



*Saint Martin of
Tours Inclusive
Catholic Community*



Sunday Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent December 1, 2024

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.

For *The Order of the Mass*, please refer to the *Mass Worship Aid* handout found at your seat or online at www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org.

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

Liturgical Calendar/ Mass Celebrations

- **December 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent & Feast Honoring our Lady of Guadalupe** - 11:30 a.m.
- **December 12th - Christmas Caroling Rehearsal at St. Albans Bay UMC** - 6:00 p.m.
- **December 14th - Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Homes** - Time TBD
- **December 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent** - 11:30 a.m.
- **December 22nd - 4th Sunday of Advent** - 11:30 a.m.
- **December 24th - Christmas Eve** - No Mass
- **December 25th - Christmas Day** - No Mass
- **December 29th - Feast of the Holy Family** - 11:30 a.m.
- **January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** - No Mass
- **January 5th - Feast of the Epiphany** - No Mass
- **January 12th - Feast of the Baptism of Jesus** - 11:30 a.m.

Please join us for fellowship immediately following Mass.

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.
(Jeremiah 33:12-16 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says God: *“In this place and in all its towns, now ruined, sheltering neither people nor animals, once again, there will be pastures for the shepherds to rest their flocks. In the towns of the hill country, of the Shephelal and of the Negev, in the land of Benjamin, in the places surrounding Jerusalem, and in the towns of Judah, flocks will once again pass under the hand of the shepherd who counts them.*”

“The days are coming when I will bestow on Israel and Judah all the blessings I promised them. In those days, and at that time, I will raise up a righteous branch from the line of David and Bathsheba, who will bring justice and integrity to the land. In those days, Judah will be safe, and Jerusalem will be secure. They will call the land, ‘God is our Justice.’”

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

People Respond: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm (Spoken) (Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (USCCB))

Lector: To you, O God, I lift my soul.

People Respond: To you, O God, I lift my soul.

Lector: Your ways, O GOD, make known to me; teach me your paths, Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior, and for you I wait all the day.

People Respond: To you, O God, I lift my soul.

Lector: Good and upright is Yahweh; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.

People Respond: To you, O God, I lift my soul.

Lector: All of God’s paths are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees. God’s friendship is with those who revere him, and his covenant, for their instruction.

People Respond: To you, O God, I lift my soul.



Don't miss any announcements or upcoming special Masses!

Visit our website

*www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org
& sign up to receive our newsletter.*

Second Reading

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

(1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from Saint Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Just now Timothy has returned to us from you, bringing us the good news of your faith and love, and that you always think kindly of us and long to see us as we long to see you. Because of this, we have been reassured about you, beloved, through your faith in our every distress and affliction. For we now live, if you stand firm in the Christ.

How can we thank God enough for you, for all the joy we feel before God on your account? Night and day, we pray earnestly to see you in person and enlarge the dimensions and depth of your faith.

May our loving God, and Jesus the Christ, direct our steps back to you. May God help you to increase in love and abound in love for one another, and for all, just as we have increased in love and abound in love for you. May God strengthen your hearts to persevere in holiness until the coming of Jesus the Christ with all the holy ones.

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

People Respond: Thanks be to God.



Gospel

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia.

People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant: O come, Emmanuel, come.

People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

(Luke 1:5-25 (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 Luke.

People Respond: † Glory to you, O God.

In the days when Herod ruled Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron and Elisheba, and her name was Elizabeth. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth lived just lives, following all of God's commandments and decrees. But they had no children, because they could not conceive; and both were getting on in years.

Once, when Zechariah was serving as priest before God, and his priestly division was on duty, he was chosen by the drawing of lots, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter God's sanctuary and offer incense. At the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside.

Then there appeared to him an angel, a messenger from God, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw the figure, he was terrified.

(Gospel continued on the next page.)

Advent Wreath Blessing

(Gospel cont.)

Fear overwhelmed him; but the messenger said, *“Do not be afraid, Zechariah. Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a child, a son, and together you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness. Many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in God’s eyes. He must never drink wine or strong drink. Even before his birth, he will be filled with the Holy Spirit and turn many Israelites to their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah, he will go forth turning the hearts of parents to their children, and converting many to the wisdom of justice in order to prepare people for the coming of God’s presence in their midst.”*

Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure of this? I am an old man, and my wife is also getting on in years.”

The messenger replied, *“I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God. I have been sent to speak to you and to bring this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”*

Meanwhile, the people were waiting outside for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them, but remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he returned home.

After those days, Zechariah’s wife, Elizabeth, was found to be with child. For five months she kept her pregnancy to herself, saying, “This can only be God’s doing. God has shown us favor and taken away the disgrace we endured among our people.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ according to Luke.

People Respond: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.



“DO NOT BE AFRAID, ZECHARIAH, BECAUSE YOUR PRAYER HAS BEEN HEARD. YOUR WIFE ELIZABETH WILL BEAR YOU A SON, AND YOU SHALL NAME HIM JOHN”

SAINT LUKE 1:13-25

Prayers of the People

People Respond: O come, Emmanuel, come.

Advent Wreath Blessing

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People Respond: Who made heaven and earth.

Priest: [Isaiah 9:1-2, 5-6] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. *(continued on the next page).*

Giving: Time, Talent & Treasure

Priest: For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over His kingdom, which He confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever more.

People Respond: Amen.

Priest: Let Us Pray. God of Light, We praise you for your Son, Jesus the Christ: For He is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, For He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, and He is the Savior of every nation.

Your people joyfully await the coming of their Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. May He come quickly and not delay. O Come, Emmanuel.

Priest: And so, we humbly ask that your blessing come upon this wreath [sprinkling] and may its light reflect the splendor of your Son, Christ Jesus.

[Slight pause.]

[Priest blesses the People.]

Priest: As we light these candles during Advent, O God, may Your blessings come upon us as we His coming.

People Respond: Amen.



At Saint Martin of Tours Inclusive 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 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)
- 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.

Announcements – Looking Ahead

- December 8th - 2nd Sunday of Advent & Feast Honoring our Lady of Guadalupe - 11:30 a.m.
- December 12th - Christmas Caroling Rehearsal at St. Albans Bay UMC - 6:00 p.m.
- December 14th - Christmas Caroling at Local Nursing Homes - Saint Martin's will join St. Albans Bay UMC for Christmas Caroling in local long-term care facilities around the Franklin County area. To participate, or if you know of a long-term care facility that would appreciate a visit by Carolers this December, please reach out to Rev. Barb. - Time TBD
- December 15th - 3rd Sunday of Advent - 11:30 a.m.
- December 22nd - 4th Sunday of Advent - 11:30 a.m.
- December 24th - Christmas Eve - *No Mass*
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Prayer Requests

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

Pastoral Visits

Please reach out to Rev. 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
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Mailing: P.O. Box 636
Saint Albans, Vermont 05478
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Email: saintmartins.info@gmail.com

Website: www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/

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Tours Inclusive
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