

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR ...



Theodicy is one of the hardest questions that we as a people of faith are confronted with. What is Theodicy? Simply put it is the question “If God is good and all-powerful why do bad things happen to good people?” This question is hard for us because if God is all-powerful then he can stop the bad things that happen, and if he doesn't does that mean he isn't good? If God is good then he would want to stop bad things from happening and if he doesn't does that mean he isn't all-powerful? We can quickly set our heads to spinning with this line of thought, and people of faith have been trying to answer this question since the Old Testament.

The entire book of Job is a reflection on this question and the answer that it comes to is who are we to question what God does. This is an unsatisfying answer to me, because while there is some degree of truth to it, we cannot know God's plan, it makes God seem arbitrary.

This is better than the response of a friend of mine from seminary whose response to this question is, “They don't.” Bad things don't happen to good people because there are no good people. He said this tongue in cheek, However, this would be the Calvinist protestant response to the question of theodicy because John Calvin argued that we are evil in our nature and God just chooses to ignore the evil of a few elect people. This does not line up with a Catholic understanding of the human person. We as Catholics believe that we are by our nature good and nothing we do changes that essential nature.

So how should we answer this question? I think what this question really comes down to is, it is a consequence of Free Will. Why do bad things happen to relatively good people? Because other people make choices that lead to them. God will never interfere with our free will the choices we make are ours alone but sometimes unfortunately other people bear the consequences of our choices. If someone chooses to walk into a school and start shooting many people will suffer because of that choice. Was it God's desire for that person to do that? No, but because he so respects our free will, he will not stop that person even though so many will suffer because of his actions. If someone chooses to smoke then anyone around them is at higher risk for lung disease, heart disease, and several different types of cancer. Those people might suffer and come to an early death as a consequence of another person's choice, but God will not stop that person from making a choice.

In the end all of these answers contain part of the truth of the answer, but none of them are completely satisfactory. This is just a brief overview of the theology behind Theodicy and even a 100-page dissertation cannot completely answer this question. So, we will continue to struggle and wrestle with this question just as all of our forebears have.

-Fr. Daniel Dillard

MASS INTENTIONS

December 14, 2025

Sun	12/14	07:00 AM	Bill & Rose Thompson
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners
Mon	12/15	07:00 AM	NO MASS
Tue	12/16	07:00 AM	Phyllis Roberts
Wed	12/17	06:55 AM	Joe & Evelyn May
Thurs	12/18	07:00 AM	Lela Wright
Fri	12/19	07:00 AM	Richard Hayden
Sat	12/20	04:00 PM	Kathryn Thomas
Sun	12/21	07:00 AM	Jordan Andy Evans
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners



COMING UP IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

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.	
JANUARY 1	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass 7am	
JANUARY 4	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
JANUARY 11	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	

MINISTER SCHEDULE

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 Kirampe
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
Saturday, December 20th— 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Lillian Chapman
Eucharistic Ministers:	Brent McCarty Steve Bittel Bonnie Bittel
Altar Servers:	Molly Knott & Paxton LaHugh
Sunday, December 21st —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Mackenzie Murphy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Erica Tapp Will Clayton Lauren Ebelhar
Altar Servers:	Eli Murphy & Luke Murphy
Sunday, December 21st — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Michaeline Chandler
Eucharistic Ministers:	Bobby Kennedy Krystal Medley Stacy Thompson
Altar Servers:	Corley Cheek & Tanner Cheek
	492 59 (BB) 883 501
TODAY'S MUSIC: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Comfort, Comfort, O My People We Have Been Told People, Look East	
TODAY'S READINGS: Ritual Song #1096	

STEWARDSHIP

December 07, 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:	\$ 22,646.00
Building Fund:	\$ 1,895.00
Special/Designated Collections:	\$ 685.00
TOTAL:	\$ 22,226.00
Weekly Budget:	\$ 10,692.31
Collections (YTD):	\$ 252,744.57
Budget (YTD):	\$ 245923.01
Over/(Under):	\$ 6,821.56

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION
for Children is in session this Sunday, December 14th. We return on Sunday, January 4. Schedules for Faith Formation 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 this Wednesday, December 17. Students are encouraged to bring their sponsor, and / or parent. We 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.

ADVENT
In the broadest sense, Advent is the season to prepare for that time when Christ will make all His greatest promises come true. Advent is a time of preparing for eternity. The candles are light increasing each week, dispelling the darkness and cold of this world, bringing us back to the Light, again and again.

Still, there is another Coming emphasized in Advent, every bit as real as on the first Christmas and at the Second Coming. This is His daily coming to us in the Mass and the sacraments, in graces as we work, play, and pray through the week. He comes in our neighbor, and He comes to our neighbor through us.

Hope is not wishful thinking, Hope is certainty, because God is always faithful to us. God’s love and mercy are constant. The more we try to keep God in heaven, the less involved we may think we need to be with God’s presence on earth. We were created to be radically different from the rest of Creation. God created us to be one with Him, to be His likeness, and it is that which compels God to be with us.


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



HAPPY
Anniversary

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




Third Week of Advent
(Gaudete Sunday)

As we move into the third week of Advent, we light the candle of Joy. This week invites us to lift our heads, celebrate the hope that is drawing near, and actively choose joy—not just happiness, but the deep, abiding spiritual joy that comes from knowing Christ is close. May we pause, remember the promise of Emmanuel, and let God’s joyful anticipation replace any weariness or doubt. Come, Lord Jesus—fill our homes, our hearts, and our world with your joyful light.

WHILE JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS IMPRISONED AND NEARING THE END OF HIS MINISTRY, HE SENT HIS DISCIPLES TO ASK JESUS DIRECTLY. "ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME?" JOHN HAD BOLDLY PREPARED THE WAY FOR THE MESSIAH. YET IN HIS CONFINEMENT HE SOUGHT REASSURANCE. JESUS DID NOT ANSWER WITH A TITLE, BUT BY POINTING TO HIS WORKS: THE BLIND WERE SEEING, THE LAME WALKING, LEPERS CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEARING, AND THE GOOD NEWS BEING PROCLAIMED TO THE POOR. THESE SIGNS FULFILLED THE VERY PROPHECIES JOHN HAD PREACHED, REVEALING THAT THE MESSIAH IS RECOGNIZED NOT SIMPLY BY NAME, BUT BY THE RESTORATION AND HOPE HE BRINGS.

WHEN JOHN'S DISCIPLES LEFT, JESUS HONORED JOHN PUBLICLY, REMINDING THE CROWDS THAT JOHN WAS NOT SWAYED BY COMFORT OR POPULARITY. HE WAS MORE THAN A PROPHET—HE WAS THE PROMISED MESSENGER WHO PREPARED THE WAY.



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.

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



David & Patty Bartley	Mary Freels
Jack & Delores Beyke	Mary Lou Hoskins
Luke & Lauren Bickett	Linda Kamuf
Gene & Mary Bittel	Ben & Katie Marks
Dylan & Sarah Brown	Jeremy & Sara Mowers
Mary Celeste Clary	Robert O'Bryan
John & Michelle Clayton	Bill Roberts
Steven & Janel Donahue	Wendell & Melissa Sloan
Matt & Cindy Ebelhar	Elizabeth Thompson
Michael & Becky Ebelhar	William & Kelly Wathen

NEW
Offering
Envelopes

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This weekend's first two readings remind us of the patience and years of faithfulness that preceded the answer to John the Baptist's famous question from prison, "Are you the one - or should we look for another?" It is a question we can all relate to when we experience questions of faith. And then Jesus answers simply, yet powerfully, "Go and tell John what you hear and see — the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."

Jesus uses this powerful moment to teach us that his followers are people of action. They are healers. They have a heart for the marginalized. This Gospel reminds us that Christ's presence brings signs of mercy, healing, and hope — through real people doing real work in the name of God. The Good News is not an abstract message but a living testimony of love, compassion, and generosity.

We just completed a campaign that shows our love and care for the senior priests who have served our diocese for many years. We continue to evangelize through Gasper River Catholic Youth Camp and Retreat Center, which served a record number of 500 young people last year, as well as hosting multiple adult retreats. We financially support efforts that enrich marriages, educate seminarians, and support missions here and abroad. We provide resources for parish religious education and our Catholic schools. The list goes on and on, and we try to capture and report on these efforts through the accountability report we publish each summer through The Western Kentucky Catholic. Your gift to the Disciples Response Fund builds an important partnership with all these efforts.

Seeing the fruits of these ministries is what inspires me to ask for your financial generosity. When asked "Are we the one?" I want to continue pointing to all the works we are doing throughout western Kentucky to heal, teach and evangelize. As we journey toward Christmas, may God continue to bless your families during this Advent season, and may we continue to proclaim the Good News to all we encounter.

Blessings in Christ,
Bishop William Medley.