



From the Principal's Desk

By Jason Fightmaster

Summer – the favorite word in the English language for students and teachers!

We had such a wonderful 2017-2018 school year! I can't thank all of you enough for your prayers and your support. Even as summer is just beginning, we have already been thinking about the 2018-2019 school year. We are still enrolling for this coming school year, if you know of anyone looking for a school for their children, please send them our way!



Our summer office hours will be Monday-Thursday from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. If you need anything from school, please try to make it during those times. Please note that we will be closed from June 12 until June 26 for cleaning.

I would also like to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers before, during, and after my recent hip replacement surgery. As of the writing of this article, recovery is progressing well and I hope to be cleared for "normal" activity soon!

Have a great summer and, as always, thank you for your prayers and your support of our parish school!



Alumnus Named Valedictorian at Elder

Congratulations to SMOT alumnus Nick Merk (Class of 2014) who was named Valedictorian for Elder High School Class of 2018. Nick is a National Honor Society member, Student Ambassador, Student Council member, Yearbook Co-Editor, Peer Tutor, Kairos Leader, Cross Country Team Captain and Track Team Captain. He has also been nominated for the Joe Quinn Scholar-Athlete Award.

Nick has remained active in our parish throughout his high school years. He was an Altar Server at St. Martin from 5th through 10th Grades and has been an Eucharistic Minister since 7th Grade. Nick will be attending Xavier University majoring in English/Secondary Education.

Well done, Nick! Your SMOT Parish community is so very proud of you. Thank you for your incredible leadership and God's blessings on your very bright future that lies ahead!



Nick Merk
Elder
Valedictorian



Transitions and New Life

By Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education

As the school year winds down, we become in tune to its many transitions and the new life that surrounds it. The Eighth Grade Class quietly shares their excitement of what lies ahead, wearing their favorite high school attire. Emerging young leaders in the grades below them also begin to gleam, dreaming about the possibilities that come with being another year older. In addition, in response to the Holy Spirit's call, some accept the invitation of becoming a newly-trained Altar Server. How honored we are to welcome them as part of the serving team!



CONGRATS

These SMOT alumnae were all smiles after placing third at their recent Mother of Mercy High School track meet.

Jessica Whitman, Lucy Milazzo, and Elena Hauer (l to r), from SMOT Class of 2014, are all members of Mother of Mercy Class of 2018.

They are in Mercy's last graduating class before the merge with McAuley next year.







11-10

Join Us...

for our second annual

Martinfest

November 10, 2018

indoors on our parish campus

6:00 p.m. until midnight

There is **NO** admission charge for this adult only event showcasing our **"Lucky 11s"** Major Award Raffle.

The evening will begin at 5:00 p.m. Mass where we ask SMOT Alumni to join us in a special heritage celebration of our Patron Saint and a tribute to our Veterans. After Mass, we will be serving a delicious dinner in Fr. Mick Hall catered by R & R Meats. Dinner tickets will be sold in advance as the event draws near. Come for dinner and stay all night; you don't want to miss out on the fun!

After dinner, you can head over to the Parish Center for our Craft Beer Tasting or hang around in Fr. Mick Hall for fun and games! We have local breweries including; Brink Brewing Company, 13 Below Brewery, and Westside Brewing, bringing several of their brews for this tasting. Samples, as well as full-sized beers will be available for purchase. This will be an opportunity for you to see what the community has to offer as far as craft beer selection. Or for those who prefer wine, Henke Winery will be here as well. Back by popular demand...entertainment in our Parish Center will once again be provided by SMOT parishioner and alumnus, Tom Gilker's band "Ripple Effect." It will be an enjoyable evening for all!

Throughout the evening we will be awarding prizes for our **"Lucky 11s"** Major Award Raffle, with the grand prize drawing held at **11:11** p.m. Winners need not be present to win our Major Award Raffle. We will also be featuring a Silent Auction, hourly Split the Pot, Basket Bonanza Raffle and a Rapid Gift Card Raffle.

PLUS, Don't Forget our popular bonus Door Prize...Everyone in attendance on this evening will receive a Door Prize ticket for a chance to win "Suds OR Suds" for a year! One lucky winner will win a year's supply of laundry detergent (Suds) AND one lucky winner will win a year's supply of craft beer growlers (Suds)! You choose which prize you prefer. Winner **MUST** be present to win Door Prize! One entry per person.



OR



Please mark your calendars now and plan on joining us for this fun filled evening!



"LUCKY 11s"

Major Award Raffle

Printed below are your
2018 Major Award Raffle Tickets.

Once again, tickets sell for \$20 each.

Our \$3,0**11** Grand Prize drawing
will be held at **11:11** p.m. at **Martinfest**.

We will give away three other
cash prizes on this evening:

one \$1,0**11** and two \$5**11**.

You need not be present to win.

\$**111** Earlybird Drawings held
monthly leading up to the event.

You can purchase them all at once
or turn them in monthly.

Or sell them to a friend!

Please return your tickets to the
Parish Office or drop into the
Sunday collection.

Please mark your envelope:
Major Award.

St. Martin of Tours Church founded in 1911
St. Martin of Tours Feast Day 11-11

St. Martin of Tours Church
Major Award Raffle Ticket
Donation \$20 each

Name _____

Phone () _____

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Why Do Catholics Do That?

By Angela Birkhead-Flight Music and Liturgy Director

One of my favorite feast days of the Church is that of the Birth of St. John the Baptist on June 24th. This feast day is different from most others because it marks his birth and not his death – Mary is the only other saint with a birth day celebration on the Church calendar. In addition, his birth day celebration is strategically placed by the Church to emphasize his role in God's great plan.

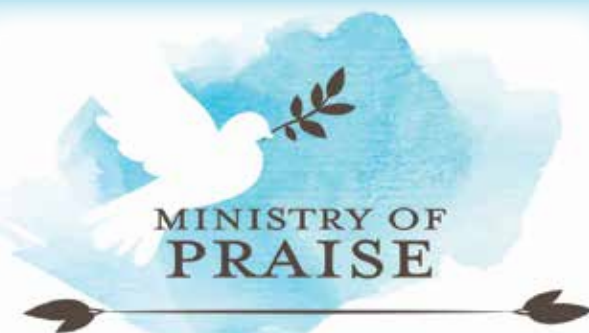
The beginning of the Gospel of Luke is the only account of John's birth. John's father, Zechariah, was a Jewish priest, and he and his wife Elizabeth were quite old. When Zechariah took his turn offering prayers and incense at the temple one day, the angel Gabriel appeared to him to give him the good news that he would have a son named John, and Zechariah just could not contain his disbelief, so Gabriel took away his power of speech until John was born.

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, Gabriel visited Mary to let her know she would be the mother of the Son of God, and also that Elizabeth had conceived a son, for nothing is impossible with God. At this point, Mary set off to visit her cousin, and John leapt with joy in his mother's womb in the presences of Jesus. The Feast of the Annunciation, celebrating this visit by Gabriel, is on March 25, three months before the celebration of his birth. It is also placed six months before Christmas to emphasize that John prepared the way for Jesus.

But what I like most about this feast day is that it is placed just a few days after the Summer Solstice, which is on June 21st. This day has the longest period of daylight of the year; the following six months have a shortening of the length of days, echoing the words of John the Baptist, "He must increase and I must decrease." Then, near Christmas, the daylight hours reach their shortest and begin increasing right before our celebration of Jesus' birth!

Of course we do not know the actual birthdates of John the Baptist and Jesus, but I think it beautiful that those in the early Church so carefully thought out John's feast day and placed it to emphasize who he was, and that he was six months older than Jesus. As he prepares the world for Jesus Christ, his light decreases, and then Jesus' light increases beginning right before Christmas and into the Easter Season.

This year, John's feast day is on a Sunday. In many places in Europe, there is a custom of lighting fires on the eve of John's birthday – bonfires are lit on hilltops all over the countryside in Scandinavia, France, Spain, and Italy. In Florence, the celebration of John's birth lasts three days! Perhaps this would be a good night for a bonfire or marshmallow roast in his honor! I do hope you celebrate his day well, and keep in mind his words as we open our hearts to make room for Christ.



For all priests and deacons, living or deceased, on this month of ordination anniversaries, that God will keep them close and give them the peace of mind of a job well done.

For our graduates, from our grade school and those in our parish graduating from other schools, that as they take the next step in their lives that they will ask God for guidance.

For the teachers and administration at St. Martin of Tours school, that they will be renewed and refreshed over the summer break.

That St. Barnabas, whose feast day is June 11th, will help and guide us in establishing peace in our homes, in our communities, in our nation, and in our world.

St. Anthony of Padua, whose feast day is June 13th, is a patron of lost things, lost souls and lost spiritual goods. Especially on this feast day, let us pray that the lost be guided back to the path given to us by Jesus.

During this month containing the feast day of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, let us pray especially for our young people, that they will be safe from harm during the summer break, and that they keep love for God in their hearts.

Just as St. John the Baptist (feast June 24) noted: "He must increase, but I must decrease," let us all pray for humility in our own hearts, that we take on more and more the mantle of Christ.

During this month of the feast of Saints Peter and Paul (June 29) and the feast of the First Martyrs of the Church (June 30), let us pray for those martyred for their faith, especially those killed this past year.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

For those being called to become Catholic this year, that they will hear the call of the Holy Spirit and will find a home in our RCIA program.

That our civic leaders will work for issues of social justice, creating a society of freedom and fairness for all.

For all our parish volunteers and staff, that they be given joyful hearts as they carry out the work of the Church.

For the intentions in our Memorial Mass Fund book, those prayers entrusted to our Prayer Chain, and all the special intentions of our parishioners.

Memorial Mass Fund

For the Memory/ Intention of:

Dolores Kemme
Matt Kammerer
Patricia DuBois
Ken Casey
Ken Casey
Patricia Ann DuBois
Patricia Ann DuBois
Pat DuBois
Joseph Grosso
Theresia Ress
Mary Kay Feighery
Patricia Parker
Steve Urban

From:

Wilma Smith
Wilma Smith
Don & Joan Fahrenkamp
Bob Hildebrand
Pat Brockmeyer
Bill Stuckenberg
Bob Hildebrand
Gerry Koenig
Disimile Family
Bob Hildebrand
Dave & Terri Huwel
Dave & Terri Huwel
Nancy Urban

Deaths

Frank Wachter
Patricia DuBois
Jeanette Stirrat
Theresia Ress
Joseph Steltenpohl

New Parishioners

WELCOME

Jennifer Cook
Virginia Hanlein
Richard & Kathleen Allen

Just a reminder...

We will have
one combined
July/August
Tour Talk.

The deadline for
this summer
issue is July 10.

Tour Talk is the official publication of

St. Martin of Tours Parish

3720 St. Martin Place

Cheviot, Ohio 45211

(513) 661-2000

www.saintmartin.org

The primary purpose of this newsletter (published ten times a year) is to provide short, well-balanced articles about parish news, such as committee reports, fund-raising activities and current events.

Tour Talk Deadline is the tenth of each month. Articles and photos can be e-mailed to:

dbroerman@fuse.net.

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