

Church of St. Martin

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

staffed by the Benedictines of St. John's Abbey

Sunday Bulletin



Online

Pastor **Fr. Stephen Beauclair, O.S.B.**
Phone **(320) 597-2575** Email **sbeauclair@ssppr.com**



Deacon — Jerry Theis (320) 597-2749

Financial Coordinator— Jack Kaschmitter 548-3610

Director of Religious Education— Joan Rothstein 548-3209

Bulletin Editor— Paul Hughey 837-5436

Bulletin Email— owlwrite@albanytel.com

Bulletin Deadline— Wednesday Noon



Reconciliation: Saturday, 4:00 pm at Richmond. (St. Martin TBA)

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 Stephen at least six months before your planned wedding date!

27th Sunday on Ordinary Time

October 2, 2011

from the Pastor's Desk

In an effort to help you better understand the upcoming changes in the liturgy, I have put together seven articles from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The packet of articles will be at the entrance to the church. Please share the packets with others. I hope they will be helpful to understand the changes that are coming in the liturgy during November.

~Fr. Stephen, o.s.b.

Visiting the Wineries

Last year I visited some friends who were living in California. Instead of taking me on the usual tour of the popular wineries with their famous names, we went down the back roads to some of the oldest wineries in the state with vines that were planted more than a hundred years ago.

The vines were thick and gnarled. The grapes hanging on them were plentiful and large. The wines we tasted at those wineries were rich and complex as well as expensive. Like anything else, it takes time to produce the best.

These older wineries had selected the best land with the best conditions for growing the grapes. And many of the vineyards started with vines brought over from France or Italy or Spain. Many of these wineries are still owned by families and have not been bought by large corporations. They have been cared for and tended to by the same hands for generations.

We are branches of that vine that has been lovingly cared for by our God. God is the one who gives us all that we need to produce the best fruit possible. When we realize that so much has been given to us, we know that so much is expected of us.

~Father Dominic Grassi

Criminal Mindlessness

A man from Grand Forks, North Dakota robbed the First Community Bank in Fargo. After he left with the money, police were called and upon reviewing the ransom note, they realized it had been written on the robber's bank deposit slip, complete with his name and address.

In other not-so-bright-criminal news:

• A man walked into a store with a shotgun and demanded all of the money from the cash register. After the cashier put the money in the bag, the man asked for a bottle of Scotch from behind the counter. The cashier refused because he did not believe the young man was 21. The robber swore he was, and handed over his ID to prove it. As soon as the robber left, the cashier was able to give police the robber's name and address.

• A man broke into a home and stole, among other things, some New Orleans Saints' season tickets. The police arrested the burglar the following Sunday at the Superdome, sitting in the homeowner's seat.

• A group of tenants killed their landlord's son believing that the dead man's land and inheritance would go to them.

That last stupid-criminal story comes from today's gospel, and unless we're vigilant, the report may end up with our name on it. Our divine inheritance will not come by hook or by crook, but by good and faithful service to God.

~Patrice J. Tuohy

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at Richmond — 4:30 pm
Sunday morning at Richmond — 8:30 am
Sunday morning at St. Martin — 10:15 am
Monday morning — No Mass.
Tues - Wed - Friday — No Mass at St. Martin
Thursday morning at St. Martin — 8:00 am
Holy Days — to be announced

MASS INTENTIONS

6 Thur — 8:00 am Mass
Living & ††, Catholic Financial
9 Sun — 10:15 am Mass
† Wilfred & Marie Moscho
and Karen Moscho Shansie

Daily Mass Readings

Sunday Readings: Year A Weekday Readings: Cycle 1
Oct 3 — Monday • Jon 1: 1--2: 1, 11 • Lk 10: 25-37
Oct 4 — St. Francis of Assisi • Jon 3: 1-10 • Lk 10: 51-56
Oct 5 — Wednesday • Jon 4: 1-11 • Lk 11: 1-4
Oct 6 — Thursday • Mal 3: 13-20 • Lk 11: 5-13
Oct 7 — Our Lady of the Rosary • Joel 1: 13-15; 2: 1-2
• Lk 11: 15-26
Oct 8 — Saturday • Joel 4: 12-21 • Lk 11: 27-28
Oct 9 — 28th Sunday in O.T. Is 25: 6-10a
• Phil 4: 12-14, 19-20 • Mt 22: 1-14

Our Newest Volunteers

Kevin Blonigen has agreed to serve as the sacristan for St. Martin parish, with Harvey Rothstein and Mel Kascht as substitutes.

A sacristan is someone who takes care of the sacristy and all its contents, and gets everything ready for Mass in the sanctuary area. In some places this person was called a sexton. The word comes from the Latin root for "sacred."

How Small is a Small Number?

The percentage of Catholics who say they attend Mass every week is steadily declining. In 1987, 44% attended Mass. By 1993, 41%. By 1999, 37%. And in 2005 (the latest confirmed figures), only 33% of registered Catholics in America said they regularly attended Mass.

Survey data collected by the Gallup Organization indicate that Catholic Mass attendance has been in decline from a peak in 1957 and 1958. And it's not due to recent sex-abuse publicity. The decline began in the 1960s and continues at the same rate. Something else has been nibbling steadily away at the faith.

TONIGHT!

The St. Martin Fire Department Relief Association Annual Ham Supper



Sunday, October 2, serving 4 pm to 8:30 pm
at St. Martin Parish Hall
Heartland DJ Entertainment 4 pm-10:30 pm.
Raffle at 10:30 pm.

No admission charge. Meal tickets are available at St. Martin businesses and from all firefighters. All proceeds to purchase fire equipment.



Catechism Class News

Wednesday, October 5:
Grades 1-8: No classes.

Grades 9-11: Classes at 7:00 pm, Parish Hall.



The 9th annual **Fall Mission Forum**, sponsored by the Diocesan Mission Office, begins with Mass at Noon in the lower church of St. Mary's Cathedral in downtown St. Cloud, on **Wednesday, October 5th**. After Mass enjoy a light reception and presentation by

Fr. John Schwieters, OFM, a Franciscan Missioner in the Amazon region of Brazil who hails from the Melrose-Freeport area of the diocese. The event is free and open to everyone.

Evening for Life Banquet

Theme: "Every Life is Worth Living"
Saturday, October 15th

Doors open at 5:30, Meal at 6 pm,
Pro-life speakers and entertainment to follow

Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Center
Dinner tickets: \$8
Call Linda Pederson for info at 597-4667

WHAT'S ELSEWHERE:

Oct. 8 – St. Benedict's Monastery, St. Joseph. **Vocation Visit and Tour** of the monastery for single women ages 20-40, from 1-4:00 pm. Hang out with the Sisters, enjoy a trolley ride of the monastery grounds, and learn about the Benedictine way of life!

Dude, Can God Make a Stone Too Heavy for Him to Lift?

On the simplest level, this old brainteaser is less like an argument than a noise emitted by the squeaky hinges of human thought. The question confuses us at first by disguising a negative as a positive. It admits that God lacks limits. But it notes that a limit is something, so God is lacking something, and therefore He isn't perfect. You could say the same thing about flaws. Or feathers. Feathers are something, and they're something good — God said so, in a roundabout way, in the book of Genesis. But God has no feathers (so far as we know). Therefore He isn't perfect. And so on.

Still, there are some sober reflections that come to mind when we think about this. Catholics believe that God is in fact bound by the laws of logic, which are part of His own very nature. He cannot make a square that is also a circle. Nor can He choose to cease existing, go insane, or make what is intrinsically evil good. Furthermore, He cannot betray His promises or reverse His own decisions. Since He made the souls of men immortal, He cannot decide to unmake them.

Would the perfections we attribute to God really be enhanced by such a discussion, or the prospect that He could take away our other gifts, such as free will and reason? The "ability" to flip-flop is much like the "ability" to chicken out, procrastinate, or have a panic attack. It's just another way of saying one's will is imperfect, changeable, and subject to new information — in other words, that it isn't God's.

~John Zmirak

Discover the full potential of your marriage by attending the October 15-16 **Marriage Encounter!** Visit www.marriages.org for a listing of retreats and locations or call 651.454.3238.

Believe It

Under same
management
for over
2,000 years.



Of course we all know that October is the Month of the Rosary. Usually I'm inclined to focus on a particular feast day — **Our Lady of the Rosary** which we celebrate on Friday — instituted by Pope St. Pius V in thanksgiving for the great naval victory over the Turks at the battle of Lepanto on the Mediterranean. A miracle due to the recitation of the Rosary, that victory saved Europe from being overrun by the forces of Islam.

Lepanto, the most absolute victory ever gained over the Ottoman Empire, on October 7, 1571, is commemorated by the invocation "Help of Christians," inserted in the Litany of Loretto. Leading up to this, at Belgrade the Turks had been defeated at Nives, France, on the Feast of Our Lady in 1716. A second victory gained that year on the Octave of the Assumption convinced Pope Clement XI to decree that the Feast of the Rosary be celebrated by the universal Church; Leo XIII added the invocation "Queen of the most Holy Rosary, pray for us," to the Litany of Loretto. This Feast is in reality a great festival of thanksgiving for the countless benefits bestowed on Christendom through the Rosary of our blessed Queen.

Aside from apparitions of Our Lady herself, in modern times successive popes have urged us to pray the Rosary. It's a form of contemplative prayer, mental and vocal, which brings down God's blessing on the Church. A biblically-inspired prayer centered on meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, who was from the beginning so closely associated with her Son in his redeeming activity.

But this year I'm inclined to focus a little more deeply on what one short sentence from the Acts of the Apostles can suggest to us:

"All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers." [Acts 1: 14]

Mother of the Church, Mary prays with us and for us. Through her example and intercession, and through our meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary, we learn the lesson of obedience in faith-filled life. Or we should, and will if we but get down on our knees and pray the thing!

God knows the world right now needs some miracles... right now. We need to look beseechingly upon the face of Christ and ask for them.

Blessed John Paul II wrote that we do not need to invent a way to envision Christ's face because "...with the rosary the Christian people *sits at the school of Mary* and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love... To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to *contemplate with Mary the face of Christ*."

What does this mean? When we are truly in love we are free to ask for great things. Otherwise it's just a whiny form of special pleading to an unknown God. Make no mistake, Christ love has to be returned in like measure or it rolls off our head like water off a bluebill duck's back. But to love truly, one has to be able to visualize one's beloved. How hard is that? We were not there, we never *saw* Christ.

But through Mary's intercession, we can. For here is the fact as Father Peter John Cameron O.P. puts it: "Never as in the Rosary do the life of Jesus and that of Mary appear so deeply joined."

Let us join in. We really do need some miracles right now. *yr. obt. svt.*

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST

(66th in a series)

To DENY the Real Presence is to deny the Divinity of Christ.

To DISREGARD OR DOWNPLAY the Real Presence is to DISREGARD OR DOWNPLAY the Divinity of Christ.

The purpose of this series of articles is to convince the unconvinced that adoration of Our Lord in person at least once a week is not only profitable but nearly essential for eternal salvation. And while most of our examples of genuine Eucharistic miracles have been centered in Europe — after all, that's where the Church was most robust for a thousand years — in recent times they have begun to cluster in the Americas, in India and in the Far East wherever Catholicism is challenged.

Numerous Eucharistic miracles have occurred in Korea through Julia Kim, whereby the host turns into flesh on her tongue, hosts have fallen from the wounds of Christ on a cross and a large host appeared in her hands during an apparition of the Blessed Virgin. (Here she was told to ask the Papal Nuncio to bless her hands before receiving the Host, then to give it to him and to her own priest, who suffered from doubt.)

This Eastern concentration of Eucharistic phenomena, if substantiated, is unprecedented in Catholic Church history. The combination of outpourings of Marian apparitions with such awesome display of Eucharistic love may be setting the stage for the most remarkable period of faith conversion in modern history. The question must be asked, though: How can a priest not believe in the True Presence, and if he doesn't, how then can he expect his congregation to believe when the people see a lack of reverence for the Divine Substance?

We in St. Martin/Richmond can rejoice in our pastor's depth of personal belief. If no *visible* miracles occur, it will be because of that.