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!
Pastoral Council
St. Martin of Tours Pastoral Council Minutes
October 25, 2018 – Present on 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 St. Vincent de Paul Society was a success. Our Parish’s Halloween Bash was a huge success. We had a huge amount of 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 year, we have had a special 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 of the Sacrament of Confirmation and the role of the candidate in achieving this goal. In attendance were 101 candidates for this year’s 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 was confirmed and 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. A tender 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, Sunday, October 7, 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 as parishioners. In addition, candidates were encouraged to ask their Confirmation sponsors for 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, Carolien Willie sharing with us a special presentation of Pope Francis’ Encyclical Laudato Si (“Praise Be”) – highlighting the gift of our common home: earth and all that dwell in it. A special momento, “The Sun Also Rises,” was in response to the evening on reflection with St. Martin’s. Lifestyle 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, Coventor 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 flowed the streets with a designated route, beautifying the city one garbage bag at a time. – How beautiful the Body of Christ is when we work together. Our 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 packet of seed, earth, water and sunflower seeds that will be used during the First Reconciliation celebration with beautiful and delicate detail. Project in Ministry Focus Session-Sunday, October 21, Parish president 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 his 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 field 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/Athletic Association/parish community play in achieving this?, How do they operate their own program?, 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. Two new RCIA Report Cards were revealed to the group to assist the parish in tracking its growth. Their report card includes the numbers of group 1:667-7609 or flightmaster@stmartin.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
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.

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  From:
Donna Lustenberger
Judy Knab  Donna Lustenberger
Paul Rosfelder  Rosemary Rosfelder
Marian Greiner Gaston  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!

Dona