



St. Martin of Tours CATHOLIC PARISH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year B, the Gospel of Mark)
—December 24, 2017

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*Gospel Acclamation: Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.
Luke 1:26-38*

Big Thanks for Parish Christmas Party: to Jana Rogers & Cheryl DiChiara for coordinating everything. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Changes to the Schedule Dec. 26-27: Holy Mass will not be celebrated Tuesday or Wednesday, Dec. 26-27, and there will be no Adoration on Dec. 27th due to the holidays. However, you can access the church anytime by using the keypad. Please ask Fr. Irwin, Deacon Dave or any number of our parishioners for the code if you like.

Fr. Irwin away Jan 2-6: Fr. Irwin is going with our college students to a conference January 2 - 6. **The office will be closed and the Church locked** (remember that you can still access the church with the code to the lock). Holy Mass will be offered on Wednesday at 5:15 pm, and we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN

Sunday, December 24

No CCD K-8th
Sacrament of Reconciliation – 9:30 to 9:45 am
Rosary – 9:30 am
Holy Mass – 10:00 am
Christmas Eve Holy Masses - 5:30pm and 12:00 (midnight)
No Holy Mass at Sorrell Chapel
No High School Meeting

Monday, December 25

No Trudy Schroeder Women's Bible Study
Christmas Day Holy Mass - 10:00 am

Tuesday, December 26

No Holy Mass

Wednesday, December 27

No Adoration
No Holy Mass

Thursday, December 28

Holy Mass - 12:15 pm
No RCIA
No Bible Study in Spanish

Friday, December 29

Holy Mass - 6:30 am

Saturday, December 30

Sacrament of Reconciliation – 4:45 to 5:15 pm
Holy Mass—5:30 pm

Sunday, December 31

No CCD K – 8th
Sacrament of Reconciliation – 9:30 to 9:45 am
Rosary – 9:30 am
Holy Mass – 10:00 am
No Holy Mass at Sorrell Chapel
No High School Meeting

Christmas Schedule: Christmas Eve Masses: 5:30 pm and 12:00 midnight. Christmas Day 10 am. **Please invite Someone to Christmas Mass:** What a great opportunity for us to open our doors to visitors and inactive Catholics.

Catholics are Obligated to Attend Holy Mass Sunday Dec. 24th as well as Mass for Christmas: Christmas falls on a Monday this year and many parishioners will choose to go to Holy Mass Sunday evening (Dec. 24). Even if this is the case, Catholics are still obligated to go to Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent (Saturday, Dec. 23 or Sunday morning).

Celebrate the Christmas Season: we recall that in the Catholic Church we celebrate a short, yet significant, **season** for Christmas. Typically, the Christmas season plays out as follows. It begins with the vigil Mass on Christmas Eve. The following Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph December 31st. January 1st we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. [January 1st, by the way, is the eighth day after Christmas and thus concludes the Christmas octave; for the great feasts of the Church, Christmas and Easter, we have an eight day celebration (hence the name octave); it is as if it is Christmas day (or Easter Sunday) for eight straight days]. The 2nd Sunday after Christmas is the Epiphany of the Lord, when we recall how the wise men came from the East to worship the new born king. The 3rd Sunday after Christmas is [the Baptism of the Lord](#) (which is transferred to Monday, Jan. 8th this year). This day is our transition from the Christmas season into Ordinary Time. As is obvious this year with Christmas falling on Monday, sometimes the various feast days have to be moved to some extent to make room for all of our celebrations. Let's **Keep those Decorations up** through the Christmas season which concludes this year, Monday, Jan. 8th.

Visit the Nativity Scene with your Children: It is a long standing and beautiful tradition in the Church to take children to visit the Nativity scene and describe all the characters as well as the setting. It is easy to forget that our Lord was born in a most humble place (perhaps in a stable or a cave) because there was no room for them in the inn and that he was laid in a manger – which is a feeding trough for animals! Some of the only people, outside of Mary and Joseph, to know about Jesus' birth were simple shepherds who were informed by an angel of the Lord. Luke 2:1 – 20.

Memorial Gifts toward Christmas Flowers: If you would like to give toward our Christmas flowers in memory of a loved one(s), please use one of the red envelopes on the tables at the back of the church and clearly print the name(s) of your loved ones on it.

Please pick up your New Envelopes in the Hall: your name should be on your set if you have had envelopes before. We did our best to keep everyone's numbers the same. **If you are getting envelopes for the first time, please take a set and write down your name and address and envelope number on the sheet provided.**



Pray the Rosary Sunday at 9:30 am

Let us Pray for:

Mack Brownlee, Nicholas Drosyk, Ellen Blum and Brian Britt. Please send an email to [REDACTED] to add or remove a name from the prayer list.



Please Remember your Parish in your Will: We are blessed with a great parish. Let's make sure that it remains that way for years to come.

Did you know that our parish has subscribed to a great Website called Formed.org.

Every parishioner and student will soon be able to go to Formed.org and ...

- 24/7 access to the truth, beauty, and meaning of the Catholic Faith anytime, anywhere... with FORMED
- Use it on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
- Catholic movies for both adults and children
- Informative and inspiring teaching from renowned speakers Dr. Scott Hahn, Dr. Edward Sri, Bishop Robert Barron, Dr. Tim Gray, Father Michael Gaitley, Teresa Tomeo... and many more
- Multiple programs to address multiple parish needs:
 - Scripture Studies, Adult Faith Formation, Marriage Preparation and Enrichment, RCIA, Sacrament Preparation, Small Group Teen Discipleship, and much more!

The Parish Code for Access to FORMED.ORG: is [REDACTED]. Please keep in mind that this code is for our parishioners and students only. I believe very strongly in honoring these sorts of rules. After all, if we want good Catholic material to learn from and share with our children, someone has to pay for it! (In case friends from other places enquire about getting access to FORMED, individuals are welcome to purchase access to the site as well as parishes). Thanks, Fr. Irwin

SERVING YOU NEXT WEEK

Saturday – December 30, 2017

Greeters: Volunteers
Lectors: Beth Ann Gibson, Anna Gooden
Ushers: Jeffrey and Patrick Messick
Gift Bearers: The Messick Family
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Barbara Staskowski, Nick Drosyk
Altar Servers:

Sunday – December 31, 2017

Greeters: Herb and Anne Huner
Lectors: Mark Christensen, Stacy Graning
Ushers: Jeffrey Blair, Mike Kreis
Gift Bearers: The Chris Huner Family
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Jeffrey Blair, Barry Smolcic, Stacy Graning
Altar Servers: Mario Robledo, Isabel Robledo, Dominic Estis

Children in Church: This time of year, when we are so focused on children, is a good time to say a word of encouragement to our parents of little children attending Holy Mass. Obviously, children are going to cry, talk and make noise in church. Some of us who do not have children, or whose children grew up long ago, may have forgotten how difficult it is to try and keep a child quiet throughout Mass; therefore, we should be understanding. Children are welcome at our parish; we want parents to bring them. On the other hand, parents of little ones must be aware that at a certain point, a child needs to be taken to a place outside the congregation where he/she may be properly cared for. Children should never be allowed to play with noisy toys or eat food that will leave any kind of mess in the church during Mass. If we all try and be considerate of one another, as the people of our parish do, things work out well. Thank you for being understanding of one another – Fr. Irwin.

Jan. 1st, Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation: Since this solemnity falls on a Monday, the bishops have determined that there is no obligation to go to Holy Mass so as to lighten the burden on Catholics. However, **please join us for Holy Mass at 9:00 am on Jan. 1st** as we celebrate the fact that Mary gave birth to the Son of God (and not just an average baby boy).

SEARCH Retreat for High School Youth: is coming up January 5th -7th at Children's Harbor on Lake Martin in Alexander City. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.ArchMobYouth.org/Search>. Search retreats are a ministry of the Archdiocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry. This is an Archdiocesan sponsored retreat. It's a tradition spanning back over 50 years and can change your LIFE. There have been teens that have done a 180 turnaround in their faith life after they attended SEARCH. SEARCH retreat is directed by a group of teens from our Archdiocese to bring teens closer to Christ. On a SEARCH Weekend there is sharing by the team members, songs, prayer, small group discussions, Holy Eucharist, Reconciliation, quiet time and great fellowship. The weekend begins on Friday evening and goes to Sunday afternoon. Registration cost is **\$100.00**. Applications for this retreat will be accepted until January 2nd or until the retreat is full. Your registration fee includes sleeping quarters, meals, and all the materials for the weekend. Scholarships are available; **COST SHOULD NEVER KEEP SOMEONE FROM GOING ON THIS RETREAT**. Please see Parker or Emily Reiss or Fr. Irwin if money is an issue. For more info and registration forms visit www.archmobyouth.org/search or contact Adam Ganucheu at oym@mobarch.org.

Tithing Report December 17, 2017

Regular - \$2,140.00
Special Collection - Retired
Religious - \$100.00
Total - \$2,240.00

Renovation Campaign
Pledges Received - \$98,044.00
Percent of Total Pledged - 92%