



*Saint Martin of  
Tours Inclusive  
Catholic Community*



## Welcome to Saint Martin's!

Saint Martin of Tours Inclusive Catholic Community 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.

# Sunday Bulletin

## Third Sunday of Advent

**Gaudete Sunday**

**December 14, 2025**

SABUMC

575 Lake Road,  
Saint Albans Bay  
Vermont 05481

Phone: 802-332-3890

## Liturgical Calendar/ Mass Celebrations

- **December 14th - 3rd Sunday of Advent** - 11:30 a.m.
- **December 21st - 4th Sunday of Advent** - 11:30 a.m.
- **December 24th - Christmas Eve** - No Mass
- **December 25th - Christmas Day** - No Mass
- **December 28th - Feast of the Holy Family & Solemnity of Mary** - 11:30 a.m.
- **January 1st - New Year's Day** - No Mass
- **January 4th - Feast of the Epiphany** - 11:30
- **January 10th - 12th Night Ecumenical Celebration of the Feast of the Magi at St. Paul's Methodist** - 3:00 p.m. (Saturday)
- **January 11th - Feast of the Baptism of Jesus** - 11:30 a.m.



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 the Prophet Isaiah.  
(Isaiah 35:1-8,10 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the parched land will exult, the desert will rejoice and bloom. Like the first flowers of spring, they shall burst into bloom, and rejoice with joyous song. The glory of God will be seen in the barren land, the majesty of God revealed. Strengthen shaking hands! Steady trembling knees!

Say to those anxious and fearful of heart: "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God who comes with vindication. With divine justice, God comes to restore you." Then, the eyes of those who cannot see will be opened, and the ears of those who cannot hear will be unstopped.

Those who cannot walk will leap like a deer, and the speechless tongue will sing for joy. Waters will gush in the desert, and streams flow in parched land. Burning sands will become pools of cool water, and the thirsty ground, bubbling springs.

The haunt where jackals lurk will become a marshland, with grassy plots of reed and papyrus. A highway will appear there too, a road called "the Holy Way." Upon it, God's people, restored, will return, and enter the Holy City with singing. Unending joy will be their crown. Sorrow and sighing will take flight. Joy and gladness will be their escort.

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

*People Respond: Thanks be to God.*



### Responsorial Psalm (Spoken) (Psalm 146:6-10 (Merrill))

Lector: May You live forever in our hearts!

*People Respond: May You live forever in our hearts!*

Lector: O Divine Lover, You gave birth to the universe, the heavens, the galaxies, the planets; Earth, its seas and all that is in them. You are ever faithful, bringing balance and harmony to the land and nourishment to body and soul.

*People Respond: May You live forever in our hearts!*

Lector: You secure justice for the oppressed, and give bread to the hungry. You set prisoners free. You give sight to those who cannot see. You raise up those who are weighed down.

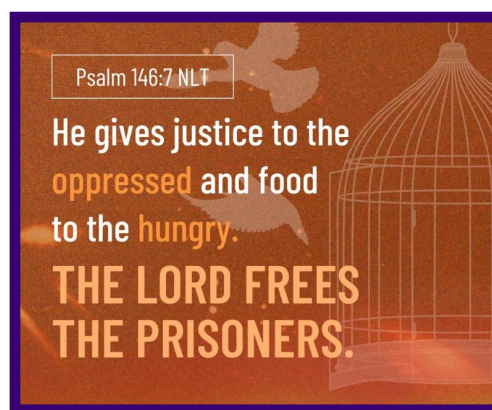
*People Respond: May You live forever in our hearts!*

Lector: You love the righteous and protect the resident alien. You come to the aid of the orphan and the widow. You watch over those who journey, sending guides and angels to lead them.

*People Respond: May You live forever in our hearts!*

Lector: May You live forever in our hearts! Loose the fetters of fear that bind us. May we praise You with joyful song through all generations: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*People Respond: May You live forever in our hearts!*



## Second Reading

A Reading from the Letter of James.  
(James 5:7-11 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Letter of the James.

Be patient, beloved, until the coming of the Messiah. Look how a farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, patient with it until the ground receives the early rains and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, for the coming of God is at hand.

Do not grumble and complain against each other so that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. The prophets who spoke in God's name exemplify perseverance and patience.

We call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's endurance, and you have seen the desire of God's heart. How compassionate and merciful God is!

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.*

Celebrant: O come, Emmanuel, come.

*People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.*

*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.*

## Gospel

### Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
(Matthew 11:2-10, 14-15 (CCL))

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

*People Respond: And also, with you.*

Celebrant: A reading from the Good News attributed to Matthew.

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

After John was imprisoned, he heard what the Messiah was doing. John sent word by his disciples with this question for Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

Jesus answered John's disciples: *"Go and tell John what you hear and see. Those who could not see receive sight; those who could not walk, now walk; those called 'unclean' are made 'clean'; those who were deaf now hear; the dead are raised; and those who are poor have the Good News proclaimed to them. Blessed are they who take no offense at me."*

As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: *"What did you go out into the desert to see? A reed blowing in the wind? No? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? No! Those who wear fine clothing are in palaces."*

*(Gospel continued on the next page.)*





## Giving: Time, Talent & Treasure

*(Gospel cont.)*

*What then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, 'Look, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' And, if you are willing to accept it, John is Elijah, the messenger foretold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."*

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of Jesus the Christ.

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



### Prayers of the People

**People Respond:** *Come, Christ Jesus, Come.*



Your generosity is essential to breathing life into Saint Martin of Tours Inclusive Catholic Community, and keeping its mission alive. By God's grace and through your generosity, we remain committed to continuing our mission to serve all of God's people.

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 Inclusive 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 Rev. Barb at 802-332-3890, or email at [saintmartins.info@gmail.com](mailto:saintmartins.info@gmail.com).

## Announcements – Looking Ahead

- **Ongoing** - Saint Martin's donates a percentage of our monthly giving to "Welcome You Home," a local ecumenical ministry crucial in helping to furnish permanent shelter for previously unsheltered persons & those transitioning from temporary housing. Support this ministry through our online donation page or by mailing a check to the address below. Stay tuned for updates in the [Saint Martin Messenger \(newsletter\)](#).
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- **January 4th - Feast of the Epiphany** - 11:30 a.m.
- **January 10th - Twelfth Night Ecumenical Celebration of the Feast of the Magi at St. Paul's Methodist** - 3:00 p.m. (Saturday). All are welcome to join our celebration. St. Paul's Methodist is located at 11 Church Street, St. Albans.
- **January 11th - Feast of the Baptism of Jesus** - 11:30 a.m.

### 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 Inclusive Catholic Community,  
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Saint Albans, Vermont 05481-0101  
Phone: 802-332-3890  
Email: [saintmartins.info@gmail.com](mailto:saintmartins.info@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/](http://www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/)  
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