



TOUR TALK

March 2019



SMOT Wildcats Hold Maroon Out

SMOT Athletics recently held their annual "Maroon Out."

This day included a pep rally held during school hours and several basketball games played that evening in our Parish Center.

There was a great turnout and a lot of excitement to cheer on our SMOT Wildcats!





Catholic Schools Week Open House





**CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK
OUT OF
UNIFORM
FUN!**



Community Matters

By Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education

Each week, together as God's family, we gather for the Sacred Liturgy with a mission to seek the sacred and encounter Jesus. With deep respect for ritual, we are granted a sense of confidence and comfort as we have been taught and formed on our journey of faith to know where to look for Christ's presence – through the person of our pastor, God's Word in scripture, the celebration of the Eucharist and us, the Body of Christ. However, the ineffable mystery in which the sacred often finds us first shines forth in the grace of the Spirit – bearing a powerful lesson of l-o-v-e.

In recent months at St. Martin of Tours, the weaving of the Lord's teaching has presented itself in the unexpected – the growing ministry of Altar Serving. A ministry that was once primarily led by our youth now also contains the presence of the seasoned – an integration that has defined God's intent of our faith to be shared across generations. Utilizing their strengths, shared values and respect for one another, we are gratefully reminded by their service that community matters!



*Anniversary
Couples
Blessing*



Pastoral Council

Present at the January 17, 2019, meeting: Lou Winston, Margie Hammitt, Cathy May, Eileen Duffy, Kris Schwarte, Gina Rider, Jason Fightmaster, Laurie Huff, and Fr. Terry Hamilton. Absent: Debbie Weitz, Angie Bley, and Mary Jo Betz.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Parish Life: On October 27, our annual children's Halloween Fellowship was held. It was an incredibly fun night for both children and adults. On October 28, our All Souls Service and Reception was held for parishioners and family members whose loved ones had passed away during the previous twelve months. Our annual Advent Wreath-Making Fellowship was held on December 2. For 2019, Parish Life Activities will begin with our annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration on February 10. Then on April 8, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be received by our 7th and 8th graders, administered by Archbishop Schnurr. Afterwards, a reception will be held for the newly confirmed. April 20, is the evening of the Easter Vigil Mass, with a reception following. April 21 is Easter Sunday and following our 11:30 a.m. Mass, we will hold our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Spiritual Life: Bible Study will begin on February 4, with a study of St. Paul's First and Second Letters to the Corinthians. Adult Faith Formation ministry will meet soon to plan for a Lenten presentation of the Social Justice Stations of the Cross. Book group discussed *Skipping Christmas* by John Grisham on January 15. Next, we will read *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance.

Finance: Cathy May reported that December 2018 reports were reviewed with no changes. In December 2018, St. Martin received a \$200,000.00 bequest. Part of this money will be used to replace the aging boiler in the yellow school building. Tuition for 2019-2020 has been set. Due to the generosity of Jim Day (Emma Day scholarship) and the George Hubert Family Foundation (Educational Scholarship Assistance Program), St. Martin was able to award additional scholarships totaling \$40,308.00 to numerous families. There are several changes being made following a recent audit by the Archdiocese. Tamper-resistant bags will be used for collections at each Mass and for deposits. The budget sheet layout will change slightly.

Youth: Many good things are happening with our scouts at St. Martins. SMOT Daisy and Brownie troops attended an International Girl Scout event at the University of Cincinnati in conjunction with Kappa Delta sorority. The girls also earned their Fire Safety badge while visiting the Cheviot firehouse. The girls visited nursing homes over Christmas where they sang carols to the residents. There are currently two girls in our Cadette troop who are working toward their Marian Award. Our Cadette troop recently enjoyed ice skating and going to an escape room. They are currently selling cookies and making plans for the Lenten Fish Frys. These girls are also working towards their Silver Award in Girl Scouts. There are 12 girls in our 2nd year junior troop and they have been extremely busy! They have participated in numerous service projects such as clean-up projects at Winton Woods park and in Cheviot. They have enjoyed learning yoga, making holiday crafts and leading a toy drive at Christmas. The girls held a bake sale at church and earned \$450.00! They used these funds to make meals for homeless women and to buy paint to decorate the gym bathrooms with positive phrases. They eventually plan to paint similar images in the school bathrooms.

Athletics: Athletics is looking into purchasing an AED machine for the Parish Center (cost is approximately \$1,200.00), and also having first aid training for all coaches. Baseball sign-ups were held, there were a total of 13 boys that signed up. Since there are not enough to field teams, SMOT will send players to St. Al's and Our Lady of Lourdes to help fill their teams. Softball sign-ups are being held in January. Girls Volleyball just finished their season. 7th grade finished as league co-champions, 8th grade finished as co-champions and also won the Mercy-McAuley tournament. Boys Basketball season is underway. There are 6 teams – 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th grade. On Friday, January 11, the Second Annual Maroon Out was held. The day included a pep rally held during school, that evening the 4th, 5th 6th 7th and 8th grade teams played games at the Parish Center. There was a great turnout and a lot of excitement to root on St. Martin teams. In celebration of Catholic education and Athletic recognition, volleyball and basketball players are asked to dress in uniform and along with their coaches and families attend the 9:30 a.m. Mass on January 20.

Outreach: No report

Property and Grounds: Fr. Terry reported that the repair of the St. Cecilia window and the repair and plastering in the stairwells is complete. General maintenance is ongoing. The boiler in the yellow school is in need of replacement. Bids were requested for the removal and replacement of the steam boiler and the vacuum pump. Pastoral Council reviewed bids from Smith Hughes and from Herbert Plumbing. Council agreed to accept the bid from Herbert Plumbing. This bid was

the less expensive and also, Mike Herbert is very familiar with the system here at St. Martin. The question was raised about getting AC in the school building. Fr. Terry stated that it had not been formally discussed.

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Education Commission: No report.

Principal: At our annual CSW Open House, we will be handing out registration info for the new families who attend. Current families will also receive a registration packet as registration for next year will be ramping up in the next month! As always, any numbers that are the same or above what we have now (271) are what we hope and pray for. Watch for updates as things move along during the months to come. High school acceptance letters are beginning to arrive at current 8th grade students' households.

DRE/Liturgical Ministries: Each year shortly after the cornucopia is tucked away, preparations for the Nativity Story presented during our Christmas Eve celebrations begins to take shape. Within it a mysterious gift quietly waits in the midst of a proud cast from SMOT School graciously taking on the familiar roles of shepherds, sheep, angels, the Star from the East, the Magi, King Herod, Mary and Joseph. Rite of Acceptance was on Sunday, January 13. As a St. Martin's Family, we closed the Christmas season with a Rite of Acceptance celebration for a special young woman named Nancy. As an Inquirer she has been gathering with our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Team to explore her desire to join our community of faith. With a formal introduction by her sponsor, we marked the end of her period of early exploration and celebrated the new phase of the RCIA process in which she becomes a catechumen (a person preparing for Baptism). Nancy will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church upon reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Night, April 20. Along with her sponsor Dominick, let us lift Nancy in prayers of love and light during her preparations of the sacred journey of faith! Catholic Education and Winter Athletic Recognition Mass is being planned for Sunday, January 20. With many of our youth leading the liturgy in song and prayer, families are encouraged to wear their favorite St. Martin's spirit wear and to join us for the opening procession. VIRTUS – St. Martin's has scheduled a VIRTUS session on Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m., in Fr. Mick Hall. Participants should preregister for VIRTUS online by following the prompts at Virtus.org including their title (Mr., Mrs., Ms., Miss), full name as it appears on their driver's license, complete address, phone number, email address, last four digits of their social security number and the community in which they will be volunteering. "Protecting God's Children" Awareness Session is emotionally powerful and therefore, attendees must be out of high school and over the age of 18. World Marriage Day for couples who are celebrating a special anniversary this year of 25, 30, 40, 50, 60, or more years of marriage will be honored at a sacred blessing on February 10.

Pastor's Report: Father mentioned the beautiful liturgies and services and the beautiful decorations in our church for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas and thanked all those who had a part in making it such a joyous season. The Catholic Ministries Appeal begins the weekend of January 19/20, the Archbishop will speak at all the Masses.

Old Business: We are still looking for someone to fill the position of Recording Secretary.

Lou Winston is still looking for a few more Eucharistic Ministers to help at Terrace View Gardens with Communion Service and distribution of the Holy Eucharist to residents in their rooms on Sunday afternoons.

Our next Pastoral Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2019, at 6:15 p.m. in Red School.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

By Angela Birkhead-Flight, Music & Liturgy Director

Lent

By Paul Turner

Lent is the season that prepares us to celebrate Easter. The main reason Lent is important is that Easter is more important. On Easter we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, whose passage beyond death into life offers redemption to believers. The Resurrection is the cornerstone of Christian faith. The mystery of Christ's rising from the dead is so deep that the Church invites us to six weeks of preparation before we fully celebrate it. We call that period Lent.

For the faithful, Lent is a time of penitential practices and spiritual discipline. During this time, we acknowledge our sins and seek God's help to overcome them. Traditionally, we engage in acts of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Together these actions show our dependence on God, our renunciation of the fascinations of this world, and our desire to better the lives of others.

For the elect, those preparing for baptism, Lent is a time of intense spiritual preparation. They will celebrate baptism at Easter because in this sacrament they enter the mystery of Christ's dying and rising. They die to their former way of life and open their hearts fully to discipleship in Jesus. For the elect, this is a season of purification and enlightenment. The prayers of this season help scrutinize and purify their intentions, removing whatever might block their commitment, and strengthening their resolve. They will become fully illumined with the light of Christ when they celebrate initiation at the Easter Vigil.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends before the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

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Pastor of St. Munchin Parish in Cameron, MO.*

Did you know?

...that you can enclose your prayer requests in an envelope marked "Prayer Chain" and a network of parishioners will pray for your intention? We don't need full names or specifics in order to lift you in prayer!



For all Christians during this season of Lent, that they may be renewed in their faith and commitment to live out the Gospel message.

That through the intercession of St. Joseph, Head of the Holy Family, all families will grow closer to Christ His Son.

For our catechumen, that this season will bring a spirit of renewal, rebirth, and joy.

That we will heed the words of Pope Francis in working for social justice, and that this work will be fruitful.

That each and every person will find an oasis of welcome in the Church, and once found, that they will extend that welcome to others.

That this season of Lent will be a time of reconciliation for our parish family. May we be reconciled through the sacrament, give pardon to each other, and forgive ourselves so we can be created anew during this season.

That we will work together to create a world in which the dignity of the human person is respected from conception throughout life, especially those whose right to life is sometimes questioned: the unborn, the prisoner on death row, the very frail.

For those who feel a call to the priesthood or religious life, that they may find the courage to say "yes" to what God asks of them.

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

For all the intentions entrusted to our Prayer Chain, that those in need will hear an answer to their prayers.

For those who are unemployed, under-employed, or who experience adverse work conditions, that they will find employment that uses their skills well and pays a just wage.

For all those who pray these prayers, may they be blessed by the Lord and inspired to continue to pray for the special needs of all members of our parish, and especially the special intentions in our Parish Intention Book.

Memorial Mass Fund

For the Memory/ Intention of:

John Miller
Jane Gau
Margaret Konerman
Vernon Nusekabel
Vernon Nusekabel
Joe & Ann Graser
The Jones Family
Grace Stenger
Grace Stenger
Connie Melia

From:

Bill Stuckenberg
Jodie Graser
Jodie Graser

Schlimm Family
Fred & Patty Schlimm
Nancy Meyer

Deaths

James Burns
Robert Elsaesser, Jr.
Lawrence Cole
Danielle Patterson
Jeremy Lanzarotta
Sharon Danemayer
Vernon Nusekabel
Paul Von Holle

WELCOME

New Parishioners

Zachary Keyes
Michelle Moehring
Elizabeth Hammerlath
Bruce Thompson

Come join
us at
our
Lenten
Fish Frydays
during Lent:

**March 8, 15, 22, 29
& April 5, 12**

**5:00-7:00 p.m.
in Fr. Mick Hall**

Plus,

**Stations of the Cross
at 7:00 p.m.
in Church
after each
Fish Fry!**

Tour Talk is the official publication of

St. Martin of Tours Parish

3720 St. Martin Place

Cheviot, Ohio 45211

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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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