'S RIGHT—NOT FROM MONEY. STATUS. OR AVOIDING PAIN. GOD PROMISES COMFORT. SATISFACTION. AND ETERNAL REWARD TO THOSE WHO LIVE THIS WAY.

Q2: WHY DOES JESUS SAY TO REJOICE WHEN PERSECUTED?A: BECAUSE SUFFERING FOR FOLLOWING HIM SHOWS GENUINE FAITH AND ALIGNS YOU WITH GOD'S KINGDOM. IT PROVES YOUR LOYALTY IS REAL. AND JESUS PROMISES A GREAT HEAVENLY REWARD THAT FAR OUTWEIGHS EARTHLY HARDSHIP.

MEN'S CLUB MEETINGS

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