

# 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

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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!

## Feast of the Epiphany

January 4, 2009

The celebration of **Epiphany** demands that we raise the question: Who experiences darkness and needs light? Instead of formulating a grandiose scheme to evangelize atheists, the modern believer is well advised to search closer to home. If there are family members who suffer economic hardship, light takes the form of financial and emotional support. If there are people who suffer from dependency, light takes the shape of encouragement to seek help. If there are people who have doubts, light takes the appearance of sharing their pain and attempting to aid them through the crisis. In these and similar situations the message of Epiphany is clear: **Share the light.**

## March for Life - Jan. 22, 12 noon

Join thousands of Minnesotans at the Capitol in St. Paul on Jan. 22 for the MCCL March for Life. The March commemorates the deaths of more than 50 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand for the entire nine months of pregnancy.

Are you ready to speak out against abortion and rally together to help change laws and save lives? Then come and be one of the thousands of people who attend MCCL's March for Life at the Capitol on Jan. 22.

We speak for the unborn, and for the moral truth as Jesus Christ commands us to live it. The March commemorates the deaths of more than 50 million unborn babies killed by abortion since the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand for the entire nine months of pregnancy.

### Update on Blondie Kuhl

Blondie developed a blood clot in her leg and has been transferred to the Melrose Hospital for observation and treatment. She would love to have calls or visitors. Just dial the main desk at 1-320-256-4231 and ask for Darlene Kuhl.

Thanks to Debbie Olmschenck for passing this information along!

*Family Prayer - feel FREE again!*



St. John's School of Theology is sponsoring a double "Theology Day" which is a free event and open to the public. Monk, author, musician, and professor **Fr. Anthony Ruff, OSB** will explore the U.S. bishops' current guidelines on **liturgical music**. His research and experience working with the USCCB on their recent music document, "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship," gives him a unique and interesting perspective.

#### Choose from two dates for this event:

Friday, January 16th from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. OR

Friday, February 6th from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Both will be in Emmaus Hall on the St. John's U campus. Again, this is a free event – all you need to do is register!

To register: 320-363-3570 or click [sot-sem@csbsju.edu](mailto:sot-sem@csbsju.edu)

#### A reminder . . .

There are some 2009 envelopes for adults, grades 9 - 12 and a few children (grades 1-8) that have not been picked up. Please take the time to pick up your envelopes. Thank you.

## 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

**5 Mon** — No Morning Mass

**6 Tues** — ~Religious Education Students

**7 Wed** — 8:00 am Mass at St. Catherine's

**8 Thur** — ~Special Intention

**9 Fri** — Living & ̄††, Catholic Aid Society

**10 Sat** — 8:15 pm Mass at St. Catherine's

**\*11 Sun** — 10:00 am Mass at St. Martin

~for the Parish

\* = Holy Day of Obligation

## Daily Mass Readings

Sunday Readings: Cycle B Weekday Readings: Year 1

Jan 5— St. John Neumann • 1 Jn 3: 22--4: 6 • Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25

Jan 6— Christmas Weekday • 1 Jn 4: 7-10 • Mk 6: 34-44

Jan 7— Christmas Weekday • 1 Jn 4: 1-18 • Mk 6: 45-52

Jan 8— Christmas Weekday • 1 Jn 4: 19--5: 4 • Lk 4: 14-22a

Jan 9— Christmas Weekday • 1 Jn 5: 5-13 • Lk 5: 12-16

Jan 10— Christmas Weekday • 1 Jn 5: 14-21 • Jn 3: 22-30

**\*Jan 11— Baptism of the Lord** • Is 42: 1-4, 6-7 • Acts 10: 34-38  
• Mt 1: 7-11

\* = Holy Day of Obligation

## Parish Council Meeting Thursday, Jan. 8, 8:15 pm

### ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



That can't be right! I distinctly heard you say, 'Gold, Frankincense and Fur!'

# 40 years in denial

Will this be an interesting year, or what?



Though your sins may be **SCARLET**, I will make them white like a **MINNESOTA SNOW**. Is 1:18

**Elsewhere:**

**Jan 11** – St. Boniface Parish Center, Cold Spring. **Christian Women's Breakfast.** 9:00 am–12:30 pm. Sausage, scrambled eggs, fried potatoes, Texas toast, coffee cake, applesauce, beverages. Adults (13+) \$6.00, children (5-12) \$3.00, 4 & under free.

**Jan 11** – Holy Family School Cafeteria, Albany. **Family-sponsored Breakfast.** 8:30 am–12:00 noon. *Note–The location has temporarily changed due to renovation of the church.* Sausage, ham, pancakes, hashbrowns, scrambled eggs, applesauce, strawberries & cream, caramel & cinnamon rolls & beverage. Adults \$7, K-6 \$4.00, 5 & under free.

Christmas 2008		December 28, 2008	
Adults	7831.00	Adults	1530.00
Youth	20.00	Youth	2.00
Children	13.10	Children	2.00
Plate	245.26	Plate	117.00
Sun., 12/21	320.00	Sun. Visitor	17.00
Flowers	10.00	Rel. Retirement	25.00
Votives	3.00	Easter '08	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8442.36</b>	Thanksgiving	50.00
		Christmas	1162.00
		Votives	40.75
		<b>Total</b>	<b>3170.75</b>

**Stewardship**

**"When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman..." (Gal 4,4)**

When one looks at the Immaculate Virgin one senses a need in one's heart to come closer to her... Who is she in relation to God the Father? He is her Creator, of course and she herself declares: "I am the handmaid of the Lord." (Lk 1,38).

But who else is she? She is the one chosen by the eternal Father. One cannot conceive this; human words are not adequate. The heavenly Father wanted his Son, the second Person of the Trinity, to have the Immaculate Virgin as his mother in time. She is truly the mother of the Son of God – how difficult this is to grasp! We have to be very united to the Mother of God to understand this mystery at greater depth.

The Virgin Mary cannot be compared with other saints by the fact that she is the Mother of God's Son, truly Mother of God... To be created by God, to be a child by adoption: these things can yet be understood. But really to be the Mother of God is something that exceeds all understanding...

With regard to the Holy Spirit: she is his Bride. We can't conceive this either! The Holy Spirit is united to the Immaculate Virgin to such an extent that He seems to make up a single being with her... In all these things our intellect is not sufficient since the Trinity is infinite. Later, in heaven, we shall get a much better idea of this mystery. Even after thousands of years this understanding will always remain limited to such an extent that eternity will be necessary to come to perfect understanding.

~Saint Maximilian Kolbe, 1938

Epiphany Sunday is a good time for revealing a long-smothered protest on my part. The first day of the new year (as I write this) is a perfect day for resolving to try harder. To add my voice to a growing national call for an epiphany, for insight desperately needed throughout the Church.

During Advent our pastor, a good, holy and agreeable man, was elated that as many as sixteen went to confession before Christmas. This of course doesn't include CCD students who more or less enjoyed the great sacrament of Reconciliation as a package deal. But it made me want to howl in frustration, because since 1972 we've listened so well to the secular humanists as to go into mass denial about the very existence of sin. Only 16 out of perhaps 300 here who still believe in sin and its effects on body and soul.

It all began when some modernist theologians decided that absolutes were burdensome, that all of life was a big messy gray area, and that henceforth we should view right and wrong subjectively. Remorse for offending God became a negotiable issue. Score one for the Other Side.

All too human, we eagerly lumped moral principles with political-social correctness. Social justice, long overdue, slopped across God's justice with predictable results. Personal admission (and absolution) of sin, smothered out.

Candle-lit mysteries of faith paled under worldly light. We turned our confessionals into storage closets for plastic flowers and turned the very act of having guilt removed into a more sociable setting. With comfortable chairs and the familiar distraction of light from the outside world.

Disuse of something inevitably results in devaluation. Since the fact of normal, habitual sin still made us uneasy, we began shying away from baring our soul to God's gaze, as if we actually thought he wouldn't notice! Or forgive. And now we stay away altogether as if it doesn't matter.

The world we now inhabit is disrupted, destructive, psychotic. Name it as you will. Psychologists would label it a grand manifestation of total denial...of something.

There are some powerfully liberating Catholic talks on Confession in the free CD boxes near our church doors. I especially recommend one called **CONFESSION TALK TO CHILDREN**, taped (almost complete) in about 1974. It's far more startling now than it was then. Share it!

Help yourself. ~yr. obt. svt.

**CHOIR Practice**

**Adult Choir:**  
**Monday, Jan. 26 @ 7:30 pm**  
 We will sing at Mass next week also, January 11. All adult choir members please take note!

**500 Card Party!**  
**Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 (2nd Sunday of the month)  
**Bigger Prizes! Sandwiches, dessert, coffee, milk.**  
 8 PM in the parish hall basement. \$3.00 entry fee.  
 \* Young, older and all those in-between are invited!  
 10-game session  
 Beer and soda for sale during the card party  
**Sponsored by St. Joseph's Men's Society**

*This month's workers:*  
**Chairman:** Bob Feldewerd **Co-Chair:** Kenny Utsch  
**Helpers:** Cyril Mehr, Steve Revermann, Tommy Ehresmann, Dave Heinen, Randy Loecken, Glen Moscho, Jerry Schaefer, Peter Schmitt, Bob Schmitz, Ralph Terres.

**It's Quilting Time Again!**

Our Lady of Fatima and the Lions group will sew quilts on **January 12 in the Hall**. Everyone welcome to help!