



*Saint Martin  
of Tours  
Catholic  
Community*

# Sunday Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023

SABUMC  
575 Lake Road,  
Saint Albans Bay  
Vermont 05481  
Phone #802-332-3890

## Welcome to Saint Martin's!

Saint Martin of Tours is the first independent Catholic faith community in Franklin County, Vermont. St. Martin's is part of a vibrant movement known as the Independent Sacramental Movement that has emerged across the U.S. over the last 30 years. (Independent Catholicism has existed in Europe and South America for many decades).

We are:

- a sacramental community centered around the Eucharist and all Sacraments
- grounded in all we love of the Catholic tradition, the celebrations, and the rhythms of the liturgical year
- a people of prayer and a people of service and social justice
- inclusive, affirming, respectful of diversity, and share the Body and Blood of Christ with all who seek to receive Him reverently

All of this binds sisters and brothers across the Catholic landscape as we expand our Faith. We gather at Mass by worshipping God, our Creator, in community and praising Him in song (which is praying twice!) We meet God through our senses of seeing, hearing, tasting, touching, and feeling. All are a part of what strengthens us in our Faith and reminds us of what it means to be Catholic.

## Liturgical Calendar/ Mass Celebrations

- December 24th - NO MORNING MASS TODAY
- December 24th (Sunday) - Christmas Eve Candlelight Mass of the Nativity - Carols & music - 8:30 p.m., Mass - 9:00 p.m. celebrated in SABUMC's Sanctuary.
- December 31st - Mass for the Holy Family & World Peace (Liturgy for January 1st) - 11:30 a.m.
- January 1st - NO MASS TODAY
- January 7th - Feast of the Epiphany - 11:30 a.m.



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

For *The Order of the Mass*, please refer to the *Mass Worship Aid* handout found at your seat or online at [www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org](http://www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org).

Please join us for fellowship immediately following Mass.

## Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

(Isaiah 61:1-3, 10-11 (CCL))

The Spirit of the Exalted One is upon me, because God has anointed me to proclaim good news to those who are poor. God has sent me to mend broken hearts; to proclaim freedom for captives; and release for prisoners; to proclaim the year of God's favor, and the day of God's vindication.

The Spirit of God has anointed me to comfort all who mourn; and provide for those who grieve in the Holy Land; to bestow upon them a crown of beauty instead of ashes; the oil of joy instead of mourning; a cloak of praise instead of despair.

I will delight greatly in God; God is the joy of my soul. For God has clothed me in garments of peace, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, as a bridegroom adorned with a crown, and as a bride bedecked with jewels. As the soil helps the sprout come up, and a garden nurtures seeds to grow, so will God make justice and praise spring up before all peoples of Earth.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People Respond: Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm (Spoken)

(Psalm/Magnificat) Luke 1:36-55 (USCCB)

Lector: My soul proclaims Your

greatness.

*People Respond: My soul proclaims Your greatness.*

My soul proclaims Your greatness, O God. My spirit rejoices in You who make me whole. For You have looked with favor upon me, despite my insignificance. Amazingly, from now on, all generations will call me blessed. You, O God, have done great things for me; and holy is Your name.

*People Respond: My soul proclaims Your greatness.*

You extend mercy and compassion from age to age to all those who hold You in awe. You have shown Your sacred strength, dispersing the arrogant of mind and heart, casting rulers from their thrones and lifting up the lowly; filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty.

*People Respond: My soul proclaims Your greatness.*

You have come to the aid of Your servant Israel, mindful of Your mercy and the promise You made to our ancestors - to Abraham and Sarah and their descendants forever.

*People Respond: My soul proclaims Your greatness.*

*Don't miss any announcements or upcoming special Masses!*

*Visit our website  
[www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org](http://www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org)  
& sign up to receive our newsletter.*

## Second Reading

### A Reading from the Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (USCCB))

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the desire of God's heart for you in Jesus the Christ. Do not quench the spirit nor despise prophetic utterances. Test everything. Retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy, and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of Jesus the Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will also accomplish it.

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Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People Respond: Thanks be to God.*

## Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia.

*People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.*

## Gospel

### A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

(John 1:6-8, 19-28 1:1-8 (USCCB))

Celebrant: May the Word of Christ be with you all.

*People Respond: And also, with you.*

Celebrant: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

*People Respond: † Glory to you, O God.*

A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through

## Gospel

him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John. When the Jewish people of Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to him to ask him, "Who are you?"

John admitted, and did not deny it - he said, "I am not the Christ."

So they asked him, "What are you then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" He answered, "No."

So they said to him, "Who are you, so we can give an answer to those who sent us? What do you have to say for yourself?"

John said: "I am the voice of the one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord,'" as Isaiah the prophet said."

Some Pharisees were also sent. They asked him, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ or Elijah or the Prophet?"

John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."

This happened in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

Celebrant: My friends, the Gospel of the Lord.

*People Respond: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.*

## Prayers of the People

*People Respond: Come into our hearts, O Jesus.*

## Giving: Time, Talent & Treasure



At Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Community, your time and talent are essential to breathing life into our new community of faith and keeping its mission alive.

Your financial support is also necessary for us to meet our financial obligations, which, in good stewardship, we try to hold to an absolute minimum. Through your contributions, we can continue our commitment to serving others. Please know how grateful we are for your generous support and, most especially, for your prayers.

### Thank you for your generosity!

To support Saint Martin's financially, you may:

- Mail a check (payable to) "Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Community," P.O. Box 636, St. Albans, VT 05478.
- Use your bank's online bill pay section to mail your donation directly to Saint Martin's (address above).
- Submit your one-time or recurring contribution online using our secure Tithely link ([https://bit.ly/Donate2SMOTCC\\_Tithely](https://bit.ly/Donate2SMOTCC_Tithely))
- Attend Mass in person and drop your offering in the basket designated for gifts.
- Scan our QR code and donate online.



If you have any questions, please contact Mother Barb at 802-332-3890, or email at [saintmartins.info@gmail.com](mailto:saintmartins.info@gmail.com).

## Announcements – Looking Ahead

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### Prayer Requests

Let us pray for you and your loved ones; please email: [saintmartins.info@gmail.com](mailto:saintmartins.info@gmail.com) or inform Mother Barb to have prayer request included in the upcoming Mass.

### Pastoral Visits

Please reach out to Mother Barb if there's someone you know who needs pastoral care, a hospital visit, or a care facility visit.

### Support our Ministry

Donate online & like/follow/interact with us on social media (links below).

(Rev.) Mother Barb Fichter, Pastor  
Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Community,  
Mailing: P.O. Box 636  
Saint Albans, Vermont 05478  
Phone: 802-332-3890

Facebook Live: [www.facebook.com/StMartinOfToursCatholicCommunity/live](http://www.facebook.com/StMartinOfToursCatholicCommunity/live)

Email: [saintmartins.info@gmail.com](mailto:saintmartins.info@gmail.com)

Website: [www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/](http://www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/)

Support our ministry: [tinyurl.com/Donate2StMartins](http://tinyurl.com/Donate2StMartins)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StMartinOfToursCatholicCommunity](http://www.facebook.com/StMartinOfToursCatholicCommunity)

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of Tours  
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