



*Saint Martin of  
Tours Inclusive  
Catholic Community*

# Sunday Bulletin

## 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time

### February 23, 2025

SABUMC

575 Lake Road,  
Saint Albans Bay  
Vermont 05481

Phone: 802-332-3890

### Liturgical Calendar/ Mass Celebrations

## 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.

- **February** - Saint Martin's will be supporting "Welcome You Home," a local ecumenical ministry helping unsheltered persons & those transitioning from temporary housing.
- **March 5th - Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service in St. Albans (City) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church - 12:00 Noon.** Join Saint Martin's, St. Luke's, First Congregational Church & St. Paul's Methodist Church for a combined Liturgy & distribution of ashes. (St. Luke's is located on the corner of Church & Fairfield Streets.)
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- **April 18th - Ecumenical Good Friday Stations of the Cross** (time & location, TBA).
- **April 20th - Easter Sunrise Service at Hard'aack/Greg Brown Lodge - 6:00 a.m.** Join Saint Martin's, First Congregational UCC, St. Paul's UMC, and St. Luke's Episcopal to celebrate of our unity & togetherness on this special day, as a community.

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 First Samuel.

(1st Samuel 25:2-25, 27, 32-34 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the Book of First Samuel. David went down to the Desert of Maon. A wealthy property owner in Carmel had a flock of 300 sheep and 1,000 goats. It was shearing time. The owner was named Nabal, and his wife was named Abigail. Abigail was a clever and attractive woman, while Nabal, a Calebite, was unattractive, surly, mean, and difficult.

Learning that Nabal was shearing, David sent ten younger attendants with greetings, saying: “Long life and good health to you and your household! Good health to all your flocks! I see that you are shearing. When your shepherds were in our region, we were hospitable to them, and never did they find anything missing while they were staying us. Ask your herders and attendants and they will confirm what we say. Be kind now to our company, since we come on a feast day. Please offer to them whatever you can manage.”

David’s company delivered David’s entire message to Nabal. Then they waited. Nabal answered: “Who is David? Who is this child of Jesse? In our times, many servants flee their owners. Am I to take my bread, my water, and the meat I slaughter for my shearers and give it to strangers?”

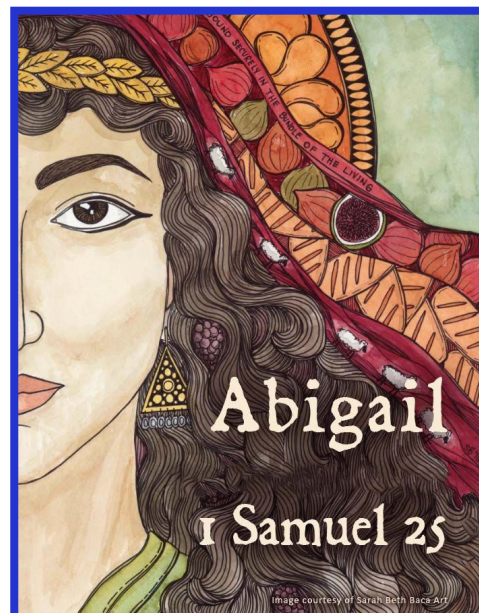
David’s company returned. They reported to David what the wealthy herder said. David responded immediately by strapping on his sword and commanding: “Everyone, strap on your swords!”

About 400 went up with David, while 200 stayed back to guard their supplies. One of Nabal’s attendants

told Abigail: “David sent a delegation from the desert with greetings to Nabal, but he insulted them. They were very good to us when we had our herds in their territory. We found nothing missing, and they did not mistreat us. The whole time we were there, they formed a protective wall around us, night and day. What can we do? For it is certain that disaster threatens Nabal and the entire household. Nabal is so stubborn no one can reason with him, even at a time such as this.”

Abigail quickly collected 200 loaves, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five measures of roasted grain, 100 bunches of raisins, and 200 cakes of dried figs. She loaded the feast on donkeys. Saying nothing to Nabal, she instructed her attendants: “Move out ahead of me, and I will follow you.”

As Abigail traveled on her donkey, hidden by the hills, David and his troops met her on the road. David said: “It was a waste of our time to protect Nabal’s property in the desert. He repaid us with evil for our goodness! And David swore a solemn oath: ‘May God do the same to me and more if I leave even one of his attendants alive by morning.’”



When Abigail saw David, she quickly dismounted and fell at his feet saying: "Please, sir, let the blame be mine. Let me, your humble servant, speak to you. Listen to my words - don't pay any attention to that scoundrel Nabal! He is just like his name. His name means fool, and he acts like a fool. I, your maidservant, did not see the young warriors whom you sent. Accept this gift, then, which your servant has brought you, and let it be given to your young troops."

David said to Abigail: "Blessed be the God of Israel, who today sends you to meet with me. Blessings to you for your good sense. Blessings to you for saving me today from the guilt of bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hands. Otherwise, as surely as God lives, if you had not come quickly to meet me, not one of Nabal's attendants would have been left alive at daybreak."

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

*People Respond: Thanks be to God.*

### **Responsorial Reading (Spoken)** (Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-10, 12-13 (CCL))

Lector: God is kind and compassionate.

*People God is kind and compassionate.*

Lector: Bless Yahweh, O my soul! All my being, bless God's holy Name! Bless Yahweh, O my soul! Remember all God's kindnesses, and do not forget his gifts.

*People Respond: God is kind and compassionate.*

Lector: The One who forgives evil-doers is the One who heals all disease. The One who lifts you up is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness.

*People Respond: God is kind and compassionate.*

Lector: You are tender and compassionate, O God. Slow to anger, and always loving. Your indignation does not endure forever. Your anger is brief. You never treat human beings according to their evil acts and careless mistakes. You don't repay us in kind for the injustices we do.

*People Respond: God is kind and compassionate.*

As far as east is from west, You remove our injustice from us! As a father or mother has compassion for their children, So You have O God, have compassion for Your people.

*People Respond: God is kind and compassionate.*



### **Second Reading**

**A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.**  
(1st Peter 3:8-12 (CCL))

Lector: A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Finally, all of you, be of one spirit. Have empathy. Be loving, compassionate, and humble. Never return evil for evil, or insult for insult. Instead, give blessing. You were called to do this, to inherit a blessing yourself.  
(Reading continued on the next page.)



## Gospel

For, “You, who love Life and want to see good days, keep your tongue from evil words and your lips from deceitful speech. Turn from evil and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.

For the eyes of God turn toward justice, and the ears of God incline towards the prayers of the just. But the face of God is unseen by evildoers.”

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: I give you a new commandment, says the Lord: love one another as I have loved you.

*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

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.  
(Luke 6:27-38 (USCCB))**

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.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

*“To you who hear I say, love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you.*

*To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours, do not demand it back.*

*Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them.*

*And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you?*

*Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend what you have, expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High God, for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*

## Giving: Time, Talent & Treasure

***“Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”***

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

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



### Prayers of the People

***People Respond: Hear us, O God.***



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

- **February 2025** - Starting this month, Saint Martin's will be donating 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. Your support is making this possible. Stay tuned for more on this most-needed ministry in the upcoming Saint Martin Messenger (newsletter) issue.
- **March 5th - Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service in St. Albans (City) at St. Luke's Episcopal Church - 12:00 Noon.** Join Saint Martin's, St. Luke's, First Congregational Church & St. Paul's Methodist Church for a combined Liturgy & distribution of ashes. (St. Luke's is located on the corner of Church & Fairfield Streets.)
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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 Inclusive Catholic Community,  
Mailing: P.O. Box 636  
Saint Albans, Vermont 05478  
Phone: 802-332-3890

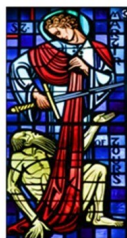
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Catholic Community*

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