



*Saint Martin of
Tours Inclusive
Catholic Community*

Sunday Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 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.

Please join us for fellowship immediately following Mass.

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

Liturgical Calendar/ Mass Celebrations

- **December 24th & December 25th - Christmas Eve & Christmas Day** - No Mass at Saint Martin's.
- **December 24th - Christmas Eve - St. Luke's Episcopal & Saint Martin's Christmas Eve Worship Service at St. Luke's** - 4:00 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church (corner of Church & Fairfield Sts.) Join us for a joint Christmas celebration of the Eucharist! Celebrants: Rev. Darcey Mercier & Rev. Barb.
- **December 29th - Feast of the Holy Family** - No Mass at Saint Martin's.
- **January 1st - Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** - No Mass at Saint Martin's
- **January 5th - Feast of the Epiphany** - No Mass at Saint Martin's.
- **January 12th - Feast of the Baptism of Jesus** - 11:30 a.m.



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

A Reading from the Prophet Baruch.

(Baruch 4:36-5:4, 7-9 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Prophet Baruch.

She, Wisdom, is the book of the instruction of God, the law that endures forever; All who cling to Her will live, but those will die who forsake Her. Wisdom dwelt with God's people in exile, and will journey with them home.

Look East! See Wisdom's joy that is coming to you from God! Look! Here come your children, from whom you were parted! From east to west they are gathered by the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in God's glory.

Take off your garment of sorrow and distress. Put on forever the splendor of God's glory. Wrap the mantle of justice around you. Place on your head the diadem of the Holy One's brilliance. God will reveal your splendor to all under the heavens. You will be named by God forever: "The Peace of Justice" and "Divine Glory."

God has commanded that every lofty mountain and the age-old hills be made low, that the valleys be filled to make level ground, that all may walk safely in God's glory. The forests and every fragrant tree will give shade along the way, at God's command. God is your guide, leading you in joy. God is leading you with compassion and justice.

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

People Respond: Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm (Spoken)

(Micah 5:1-4a (CCL))

Lector: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.

People Respond: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.

Lector: But from you, Bethlehem, David's country, from you will come a leader. From you will come one who will shepherd-rule all my people, one whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

People Respond: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.

Lector: You will feel abandoned for a while, until the time when she who is in labor bears her child. Then, the scattered family will return home.

People Respond: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.

Lector: The child will grow in stature. This new leader will shepherd-rule not with a human army but with God's strength, not with the majesty of might, but with God-revealed royalty.

People Respond: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.

Lector: All people will have a good and safe home. The whole world will hold the newborn leader holy. This reign will bring harmony and wholeness. The child will be called Peace. All will know peace. Peace.

People Respond: We long for Your splendor, we long for Your peace.



Second Reading

A Reading from Book of Hebrews.
(Hebrews 10:5-7, 15-16, 18 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Reminding us of the law's meaning, Jesus spoke to us with words from the Psalms, saying: ***"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, O God, but a body You prepared for me. In holocausts and sin offerings, You took no delight."***

It is written of me in the scroll, 'Behold, I come to do the desire of your heart, O God.'

The Holy Spirit also speaks to us through our Hebrew Scriptures, saying: ***"This is the covenant I will establish with them. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them upon their minds."***

For where there is forgiveness, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

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

People Respond: Thanks be to God.



This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

Hebrews 10:16

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia.

People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant: O come, Emmanuel, come.

People Respond: Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Gospel

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.
(Luke 1:57-66, 80 (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.

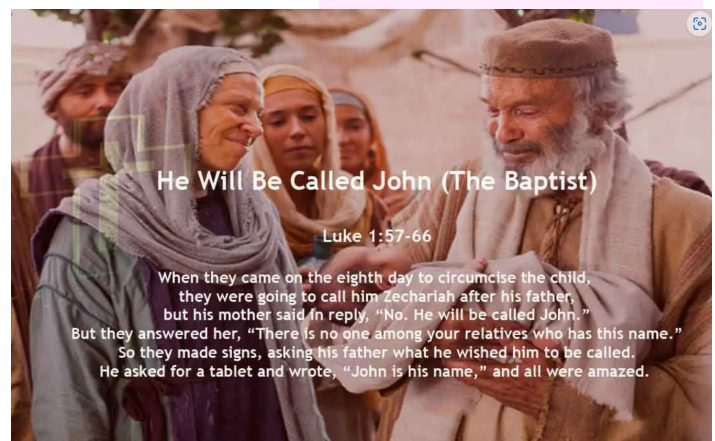
People Respond: † Glory to you, O God.

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to give birth, she bore a son. Elizabeth had kept to herself till now; but her neighbors and relatives heard that God had lavished love on her, and they shared her joy.

On the eighth day after the birth of her child, it was time to have him circumcised. They decided to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No. He is to be called John."

They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." They began motioning to Zechariah to find out what he wanted the child to be named. The father asked for a writing-tablet and wrote: "His name is John."

(Gospel continued on the next page.)



He Will Be Called John (The Baptist)

Luke 1:57-66

When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, "No. He will be called John." But they answered her, "There is no one among your relatives who has this name." So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, "John is his name," and all were amazed.

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

Visit our website

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

Giving: Time, Talent & Treasure

(Gospel cont.)

They were all astonished. At that instant, Zechariah's mouth was opened and his tongue freed. He began to speak, praising God. Awe overcame all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. Everyone who heard about them pondered them and said, "What, then, will this child be?"

And indeed, the hand of God was with John. The child grew and became strong in spirit. He lived in the desert until the day he appeared openly to Israel.

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

People Respond: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

Prayers of the People

People Respond: O come, Emmanuel, come.



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent



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 24th - Christmas Eve - St. Luke's Episcopal & Saint Martin's Christmas Eve Worship Service at St. Luke's** - 4:00 p.m. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8 Bishop Street, St. Albans, VT 05478 (corner of Church & Fairfield Sts.) Join us for a joint Christmas celebration of the Eucharist! Celebrants: Rev. Darcey Mercier & Rev. Barb.
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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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Saint Albans, Vermont 05478
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Website: www.saintmartinoftoursvermont.org/

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Instagram: www.instagram.com/stmartintourscc



*Saint Martin of
Tours Inclusive
Catholic Community*



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