



St. Martin of Tours CATHOLIC PARISH

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**The Feast of the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary and Joseph
(Year B, the Gospel of Mark) —December 31, 2017**

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.

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).

Scheduling notes:

CCD & High School Youth Group: resumes Sunday, January 7th. There will be no CCD Jan. 14th.

RCIA: resumes Thursday, January 11th.

No Holy Mass at Sorrell Chapel until January

21st: due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend.

Please Help us Put Away Christmas Decorations: immediately following Holy Mass next Sunday. Many hands make light work!

Please pray for our college students: this week as they will be at a Catholic conference with few thousand other people!

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.

St. Martin is on Facebook: Check us out there at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. Be sure to like our page so you see all of our updates.

Let's **Keep those Decorations up** through the Christmas season which concludes this year, Monday, Jan. 8th.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN

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

Monday, January 1

Holy Mass, Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God - 9:00 am
No Trudy Schroeder Women's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 2

No Holy Mass

Wednesday, January 3

Adoration - 9 am - 8 pm
Holy Mass - 5:15 pm

Thursday, January 4

No Holy Mass
No RCIA
No Bible Study in Spanish

Friday, January 5

No Holy Mass

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

CCD K – 8th - 8:30 am
Sacrament of Reconciliation – 9:30 to 9:45 am
Rosary – 9:30 am
Holy Mass – 10:00 am
No Holy Mass at Sorrell Chapel
High School Meeting - 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm

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.

Words of Encouragement for Parents: The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. They bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery - the preconditions for all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the 'material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.' It adds: "Parents have a grave responsibility to give good example to their children." (CCC #2223).

- 1) <http://www.more4kids.info/549/best-parenting-websites/>
- 2) <http://www.realsimple.com/work-life/family/kids-parenting/best-parenting-websites-0000000008335/index.html>
- 3) <http://www.top100familysites.com/parenting-websites.html>
- 4) <http://www.parenting.com/article/4-websites-for-tween-girls-1000071995>

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 – January 6, 2018

Greeters: Volunteers
Lectors: Brittney Meyer, Anna Gooden
Ushers: Jeffrey and Patrick Messick
Gift Bearers: The Messick Family
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Barbara Staskowski, Julia Tran
Altar Servers: Volunteers

Sunday – January 7, 2018

Greeters: Christopher Marco, Jeffrey Blair
Lectors: Emily Reiss, Mark Christensen
Ushers: Parker Reiss, Bobby Hussey
Gift Bearers: The Hussey Family
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist: Barry Smolcic, Mickey and Cheryl Dichiaro
Altar Servers: Joyce and Marie Gallie, 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.

Thanks to our Choir & Liturgical Volunteers: As we consider the magi who came and adored the Lord, we thank all those who help make the Liturgy so beautiful: our choir members who lead the singing, especially Pat Block, Mike Gibbons, and Rebecca Sanders our cantors, our Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, gift-bearers and Altar Servers. A big thanks as well to Barbara Staskowski, Jo Ann Gibson, and Barbara Patterson who each set up for one of our three Masses each weekend. We really appreciate you and the service you provide for our parish.

Thanks to All Church Decorators: We appreciate everyone who helped decorate the church: special thanks to Barbara Patterson our liturgical coordinator. The Church looks beautiful.

Thank you Anna Gooden: Anna works up the bulletin for us each week; she also manages our website. If you see any mistakes in the bulletin, they are almost always mine! - Fr. Irwin. Thank you Anna for doing this service for the parish.

We welcome more Adorers: As we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord next Sunday where we recall the 3 wise men who came to do the new born King homage and offer him gifts, please consider signing up for a time slot for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament which is offered on Wednesdays from 9 am – 8 pm. It would be great if we had a few people per hour; that way, if someone will be out of town, there would be others to cover for that person.

We can also use substitutes. One of the greatest gifts we can give God is our time. Our dear Lord is just waiting on us to come and spend some time with him. For more info please contact Barbara Patterson [redacted].

Tithing Report December 24 & 25, 2017

Regular - \$2,959.00
Christmas - \$1,439.30

Renovation Campaign
Pledges Received - \$98,109.00
Percent of Total Pledged - 92%

Total - \$4,398.30