



TOUR TALK

December 2018



ADVENT / CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

First Sunday of Advent

December 2

Blessing of New Parish Members
& Advent Wreath Making

Masses: 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Nativity Stations of the Cross

Monday, December 3

7:00 p.m. in Church

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 7

5:00 p.m. Mass

Saturday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Mass

Second Sunday of Advent

December 9

Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Advent Penance Service

Tuesday, December 11

7:00 p.m. in Church

Third Sunday of Advent:

Blessing for Expectant Parents

December 16

Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Advent Vesper Service

Monday, December 17

7:00 p.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 23

Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24

Masses: 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m.

Prelude of Christmas Carols
presented by the Choir: 11:15 p.m.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

Masses: 12:00 a.m. Midnight,
9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

The Holy Family of Jesus,

Mary and Joseph

December 30

Masses: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

December 31 and January 1

Masses: Monday, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m.



In Our School...

When the Saints Go Marching In

By Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education

On Halloween, our community was enriched and inspired by wise and saintly guests who shared with us their gift of faith and holy lives during the All School Mass celebration including St. Elizabeth Mother of John the Baptist, St. Cecilia, St. Nicholas, St. Martin of Tours, St. Francis Xavier, St. Clare and St. Vincent de Paul!



Handmade with Love – A Prayer of Thanksgiving

In honor of St. Martin of Tours Feast Day (the patron saint of soldiers) on November 11, students took part in a special project creating lanterns that were handmade with love as a prayer of thanksgiving to Martin and all of our Veterans.

Recognizing “the light” in others is a common theme in the story of St. Martin. Martin brought light and warmth to those who were in darkness. We, too, are called to be bringers of Christ’s light to the world over and over again!

Our Common Home

By Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education

The celebration of life and the mission of St. Francis sung on during the month of October for the St. Martin's family with the presence of Sister of Charity, Caroljean Willie who shared with us a special presentation of Pope Francis' Encyclical, *Laudato Si'* ("Praise Be"), highlighting the gift of our common home for all people and our call to care for it through acts of love and choosing to live more simply.

In our call to respond, several of our parish members, Confirmation candidates, parents, sponsors and Girl Scouts gathered for a special cleanup initiative in and around Cheviot, beautifying the city one garbage bag at a time. City Official, Amy Richter also joined us in gratitude, sharing with us the mission and vision of the community in which we work, play and reside. How beautiful the Body of Christ!





SWEETEN



Pastoral Council

St. Martin of Tours Pastoral Council Minutes

October 25, 2018 – Present at the October 25, 2018, meeting were: Laurie Huff, Eileen Duffy, Lou Winston, Debbie Weitz, Margie Hammitt, Kris Schwarte, and Fr. Terry Hamilton. Absent: Cathy May, Angie Bley, Gina Rider, Jason Fightmaster and Mary Jo Betz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – We are still looking for someone to fill the position of Recording Secretary.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Parish Life: Our annual Pancake Breakfast for the benefit of the St. Vincent de Paul Society was a success. Our annual children's Halloween Fellowship was enjoyed by all. Father led the children in a procession to the Parish Center. Our All Souls Service and Reception will be held for parishioners and family members, whose loved ones have passed away during the previous 12 months. Following the service, attendees are invited to a reception. Last up on the Parish Calendar of Events for 2018 is our Advent Wreath-Making Fellowships. Parish Life will provide greenery (provided by one of our parishioners), for the making of the wreaths for the Advent Season. The parish will provide wire forms for those who need them and candles to complete the wreaths. Refreshments will be served after all Masses.

Spiritual Life: Bible Study – We are a little over half way through our study of Jesus' Parables. We first discussed the nature of parables and learned that the reason Jesus spoke in parables was to be better understood by common people. Thus far we have studied the parable of the *Sower of the Seed*, *The Treasure/Lost Pearl*, *Workers in the Vineyard*, *The Good Samaritan*, *The Pharisee and the Tax Collector* and *The Dishonest Servant*. We plan on concluding this session of Bible Study on November 12, and are looking to future topics when we resume in the Winter. Adult Faith Formation – On the evening of October 9, Sr. Caroljean Willie gave a very impressive presentation based on Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudate Si/On the Care of our Common Home*. Sister Caroljean presented a Power Point illustrating key portions of our Holy Father's work and interspersed it with examples from her own extensive experiences of the deteriorating environment. This served to add a humanitarian dimension to the problem. Sister's talk was followed up on October 13, with tangible activity by our Confirmation Candidates, Girl Scouts and other interested parishioners as we dispersed throughout the community gathering litter. Over a dumpster of refuse was collected by these dedicated volunteers. Book Club- Our latest book was Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*. We had a brief discussion of this classic novel on October 16. Our next book will be *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham. This novel is about a married couple who decides to skip the chaos of shopping and decorating for Christmas and spend their budget instead on a Caribbean cruise only to find that their vacation from Christmas wasn't much of a vacation.

Finance: Reviewed financial info with no changes. Working on Preliminary Financial Report.

Youth Report: No report

Athletics: Soccer season ended the weekend of October 13-14. Post season tournament will follow for any team that qualifies. On October 7, soccer players and their families attended mass together. Girls' volleyball practices start on October 15. Boys' basketball sign-ups are completed but there is still a need for more players. The Athletic Association is looking into possibly bringing back boys' volleyball, if there is enough interest. Jim Lohbeck has volunteered to be baseball coordinator. The baseball program has struggled over the last few years to find enough players to field teams. Jim will get an early start to gauge the interest for this year so the association can decide the future of the program. Seven banners were purchased to be hung in the Parish Center. The banners will highlight division championships for baseball, softball, boys' basketball, girls' volleyball, girls' basketball, girls' soccer and boys' soccer. Spiritual Liaison, Kevin Bonocutter has been meeting with Bob Hammann to focus on the Ministry of Youth Athletics.

Outreach: SVdP is in need of staples to tide them over until Thanksgiving. An insert with a list of Thanksgiving items to donate was in the bulletin last week. In a city-wide effort, SVdP is collecting new and gently used coats – barrels are in the back of church and in the school.

Property and Grounds: No report

Education Commission: No report

Principal: Current enrollment: Kindergarten – 35; First Grade – 24; Second Grade – 27; Third Grade – 32; Fourth Grade – 42; Fifth Grade – 31; Sixth Grade – 21; Seventh Grade – 35; Eighth Grade – 22; Total = 269.

Our ADM (average daily membership, used for state funding) was 271. This is down from 276 last year meaning we will lose a little state funding, but will still have plenty for what we need to do. This year we are beginning our process for the OCSAA accreditation cycle. We have committees set up and work is under way. Our job this year is to collect data, look at, and possibly revise, or mission and belief statements, evaluate our organizational effectiveness, and use our data to formulate an academic goal and a Catholic identity goal. The process continues into next school year as well, but this year, we have a lot of the "leg work" to get through. You can go to www.ocsaa.org for more information on the process. We are currently participating in two outreach service projects for St. Vincent de Paul. The big one is the collection of items for the Thanksgiving baskets for the parish SVdP. We also have blue bins in the school for the annual SVdP Coat Drive and we are asking our families to donate any new or slightly used coats to be donated to those in need during these cold months ahead. Our Third graders have begun their testing journey for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee this week. They will take a series of tests this year with the opportunity to earn a promotion score on each one. The state test is this week, another test will be completed in December, yet another state test in March, and then if others still need to earn the promotion score, other tests will be given. The first Trimester ends on Friday, November 9, marking the 1/3 point of the school year. Report Cards will be handed out on Wednesday, November 14. The awards assembly will be on Tuesday, November 20, after the All-School Mass at 8:00 a.m. If any of you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact our school principal at 661-7609 or jfightmaster@saintmartin.org.

DRE/ Liturgical Ministries: RCIA Potentials – The formation of this year's RCIA reflects the gentle reminder that "God's time is always the right time." With the work of the Spirit, six

women and two children (ages eleven and twelve) have surfaced within the last month or so as potential participants. A formal letter was sent this week for set-up of the initial interview and inquiry. Confirmation Parent and Candidate Meeting- Accompanied by their parents, seventh and eighth grade youth officially began their preparations for Confirmation with the initial autumn kick-off meeting. The evening gathering was designed to assist in the understanding and appreciation of the Sacrament of Confirmation. In particular the connection between the three Sacraments of Initiation Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist was considered. Important information about participation in community service, details about Investiture, the role of a sponsor, the Evening of Retreat, the Evening of Discernment and selecting a Confirmation name was also shared. The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Most Reverend Archbishop Dennis Schnurr will take place on Monday, April 8, 2019. The number of candidates to be Confirmed is fifty-three. Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Pet Blessing – The custom of "Blessing of Pets" is marked in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day and his love for all creatures. Abundant and joyful students, teachers, parents and caregivers brought their beloved family pets to St. Martin of Tours playground for a special afternoon blessing on Thursday, October 4. Additional times for "Blessing of Pets" included Saturday, October 6, and Sunday, October 7. Confirmation Investiture-October 7, during the 9:30 a.m. Mass along with their parents, the parish community was privileged to be introduced to our seventh and eighth grade youth preparing to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation this spring with a special rite known as Investiture. A pledge was made by candidates with the guidance of their family and sponsors to fully participate in the preparations leading up to the celebration of Confirmation. This commitment included the promise to faithfully participate in Sunday Eucharist, an openness to continued learning of the Catholic Faith and deepening one's relationship with God and the Church through prayer, scripture reading, and acts of service. In addition, the parish community in turn offered the Confirmation candidates their loving support and prayers throughout the process of formation and beyond. An Evening on Creation-Tuesday, October 9, as a St. Martin's family the celebration of life and the mission of St. Francis sung on with the presence of Sister of Charity, Caroljean Willie sharing with us a special presentation of Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si' ("Praise Be")* – highlighting the gift of our common home for all people and our call to care for it through acts of love and choosing to live more simply. Keep Cincinnati Beautiful Service Project – Saturday, October 13, In response to the Evening of Reflection with Sr. Caroljean Willie several parishioners, Confirmation candidates, parents, sponsors and Girl Scouts gathered together to put faith into action in the local community with participation in the Great American Clean Up initiative. To provide an important sense of context, Cheviot representative Amy Richter also joined us sharing the mission and vision of the community in which we work, play and reside. Following, eight teams of people flooded the streets with a designated route, beautifying the city one garbage bag at a time – How beautiful the Body of Christ! Parent and Child First Reconciliation Meeting – Tuesday, October 16, this meeting was designed to assist both parents and children in their understanding of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Together, we took time to discuss and share the importance of forgiveness. We also considered ways in which we can help our children and ourselves celebrate this sacred gift in our developing relationships with God and with other people. To foster an awareness of our everyday behavior and its impact on one another our evening included a slide presentation of the beloved book by Carol McCloud "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" At its core is the concept that every person carries an invisible bucket that no one can see, i.e. our heart. When someone is kind to us and vice versa our bucket becomes filled with love and goodness. However, when the opposite occurs our bucket gets dipped into, leaving us feeling empty and broken. To encourage bucket filling in the context of the home environment each family received a bucket with compliment cards. The children also decorated their own candle that will be used during the First Reconciliation celebration with beautiful and delicate detail. Project in Ministry Focus Session-Sunday, October 21, Parish member Bob Hammann is studying at the Athenaeum of Ohio in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program. A final requirement in his coursework is a "Project in Ministry" that seeks to identify a primary pastoral need within the parish community. Based on his research and collaboration with our pastor, Fr. Terry and the Director of Religious Education, Laurie Huff, the Ministry of Youth Athletics surfaced as the target group. With the assistance of the Project in Ministry team a focus group was planned and implemented. Invitations were sent to designated parishioners recognized as being able to offer their expertise. The questions fielded included: What did you learn/value/enjoy in your experience playing/parenting/coaching youth sports, What values would you expect/like your child to take away from their youth athletic experiences?, How can youth athletics help teach these values?, What role does the coach/parent/team/Athletics Association/parish community play in achieving that?, What are the barriers in making these roles a reality?, As a parish community, how do we address and overcome these barriers? The focus group was filled with meaningful conversation with the potential to bring about positive change. RCIA Mystagogy – Sunday, October 28, Mystagogy (uncovering the mysteries of our Catholic Faith) is scheduled to take place this Sunday following 9:30 a.m. Mass with those men and women who were received into the Church last April at the Great Easter Vigil.

Pastor's Report: Father reported that summer maintenance projects are finishing up (St. Cecilia window, Red School exterior trim). We will be continuing the October count of Mass attendance through this coming weekend (October 27/28), and then will send the information to the Archdiocese Office.

Old Business: None

New Business: Lou reported that the outreach to Terrace View Gardens is in need of a few more Eucharistic Ministers to help with Communion Service and distribution of the Holy Eucharist to residents in their rooms on Sunday afternoons. Fr. Terry recommended checking our Eucharistic Minister list. Laurie suggested getting in contact with the person who is moderating the Caregiver's Support group here at St. Martin.

Our next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 6:15 pm in Red School Building.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

By Angela Birkhead-Flight, Music & Liturgy Director

Birth Date of Jesus

Paul Turner

The opening of the third millennium harmonized with the traditional date for the first Christmas. Without a doubt, the birth of Jesus is the most important event to celebrate in a new millennium. But there is plenty of doubt about when that birth took place.

There is no clear historical record of the date and year of Jesus' birth. Although two of the Gospels record incidents pertaining to the event, neither assigns a date.

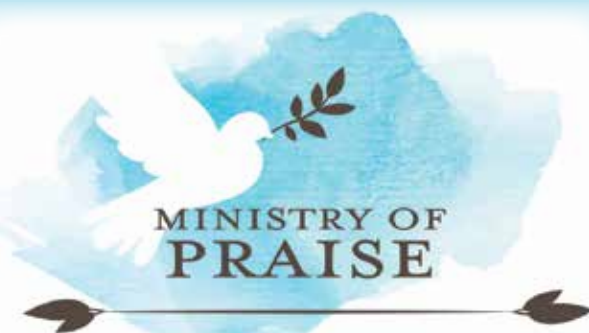
Two main theories surround the choice of December 25 to commemorate the Nativity. The first theory looks to a third-century Roman pagan celebration coinciding with the winter solstice. As the days began to lengthen each year, December 25 became a festival for the rebirth of the unconquered sun. Christians, who believed Christ was the real unconquered source of light, put his birth date on the same day.

The second theory looks to the passion of Jesus. According to early conjectures, the actual day of Christ's passion fell on March 25 in the year Jesus died. Some Christians believed that Jesus died on the anniversary of his conception. For this reason, March 25 became also the celebration of the Annunciation. Looking forward nine months, the birth of Jesus was placed on December 25.

The traditional year of Jesus' birth was fixed in the mid-sixth century by Dionysius Exiguus, a monk and scholar who set the calendar according to the system we now know as A.D. (*anno domini*, "in the year of the Lord"). However, Matthew and Luke both say Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, which scholars now calculate from 37 to 4 B.C. Oddly then, Jesus was probably born "before Christ."

Although the actual birth date of Jesus cannot be known, he was born, and the millennium commemorates this birth by recognizing that all of time hinges on the life of Jesus.

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160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505.
Paul Turner, Pastor of St. Munchin Parish
in Cameron, MO



As we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary, we pray that she lead us to a stronger faith in God evidenced in works of charity.

That the season of Advent be a time of spiritual preparation for Christmas for our parish.

For our Jewish friends as they celebrate Hanukkah.

Let us pray to St. Nicholas to ask God to fill our stockings with many blessings.

That we all realize that the best Christmas gift we can receive is the gift of God Himself.

For an increase in respect for all human beings: including those yet to be born, those on death row, and those who are frail.

For an increased respect for all of God's creation, that society will be transformed to be gentler on the earth.

For those who have lost loved ones and are alone this holiday season.

For the safety of all those who will be traveling during the Christmas holidays.

For those who suffer from depression and/or loneliness during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

For our military men and women who will be away from their loved ones this Christmas. Let us pray that they will safely return home soon.

For the intentions in our Book of Intercession.

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

For those suffering from illnesses of every kind and their caregivers: that they be blessed with deep faith and perseverance, healing and hope.

For all recipients of our healing/prayer blankets, for their physical, mental and spiritual health.

For peace around the world and a Spiritual healing for all people.

For the many children still being held in detention centers in our country. That they be placed in loving homes.

For the staff of St. Martin of Tours parish and school, that they be blessed this holiday season.

We thank you for all your prayers each month!

Memorial Mass Fund

For the Memory/ Intention of:

Thomas Lustenberger
Judy Knab
Paul Rosfelder
Marian Greiner Gaston

From:

Donna Lustenberger
Donna Lustenberger
Rosemary Rosfelder
Catherine Huebner

Deaths

John Wagner
Joann Ware
Elizabeth Kocher
Norman Neiheisel

New Parishioners

WELCOME

Doug Monaghan
Kapreese Hofmann



The deadline for our
January/February Winter Issue
of *Tour Talk*
is January 10, 2019.

I wish you all a
Blessed Holiday Season!

Donna

Tour Talk is the official publication of
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(513) 661-2000
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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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Editor: Donna Broerman