

# Church of St. Martin

staffed by the Benedictines of St. John's Abbey

Sunday Bulletin



119 Maine St. – PO Box 290  
St. Martin, MN 56376

Online [www.stmartincatholicchurch.com](http://www.stmartincatholicchurch.com)

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Bulletin Deadline— **Wednesday Noon**

**Reconciliation:** **Saturday, 3:30 pm or by appointment.**

**Baptism:** Call for pre-Baptism preparation video.

**Anointing:** Contact parish office in case of illness or need.

**Wedding Plans?** To avoid last-minute confusion, contact Father Corwin at least six months before your planned wedding date!



## 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

## July 20, 2008

*Let's get acquainted!*

A St. Martin  
Welcome for

# Father Corwin!

Next Sunday, July 27  
in the Parish Center,  
right after 10:00 am Mass.

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday** at Farming ----- 8:15 pm

**Sunday morning** at St. Martin----- 10:00 am

Monday morning—**No Mass.**

**Tues-Thurs-Friday** at St. Martin— 8:00 am

**Wednesday** at Farming----- 8:00 am

**Eve of any Holy Day** — 8:15 pm at Farming

**Holy Days**----- 8:15 pm at St. Martin

*(unless otherwise announced)*

### MASS INTENTIONS

**21 Mon** – **No Mass Today**

**22 Tues** – ☩ Martin Karsch

**23 Wed** – 8:00 am Mass at St. Catherine's

**24 Thur** – ☩ LeRoy Noll

**25 Fri** – Living & ☩☩, St. Ann's Society

**26 Sat** – 8:15 pm Mass at St. Catherine's

**27 Sun** – 10:00 am Mass at St. Martin

Living & ☩☩, Primus & Moscho families

### Daily Mass Readings

Sunday Readings: Cycle A      Weekday Readings: Year 2

**July 21** —St. Lawrence of Brindisi • Mi 6: 1-4, 6-8 • Mt 12: 38-42

**July 22** —Mary Magdalene • Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 • Jn 20: 1-9, 11-18

**July 23**—St. Bridget of Sweden • Jer 1: 1, 4-10 • Mt 13: 1-9

**July 24**—St. Sharbou Makhluif • Jer 2: 1-3, 7-8, 12-13  
• Mt 13: 10-17

**July 25**—St. James, apostle • 2 Cor 4: 7-15 • Mt 20: 20-28

**July 26**— Sts. Joachim & Anne • Jer 7: 1-11 • Mt 13: 24-30

**\*July 27— 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

• 1 Kgs 3: 5, 7-12 • Rom 8: 28-30 • Mt 13: 44-52

**\* = Holy Day of Obligation**

**Reconciliation Time Change:  
Saturdays at 3:30 pm, or by appointment.**



Any parent having a 1st grader, or a student in another grade who was not in the CCD Program last year, please contact Joan Rothstein at 548-3209. I need to order books for the coming school year!

*Joan Rothstein, D.R.E.*

## Parish News

Work progresses steadily on compiling final results of how we did financially on our sesquicentennial festival. It was a far larger undertaking than normal, so it's taking a bit longer than usual to get all the bills together. Initial results look pretty good, though. Crowds were estimated at 6,000 plus, and most sales figures will show healthy profits for the parish. Final results will be published in the Bulletin soon.

As a sidelight to this, sales of the parish history book have already exceeded expectations, and orders are still coming in, especially from our parish website and by telephone requests. Fr. Corwin reports this week that he received a request for 12 copies from the Stearns County Historical Society offices, and the Great River Regional Library system has also asked for copies. It's not too early to be thinking about Christmas gifts, either — a good selection of all of our souvenir items is still available at the parish house office.

**Politics ain't worrying this country one-tenth  
as much as where to find a parking space.**

*~Will Rogers, 1879 - 1935*

## St. Martin Band

**Our next practice is Tuesday, July 22,  
7:30 pm in the parish hall. Getting ready  
for Albany Festival Parade!**



THIS IS MY SISTER FAITH ... THE ONE WHO I TOLD  
YOU COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS

## WHAT'S WHERE:

**August 3** – Church of Seven Dolours, Albany. **Annual Church Bazaar.** Indoor Polka Mass at 10:30 am, music by the “Country Polkateers”. A delicious homemade **Chicken & Ham Dinner** with dressing, mashed potatoes, coleslaw and much more, including home-baked pie, served from 11 am-2 pm in the new air-conditioned parish center and also in the school lunchroom. Take-outs available. **Quilt Auction** at 3:00 pm with Mitchell Auction Service. **Grand Raffle**, with over \$9,000.00 in cash and prizes, will be held at 6:00 pm – \$1,000.00 grand prize + 265 prizes. Bingo, Fancy Work / Craft Stand, Furniture Raffle, Country Store, Ring Toss, Children’s Games, Cake Walk, *Fet Kuchen* and Food & Beverages available. Please come and spend the day with us!

### Save the Date!

The 2008 Rural Life Celebration will be held on Sunday, August 17 at the Jim and Debbie Knopik farm in rural Little Falls. All are welcome to share in the family-friendly celebration at no charge. The celebration will be a tri-parish effort of St. Mary’s of Little Falls, Holy Family of Belle Prairie and Our Lady of Lourdes in Little Falls. More details will follow as the event draws near.

The Rural Life Celebration is an annual celebration of rural living and the goodness of God’s creation featuring a mass with Bishop John F. Kinney followed by a short program and other activities. The event is co-sponsored by the Diocese of St. Cloud and Catholic Charities.

### I’m Nervous About Confession!

Dear Padre,

*I get nervous every time I think about going to confession. I haven’t been in years. But I do need to go. What should I do?*

Andrea

Dear Andrea,

The words of Christ are important: “Peace be with you...if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them” (John 20:21,23). The forgiveness and peace of this sacrament is an assurance from God. The problem is often our refusal to forgive ourselves.

If we have a hard time forgiving ourselves, it’s hard to believe God will forgive us in this sacrament. We believe Jesus died to save us; he will forgive us and free us. Our problem is allowing him to touch our sins and heal us. To receive sacramental forgiveness, we must confess our sins and be absolved.

The most difficult step is simply to begin. After that, all you need to do is be perfectly honest. If you are nervous, the easiest thing is to say, “Father, I am very nervous. It has been a long time. Can you help me?”

If something has been on your mind for a long time, perhaps something that should have been mentioned in confession years ago, begin with that. If you have done something that is serious and seems unforgivable to you, mention it in confession and know it is forgiven. There is no sin that is unforgivable, and there is very little a priest has not already heard.

Sin is a part of everyone’s life. No one is without it. No matter how hard we try, sin creeps into our everyday lives. That is why we have this sacrament of reconciliation. If you are serious about your faith and your spiritual life, do yourself a favor and get to confession soon.

The Padre – Father Jack Murray, C.S.S.R.

## THE FORGOTTEN SACRAMENT



We received some sobering stuff from the U.S. Catholic Bishops office this week. Sixty-eight pages of graphics, statistics and results of several polls taken over the years. All of it an attempt to “explain” why so few of us bother to accept the tremendous grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

And then receive the greatest sacrament, the miracle of the Eucharist, in a blithely casual state of, well, un-grace. I’d go so far as to call it dis-grace. Some of the attempts to “explain” this phenomenon would make a convert to the faith blush in utter embarrassment, so let’s just quote the 2008 numbers and then peer over the soft, mushy wall of spin-doctoring to see what the Church in America is saying.

Between 1965 and 1975, the numbers of American Catholics going to confession fell through the floor. As of right now, three-quarters of American Catholics report that they never go to confession, or that they do go less than once a year. About one in eight of us participate in personal auricular confession (the penitent’s enumeration of sins by number and kind into the ear of the priest) the minimally required once-per-year, and an identical 12% do so several times a year. A scant 2% receive absolution for their sins once a month or more, and these are almost entirely people who grew up in the pre-Vatican II years of explosive growth in the faith.

Here are some of the reasons given for this backslide into the mire of self-indulgent behavior. **Fear.** Almost everyone cited fears that the priest would yell at them. **Its speed.** Two minutes or less seemed too perfunctory (*My sins must be more important than that!*). A “growing sense of triviality.” Catechetical instruction continued to call for enumeration of individual sins by kind and gravity, but post-Vatican II Catholics were starting to think of sin in vague categories such as social sin, sinful *attitudes* behind one’s individual actions, and the idea of situational option instead of the classical “mortal” or “venial” categories. In short, do your own thing and be your own judge. Just like Adam and Eve.

Another major reason quoted is a real gem. **Contraception.** When Pope Paul VI reaffirmed in 1968 the Church teaching that use of contraception in the conjugal act was always intrinsically wrong, “most Catholics stopped confessing it.”

Well that at least is straightforward. A clear violation of the First, Fifth, and usually the Sixth and Tenth but what the heck. Why be inconvenienced? And that’s where it all seems to come home to roost. But there’s one other spin-doctored reason given which probably bears serious discussion.

Fr. Joseph Chinnici, dean of the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, California asks, “Are we seeing a decline in confession or an expansion of forgiveness?” His point? Asking our brothers and sisters to forgive us communally at the opening of the Mass (the old *Confiteor*, when it’s even recited) is plenty good enough. Add to that the charismatic movement, Marriage Encounter, Bible vigils, communal nonsacramental celebrations of penance, communal celebrations with general absolution (banned by the Church!), house of prayer and contemplative prayer movements, and “a massive growth in interest in spiritual direction” among lay people.

Is any of that remotely equivalent to simply doing precisely what Jesus Christ told us to do? “*What sins you forgive on earth are forgiven in heaven,*” he told his first priests. I don’t think he was referring to free passes given with a wave of the hand.

Father Corwin will be hearing confessions as usual next Saturday at 3:30 pm. Where will you be? *~yr. obt. svf.*

**There is nothing wrong in using four-letter words to explain the facts of life to children – words like love, care, help, give....**