

# St. Martin of Tours

Ministries and Activities

## Handbook



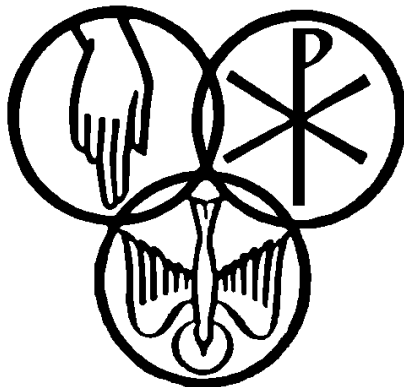
1800 Station Road, Valley City, Ohio 44280

Phone: 330-483-3808 Fax: 330-483-3848

Website - [www.stmartinc.org](http://www.stmartinc.org)

## **St. Martin of Tours Parish Mission Statement**

We the parishioners of St. Martin of Tours, a Roman Catholic Parish founded in the year 1840, in Valley City, Ohio and part of the Diocese of Cleveland are people of faith, courage and love. We are gifted people diverse in skills and strength. People united through the power of the Holy Spirit and charged to proclaim the message of Christ. We are committed to live the Word so that *“Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus...” Col 3:17*



**May 2017**  
**Updates on the website**  
**Ministry Handbook**  
  
**Spiritual Ministries**

**Light of the World Prayer Group**

Praise and worship God through contemporary praise song and music. We assist people in developing a closer relationship with the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit. Only requirement is to have an openness to receive God's gifts. Praise sessions are twice a month, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 – 8:30PM. in the Chapel, followed by 30 min. fellowship in the Ed. Building

Healing Services held at least twice a year TBA \* Anointing of the sick

Life in the Spirit Seminar - TBA

Contact: Rose Austin 330-483-3435

Email:

[drobny@zoominternet.net](mailto:drobny@zoominternet.net)

Bill Dolata 330-483-3363; cell: 330-421-2298

Email:

[billdolata@zoominternet.net](mailto:billdolata@zoominternet.net)

**Morning Son Music Ministry**

Lead the faithful in worship music giving glory to God during Prayer Group gatherings. Need good vocals to blend with others or be able to play key or string instrument with moderate skill. Practices are held weekly, Tuesdays 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. to get accustomed to other ministries. Prayer and Praise is biweekly in the Chapel on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Contact: Zoli Takacs 440-725-0850

Email: [takacszoli01@gmail.com](mailto:takacszoli01@gmail.com)

**Men's Fellowship**

Men coming together to share their faith and how Jesus works in their lives. You need only to recognize the work of the Holy Spirit and Jesus. Meetings are held twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Special breakfast 1 or 2 times a year. There is a one day Conference in the spring. Meetings are held in the Parish Center.

Contact: John Coghlan 330-842-1742

Bill Dolata 330-483-3363; cell: 330-421-2298

Email [billdolata@zoominternet.net](mailto:billdolata@zoominternet.net)

Herb Dean 330-220-3283; cell: 216-337-1214



**Men's Prayer Night**

A night for men to come together to pray using the The Christian Prayer Book/Brevary. Men meet in the Prayer Room the last Monday of the month from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Contact: Bill Dolata 330-483-3363; cell: 330-421-2298

Email

[billdolata@zoominternet.net](mailto:billdolata@zoominternet.net)

## **Our Lady of the Rosary Society**

We make rosaries for our parish and Life Care Nursing Home at our meetings and at home.

### **Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary**

Pray the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary once a month and listen to Jesus' monthly message about His call to service. Meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Prayer Room. Just show up

Contact: Nancy Hacker 330-483-0256

Email: [nroshacker@zoominternet.net](mailto:nroshacker@zoominternet.net)

### **Quiet Prayer Time with Jesus**

The Eucharistic Prayer Room is open Tuesday evenings from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. so anyone can come in and spend some time with the Lord. The goal is to have someone always present when the Eucharistic Prayer Room is open. If anyone would like, they can sign up for a certain period of time to always be there on Tuesdays, or sign up to take an hour, if someone can't make their committed time.

Contact: Nancy Hacker 330-483-0256

Email: [nroshacker@zoominternet.net](mailto:nroshacker@zoominternet.net)

### **Servants of Mercy Prayer Group**

Live and promote the message and devotions of the Divine Message to the parish and beyond. A knowledge of or desire to know about The Divine Mercy as revealed through St. Faustina is required. Monthly meetings are held in the Prayer Room the first Saturday of the month 9:15-11:00AM.

Contact: Joseph Dick 330-722-6309

### **Crusaders for Christ Youth Group**

Adults are needed to help the students in grades 6-8 strengthen their faith in God and increase their knowledge of church teaching through retreats and social activities. The only requirement is to enjoy being with the youth. There are three retreats per year and 1-3 social activities. Retreats are held October, February and May. Social activities have been held in the past during the months of August, December and March. Commitment is flexible.

Contact: Carrie Leigh Dean 330-483-3808

Email: CDean

[@stmartinvc.org](mailto:@stmartinvc.org)

### **Sozo Teen Youth Group**

Provides the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with a faith formation program that strengthens our youth in their Catholic Faith. Adult help is needed and you must have a love for high school youth. Most events are Sunday or Monday nights. There are also retreats 3 times a year at St. Martin's. Time commitment is open, by event or committed service.

Contact: Terri Paolucci, 330-3808, ext. 233; Cell: 330-591-1812

Email: [misstterri.sozo@yahoo.com](mailto:misstterri.sozo@yahoo.com)

## **Liturgical Ministries**

### **Mass Ministries:**

#### **Altar Servers**

Students in the 4th through 12th grade are invited to assist Father in serving on the altar during the Liturgy of the Mass. Server training is offered in the spring and fall. Commitment is to serve on the days you are scheduled or find a replacement. Schedules are for a 6 month period.

Contact: Carrie Leigh Dean 330-483-3808

Email: [CDean@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CDean@stmartinvc.org)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word - *Fulfills Mass Obligation***

***Adults, adolescents and teens are needed to lead and help with this youthful Liturgy celebration.*** Children 4 years - 2nd grade are invited to celebrate the Introductory Rite and Liturgy of the Word in their own worship space, (Chapel) and at their own level. Children's Liturgy takes place during the 10:30 Mass October – April except holiday weekends. Please bring your children to the Chapel at 10:15 a.m. Children will process into Mass during the Offertory and rejoin parents for the Eucharistic Celebration and Concluding Rite.

Contact: Carrie Leigh Dean 330-483-3808

Email: [CDean@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CDean@stmartinvc.org)

### **Greeters**

Give service to the church community by warmly greeting and welcoming parishioners and visitors to the liturgical service. Pass out Mass books 1/2 hour before Masses and bulletins at the end of Mass. May be called once a month or every other month depending upon the need. You only need to be friendly and outgoing for this ministry. The length of this commitment is a personal choice. Schedules are for a 6 month period. ***Families Welcome***

Contact: Ann Marie Krynock 330-483-3844

### **Lectors**

Proclaim the Word of God during the Mass and read the petitions and special intentions. Must be able to comfortably read in front of the congregation and be able to clearly convey God's written word through your spoken word. Time required is your scheduled Mass and any prep time needed individually. Training is "hands on" and commitment is for at least the 6 month schedule.

Contact: Colene Conley 3300-483-3808 ext 249

Email: [CConley@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CConley@stmartinvc.org)

### **Ushers**

Ushers are men and woman who are ministers of hospitality and play a key role in the living Body of Christ as one of the first contacts believers have with the assembly when they arrive for Mass. How ushers greet and welcome both newcomers and longtime parishioners makes a world of difference in how people prepare for the liturgy. A friendly, good Christian attitude is all that is required. Time requirement is 1½ hours when you are scheduled. Training is on the job.

***Great opportunity for parents of Altar Servers to also serve***

Contact: Mary Takacs 330-483-3808 ext 234

Email: [MTakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:MTakacs@stmartinvc.org) \* Scheduling, adding, deleting

Rick Monroe 330-723-5224 [rmmonroe7@yahoo.com](mailto:rmmonroe7@yahoo.com)

### **Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are commissioned to assist the priest in the distribution of the Eucharist at Mass, to the homebound and at the nursing home. Must be a fully initiated Catholic, have a love of Christ and the Eucharist, and a desire to serve the parish at Mass. The time required serving is at Mass on a rotating schedule (generally every 3 weeks), nursing home - rotating schedule (generally once a month) and homebound visits are made weekly. Nursing Home visits are every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and homebound visits are every Wednesday. Ministers are commissioned by the Diocese for 5 year periods. Diocesan Certification is offered in the spring and fall. Further training is provided at St. Martin's as needed.

Contact: Cherly Lasch and Mary Takacs 330-483-3808

E-mail: [CLasch@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CLasch@stmartinvc.org)



## **Music Ministries within Mass:**

### **Adult Choir**

The Adult Choir leads the congregation in song and praise at the 10:30 Mass September through May. We practice before Mass for ½ hour from 9:45 to 10:15 and 1- 1 ½ hours after Mass. Additional practices may be scheduled as needed. We also sing for other Masses during Holy Week and Christmas including several

Ecumenical Services with other area choirs. While it is helpful to have some music background or choir singing experience, it is not necessary.

Contacts: Aleen Indoe 330-722-4661  
Steve Dickson 330-483-4936  
Email: [SDickson@stmartinvc.org](mailto:SDickson@stmartinvc.org)

### **Funeral Choir**

Lead our funeral Mass in song. Not necessary to have a music background. Most funerals are held on weekdays in the Chapel. Some are held on Saturday mornings. You will need to be able to climb the chapel choir steps. You will have a day or two notice, sing when you are available.

Contact: Mary Takacs 330-483-3808 ext. 234  
Email: [MTakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:MTakacs@stmartinvc.org)

### **Cantors**

As active participants in St. Martin's Music Ministry, cantors lead the assembly as song leaders at each Mass. Participants not only share the scriptures in song with the Responsorial Psalm, but guide the assembly in singing hymns during the liturgy. Cantors invite the assembly into active and conscious participation in the Mass through music. Cantors should love music and singing and should be able to sing and lead a large assembly comfortably. Training and/or assistance is provided as needed by the Music Director and ministry coordinator. All new cantors work with an established cantor until they are comfortable and prepared. Cantors are usually assigned to 1-2 Masses per month. Commitment is an individual assessment made by each participant.

Contact: Rosemarie Pierson 440-236-3410 Email:  
[hrtmndr@windstream.net](mailto:hrtmndr@windstream.net)  
Steve Dickson 330-483-4936  
Email: [SDickson@stmartinvc.org](mailto:SDickson@stmartinvc.org)

### **Jubilation**

Encourages parishioners to use their musical gifts and talents at Saturday or Sunday Mass. You need to provide your own instrument and have the basic skills needed to play. Singers can also participate! Music is provided. Commitment would be for scheduled Masses and attendance as needed. *Everyone is Welcome!*

Contact: Frank Strack 216-905-9171  
Email: [Frank@fspcnet.com](mailto:Frank@fspcnet.com)

### **Liturgical Environment Committee**

Our main purpose is to create a unifying experience of worship, warmth, fellowship and prayer. A harmonious environment can enhance the religious expression of worship and engage the congregation in more meaningful prayer. Committee members should possess artistic gifts relating to visual arts, floral and liturgical design. Knowledge of the church calendar year is also very important. The ability to climb steps and carry items used for decorating is also a must. We meet the last Monday morning of the month 1 to 2 hours decorating plus cleaning up. Christmas and Easter seasons usually take a lot longer. The time commitment is 1 year. The Christmas and Easter seasons are done on a volunteer basis.

Contact: Brenda Scheiman (330) 482-4771

## **Parish Ministries**

### **Advocates for Life**

Our goal is to educate, advocate, defend and promote the truth that all life from conception to natural death is a gift from God. We accomplish this by offering life affirming materials within our church community and participate in the pro-life activities in the greater Medina area and some neighboring counties. We meet on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month from January through November at 1:00PM in the Education Bldg.** We would love to meet you – just show up at one of our meetings. No experience is necessary.

Contact: Maureen Rupanovic 330-241-3832

### **Avilas of the Diocese of Cleveland**

The apostolate of the Avilas is accomplished through a Holy Hour of prayer for an increase in vocations of vowed religious life and ordained priesthood and for perseverance for those already consecrated. The Avilas meet monthly. Prayer booklets are provided.

Contact: Marcia Cibula 330-483-6166

### **Funeral Luncheon Angels**

Help prepare a nice meal under the guidance of our caterer for family and friends of the deceased to enable them to share memories and console each other. Time requirement is 4-5 hours whenever parish members ask for a luncheon. It could be weekly or monthly depending on the need. The luncheons are in St. Martin's kitchen/Parish Center. Training is provided if needed.

Contact: Jean Haight 440-926-2178 Cell 440-552-8095

Email: [JHaight@aol.com](mailto:JHaight@aol.com)

### **Funeral Bakery Angels**

Funeral bakers supply our fellow parishioners with tasty desserts when they are coming together for a luncheon after a funeral of a loved one. You will receive a call at home 1-2 days prior to the funeral and are asked to make a plate of cookies, a pie or cake, or your favorite dessert and drop it off the morning of the funeral. Your homemade dessert is provided at no cost to the family and is a warm and welcoming way to participate. Commitment is for as long as you wish.

Contact: Sue Pate 330-483-8017 Cell 330-421-4355

### **Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound**

Bring the Precious Body of Jesus to others. Show compassion and love. Giving of your time is not only the greatest privilege and pleasure, but the greatest way to share your gifts. Work in teams of two, one of which must be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharistic. We depart after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on all Wednesdays. Training is simply shadowing a current member. Commitment is whatever fits your schedule.

Contact: Jackie Gluck 330-483-3641

Email: [stanthonycat@gmail.com](mailto:stanthonycat@gmail.com)

### **Hospitality/Welcoming**

Welcome new members to the parish and to help them become familiar with the activities of our parish. We also host 2-3 annual parish events.

Contacts: Rudy and Terry Koishor 440-756-0173

Email:

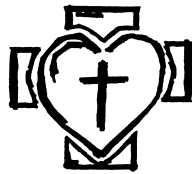
[Rudyk@zoominternet.net](mailto:Rudyk@zoominternet.net)

### **Nursing Home Eucharistic Ministers**

These individuals bring the Precious Body of Jesus to our fellow Catholics that reside at Life Care Center of Medina nursing home on Thursday of each week. A short prayer service is held, followed by distribution of the Blessed Sacrament to resident's rooms. Commitment is usually 1 hour a month from 10:00 -11:00 a.m.

Contact: Cheryl Lasch 330-483-3808

Email: [CLasch@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CLasch@stmartinvc.org)



### **Infant of Prague**

We come together as a

### **Guild**

community focused on spreading the devotion of the Infant of Prague, through friendship, parish projects, joy and giving. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month in the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. The guild sponsors the November Craft Show, members say the chaplet at the funeral home for our deceased parishioners families, and financially support our summer camp.

**Prayer Chain – IOP Guild**

Being a part of the prayer chain gives you an opportunity to pray for parishioners in need of special prayer requests. The commitment is to call the names given to you on the chain to notify them of the prayer request and to keep the person in prayer.

Contact: Ann Marie Krynock, 330-483-3844

### **Knights of Columbus**

A fraternal service organization of men dedicated to serve the entire parish community through acts of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. We are strong in faith and strong in service. Any practicing Catholic man, 18 years of age or older is welcome to serve our faith community. An average of 24 hours a year is required for various activities in the parish community. Meetings are held in the Education Building on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month. Duration is as long as a member desires. Training is provided - teaching of the principles of the Order at each of the four degrees.

Contact: Bob Stainbrook 216-554-8468

Email: [rstainbroo@aol.com](mailto:rstainbroo@aol.com)

### **Knitting Ministry**

Provides handcrafted items for those in need and offers an opportunity for fellowship. You need only the desire to knit or crochet. The time commitment is your personal choice. Meetings are held Mondays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Parish Rectory (Father's house) and Tuesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Center every week, except for holidays.

Contact: Janet Hudak 330-483-3719

## **Social Justice Ministries**

To support the weak, the disenfranchised, the unborn, the homeless, those who have no voice, to seek justice for those who are poor and have no one to serve them. To be Christ to all. A caring heart is needed and the willingness to stand before the public to serve those who are in need.

### **Operation Homes**

Five times a year, homeless families of Medina County come to live at St. Martin's. We are one of fourteen county wide churches that participate in this program. The families or individuals move in Monday night and leave the following Monday morning. We provide a place to sleep, breakfast and lunch that they can put together themselves and a prepared hot dinner that parishioners provide and share with our guests. We also have 2 parishioners that stay each night. Parishioners and guests each have their own rooms. If you would like to help with this program please contact:

Contact: Mary Takacs 330-4833808 ext 234

Email: [MTakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:MTakacs@stmartinvc.org)

**Blanket Sunday:** Every October, St. Martin's collects new or gently used blankets, comforters and pillows for distribution to Community Services Center in Medina.

Contact: Cheryl Lasch 330-483-3808, ext. 221

**Christmas In July – Birthcare Giving Tree:** Birthcare serves families who live in Medina County. Two times a year, at Christmas and in July, St. Martin's collects diapers, formula, clothing and other baby items for the agency.

Contact: Parish office 330-483-3808

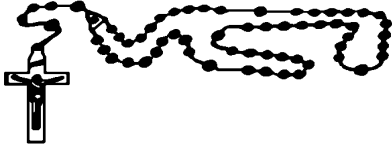
**Food Pantry:** St. Martin's Food Pantry is located in our Education Building. Food baskets are distributed at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter and food is given out when requests are received throughout the year. Donations of food and money are always accepted and may be brought to the parish office.



Contact: Parish office 330-483-3808

**St. Anthony's Bread:** This fund was established at St. Martin's to help those in financial need in our parish and community. We are also able to help with referrals to other Medina County agencies. Special envelopes are available in the Gathering Area of the Church for those who wish to donate.

Contacts: Mary Takacs [Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org)  
Colene Conley [CConley@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CConley@stmartinvc.org)



## **Educational - Faith Sharing Ministries**

### **L.I.G.H.T. - Learning in God's Holiness Together**

Light is our all generational faith sharing gathering held five months of the school year. It is for pre-school through adults. You have your choice of a Sunday afternoon gathering or Monday evening once a month. The monthly session is part of our PSR program. We begin with a simple meal to give everyone an opportunity to meet fellow parishioners in a social setting. We then break out by ages with a Catechist to share the Scriptural reading or teaching on a specific upcoming event of the Church which helps us grow in knowledge, reflection, and understanding of our faith to be better equipped to participate in the current Liturgy or Season of the Church.

#### **Opportunities to Serve and Share Your Gifts:**

Catechists, Aides and Greeters.

Sunday & Monday - babysitting and meal prep

Contact : Mary Takacs 330-483-3808, ext. 234

Email: [Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org)

### **PSR Parish School of Religion**

Our Catholic school of religion is for grades 1-8. We meet on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30PM September through April.

We are always looking for adults to share their faith with our youth as Catechists.

Contact: Mary Takacs 330-483-3808, ext. 234

Email: [Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org)

### **Bible Study**

Our purpose is to foster spiritual growth by reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture in a small group setting. By understanding the "Word" better, we have a deeper understanding and appreciation for our Catholic faith. Bible Study meets Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Center Meeting Rooms. Evening Sessions are 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Parish Center (check the bulletin for dates and times)

Contact: Mary Takacs 330-483-3808, ext. 234

Email: [Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org](mailto:Mtakacs@stmartinvc.org)

### **Sacrament Preparation**

Educate and prepare the students and their families for the Sacraments. We need positive role models who love High School students and understand the gifts of the Spirit to help with Confirmation. A love of children is required to help with preparation of First Holy Communion. Training required is Virtus and Catechist training will be provided.

Contact: Confirmation: Terri Yohman 330-483-3808, ext. 233

Email: [missterri.sozo@yahoo.com](mailto:missterri.sozo@yahoo.com)

All other Sacraments: Mary Takacs 330-483-3808

### **RCIA**

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is the process through which an adult becomes a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church. The team welcomes candidates into the faith and helps them to integrate into our parish family. Skills

required are leadership, teaching, hospitality, nurturing, and knowledge of the Catholic faith. This takes place on Sundays from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. in the Parish Center from September through May. Training is provided as needed.

Contact: Bill Dolata 330-483-3363; cell: 330-421-2298

Email: [billdolata@zoominternet.net](mailto:billdolata@zoominternet.net)

### **St. Martin of Tours Summer Camp**

Summer Camp engages all ages in fun, reflective activities to grow in faith and love of our Lord. Camp is one powerful week in June for Preschool thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Our 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders help put camp on by acting in the skits, designing the scenery and back drops and they are the camp counselors. **Adults and 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders are needed for: set design, skit and music practice starting in mid-May and also the week of camp.** Check the bulletin for jobs, dates and times.

Contact: Carrie leigh Dean 330-483-3808 ext237

Email: [CDean@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CDean@stmartinvc.org)

### **Children's Liturgy**

Sundays during the 10:30 AM Mass. Mid September – end of April. We do not meet Holiday weekends. Drop off 10:15 AM in the Chapel children 3 years old – 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The children will cover the Penitential Rite and Liturgy of the Word through story and song. The children will rejoin parents in the church during the offertory of the Mass.

We are always in need of Adult and teen helpers.

Contact: Carrie leigh- Dean 330-483-3808 ext 237

Email: [CDean@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CDean@stmartinvc.org)

### **SOZO Teen Ministries Service Opportunities:**

**Summer Camp:** 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders are asked to play music, perform in skits and be camp counselors.

**Children's Liturgy** –Sunday, we need responsible 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders to help with providing child care in the Chapel (October through April). ***This does fulfill your Mass obligation***

**Baby Sitting Sunday LIGHT** – Noon – 1:30 babysitting children under the age of 3 on premise while parents attend the program

**Sandwich Preparation** – Sunday LIGHT 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Ham Dinner in November** - all youth are asked to help serve the dinners, clean up and set up.

**Chicken Dinner in July** - youth are asked to serve the second shift in the dining room.

**Special Parish Events** - help serve/bus tables in the Parish Center.

**Rosary Rally October** - strong youth are asked to carry banners around the square and hold them during the recitation of the Rosary. All youth are invited to this cluster event.

**Live Stations** - youth are asked to take part in the presentation of the Live Stations of the Cross during Lent. There are generally 2 practices prior to this very moving event.

Contact: Terri Yohman 330-3808, ext. 233

Cell: 330-591-1812

Email: [missterri.sozo@yahoo.com](mailto:missterri.sozo@yahoo.com)



## **Family Life Ministry**

This blended ministry helps to empower the parish to develop a family perspective that reflects a Christian vision of the family as it develops through their spiritual life. Family Life provides enhancements for Married Couples, Seniors, Bereaved, Step Families, Single and Parenting along with Separated and Divorced. It helps to promote a vision of family ministry that reflects the teachings of the Catholic Church and to share in the teaching ministry under the guidance of the Bishop of Cleveland.

### **Married Couples**

Marriage is more than your love for each other. It has a higher dignity and power, for it is God's holy institution through which God wishes to preserve humanity until the end of time. Marriage enhancement programs are provided for our married couples.

#### **The Five Love Languages**

Series shows married couples that every husband and wife has one or more love languages. The program helps understand the love languages of your spouse then provides practical suggestions for enriching your marriage.

#### **The Art of Marriage**

Series promotes that the ultimate purpose of marriage is to reflect God's image. Marriage reflects to the world God's promise to be with us and to redeem us. Marriage is a covenant-a permanent promise-not a contract. This program helps couples to understand and accept your spouse and focus on each other, not on the negative circumstances and how you are affected.

#### **Prepare & Enrich**

An easy-to-use, scientifically developed relationship-building tool for individuals and couples during every state of their relationship. Married couples who complete the program improve their relationship quality and satisfaction. This program works to explore factors that lead to relationship longevity, strengthen communication skills, identify areas of stress and resolve conflicts, discuss financial issues, establish personal, couple and family goals, understand and appreciate personality differences.

Contact: Colene Conley 330-483-3808 x 24

Email: [CConley@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CConley@stmartinvc.org)

### **The Single/Separated/Divorced Ministries**

These are active programs and retreats where healing and reconciliation are possible. The pain of being single or separated or divorced is one of the most intense feelings a human being can face. True healing of this kind of pain can only come from God's presence in the life of a person experiencing it. Many of our programs feature video instruction and group discussion and sharing. Single & Parenting, DivorceCare and The Smart Step Family are provided to help.

#### **Single & Parenting**

Single parents come into the position of parenting alone a number of ways: divorce, separation, death, adoption, legal guardianship or a father or mother who chooses to raise a child on his or her own. People who have been a single parent have an intimate understanding of the needs of other single parents; they will have a special sensitivity as they interact with group members. Single & Parenting is designed to be part seminar/part group discussion.

#### **The Smart Step Family**

Series presents facts concerning remarriages and that couples need to hear significant key principles of successful stepfamily living. Many key principles differ greatly from what they already believe about family life. Statistics show how 1/3 of all weddings will give birth to a step-family. 2/3 of those couples will get divorced and 1/3 are getting divorced again. This course will help with parents who remarry with kids. Participating in this workshop will work to prevent re-divorce for the step-family. The Step Family has programs to encourage the blended family and help with future marriages the second time. Children are welcome to participate with certain programs. Programs are available on an as need basis by anyone.

#### **DivorceCare**

This program is designed as an ongoing ministry to separated and divorced people. The program takes a biblical approach to divorce, separation and related issues such as reconciliation, remarriage, forgiveness and the effect of divorce on children and families. A video series, filled with practical tips on dealing with Anger, Depression, Loneliness, Financial Survival, Reconciliation and Forgiveness. Surviving the Holidays is a yearly program to help during Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

### **The Merry Martins**

The Merry Martins are a social group of parishioners of all ages who sponsor events that are spiritual and social throughout the year. All Parish members are welcome. Activities such as: The Journey to Bethlehem to Walnut Creek, Amish Country, Ethnic Dinners, Miniature Railroad Train Rides, Pot Luck & Guest Speakers, Square Dancing, Advent & Christmas Gatherings, Hiking & Biking, Wine & Cheese Tasting and Exercise Classes.

### **The Amazing Grays**

The Amazing Grays are members of the parish who are available for both day and evening events. Spiritual trips are highlighted with every trip or luncheon. Some of the various trips have been: Year of Faith Pilgrimage of area Churches, Statue Museums, and Flight 93 (9-11) Museum, Bird in Hand, Pennsylvania. Christmas visits to area Churches and luncheons with guest speakers addressing various religious issues. A future trip is to Presque Isle and the Cathedral of Erie. We welcome attendance from our Cluster Parish members as well.

### **Ministry of Consolation: Referrals & Resources**

Family Life Ministry provides help with individuals who are relocating to smaller independent living spaces or qualifying for help with financial matters when retiring. Perhaps a couple may need to speak about conflict resolution in marriage, a single parent may need help with parenting. Sharing with individuals suffering with bereavement, as needed. Also, special items of interest for parishioners as they may occur are also welcomed.

### **Grief Share**

is a friendly ministry, a caring group of people who will walk alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You'll gain access to valuable resources to help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. This ministry will offer compassion along with sensitivity to your individual needs. We offer this ministry with our cluster parishes of St. Martins, Holy Martyrs and St. Francis. Pilgrimages offered

Contact: Colene Conley 330-483-3808 x 24

Email: [CConley@stmartinvc.org](mailto:CConley@stmartinvc.org)

## **Parish Activities and Ministries of Participation**

### **A Catholic Guide to Managing Money (7 Steps to Becoming Financially Free)**

Deepen our relationship with the Lord, build a support network for living our Catholic Faith, strengthen our marriages and family life, break free from the bondage of consumer debt and make a realistic faith-based plan for the future. Some qualities needed would be hospitality, listening, eagerness to learn, ability to "reach out" when there is silence, and planning skills. Time commitment for new members is orientation night and 6 classes plus a graduation and reunion class. Returning members help lead new members, do 1 Mass witness and 2 weekend sign-ups. The sessions should be presented 2 times a year; fall and mid-winter.

Contact: Carrie-Leigh Dean 330-220-3283

Email:

[hdean01@yahoo.com](mailto:hdean01@yahoo.com)

### **Good Samaritans**

The purpose of a Good Samaritan is to care for anyone who is ill, disabled or lonely and in need of a social visit, transportation to medical facilities, shopping, basic home repairs, or dinners when recovering from surgery. Cards are also sent to those dealing with a death, surgery or loneliness. You should be friendly, outgoing, and empathetic. Must also be

willing to provide own vehicle with no compensation. The time required depends on the need and is performed anytime and seven days a week anywhere in Medina and Cuyahoga Counties. The length of this commitment is at your discretion. Faith-In-Action has one training seminar for new caregivers.

Contact: Roger Fashempour 330-952-0785

Email: [rsfash@zoominternet.net](mailto:rsfash@zoominternet.net)

### **First Friday Breakfasts**

A breakfast of donuts and coffee is offered after the 8:00 a.m. Mass on the First Friday of each month. We need parishioners to sign up to take at least one month a year. The parish pays for all supplies and food. We just need your time and talent. You decorate the tables seasonally, purchase the donuts, make coffee, serve and clean up. Your commitment is for just one month and you would have another volunteer to work with.

Parish Office: 330-483-3808

Our Craft Show, sponsored by the Infant of Prague Guild is held in November and features area artists and crafters. Come and shop just in time for the holidays. Fabulous food made by guild members and bakery is available. All proceeds are donated back to different areas of ministry or individuals within our parish.

Contact: Ann Marie Krynock 330-483-3844

### **Parish Dinners and Activities**

To provide the opportunity for all parishioners to work together in activities that could benefit the parish financially and socially. Many volunteers are needed to serve at our two largest fund raisers, the Annual Chicken Dinner in July and the Ham Dinner and Turkey raffle in November. The Parish Center is also available for rent for social events and dinners catered and staffed by volunteers from St. Martins.

Contact: Joan Weigel 330-483-3786

[mjewegel@zoominternet.net](mailto:mjewegel@zoominternet.net)

### **Ecumenical Prayer Service**

Everyone is invited to attend this beautiful community prayer service sponsored by all area Churches held the Wednesday before Thanksgiving at 7:00 p.m. at St. Martin's followed by a reception in the Parish Center.

Contact: Office 330-483-3808

### **Garage Sale**

Annual or biannual event put on by the K of C Ladies Auxiliary. Donate your slightly used treasures. All proceeds go back into St. Martin's community. Drop off begins in May. The sale is in June. Information and dates will be listed in the bulletin.

Contact: Knights of Columbus



### **History of St. Martin of Tours**



On a June morning in 1840, a group of German Catholics from the Abbeyville area rode to Strongsville to meet Bishop Purcell of Cincinnati, and Father O'Dwyer. The next day, Father O'Dwyer offered Mass in the home of Mr. Lawling. This marked the beginning of St. Martin's parish, six years before the founding of the Diocese of Cleveland.

In the beginning, there were two churches - one to the east of the Rocky River and the other to the west, because of the often swollen river. By 1849, both of these churches were too small for their growing congregations. A majority selected a third site in Liverpool township near Station and Law roads (the land was obtained from Aloys Grabenstetter) and was dedicated under the patronage of St. Martin of Tours.

In 1860 the church was again found to be too small and the present Chapel was built at a cost of \$30,000. Local farmers who agreed to give a year of their time performed all the work. The brick for the building was made from clay, dug and fired within a half mile of the site. In the spring of 1861, time was taken to plow the fields, then they were left to the Lord's care. Parish tradition tells us that it was one of the best harvests in years. The interior of the building took another 20 years to complete. The altars were built by German craftsmen and statues were purchased from Germany. In 1881 the large pipe organ built by the Milwaukee firm of Odenbrett & Abler was brought to the church. This historic organ is housed in a carved butternut Gothic case with a polished tin façade and is still in use today. In 1897 the stained glass windows were installed.

In the early 1940's a parish centennial was held in a period that marked many changes in the small rural community. Sometime in the previous 10 years, the school that had existed closed. Masses ceased to be held in the German language and the horse barn to the north of the church was dismantled, as the family automobile replaced the horse and buggy.

Major renovation to the church building was done in 1961 and an education building/social hall were built. After the parish celebrated its 125th anniversary, another major restoration was done in the church and a few years later the rectory house, which was originally built in 1894, also underwent restoration.

Around this same time, the people of St. Martin's looked to the future and agreed a larger church was needed. When completed in 2002, the office complex, parish center and new church would almost triple the capacity for services and guests for our famous Chicken and Ham dinners. On the first Sunday in November, 2002 near the feast of our patron saint, Bishop Anthony Pilla solemnly dedicated the new church. The old church is now designated as the Chapel and is used for smaller gatherings.

The present cemetery has been in use from about 1850. An expansion of the grounds took place around 1990 and includes a pond, walkways, monuments and a twenty foot axed granite cross along with a shrine to Our Lady of Fatima.

One hundred seventy – three years after the first frontier Mass was celebrated in the Lawling home, life continues to grow and prosper for the Catholic community of St. Martin of Tours.

*(May 2017)*

