

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 17, 2017

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 17 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 17 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Roger Belliveau by the family**

Sunday, December 17 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Monday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Tuesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday - 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Saturday, December 23 - 4:30 pm, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 24 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Desire Poirier by our parish family**

Sunday, December 24 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 pm - Holy Cross

Midnight - St. Martin's

Elsie Smith by Linda & Bob Columbus

Monday, December 25 - Christmas Day - 10 am, Holy Cross

Weekly, Dec 10: \$886

Immaculate Conception: \$40

Christmas Flowers: \$32

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$149

The Second Collection this week is for Fuel

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Raymond Emond, Jennie House, Dianne Murray, Gianna Howlett, Janet Clark, Marie Quader, Marie Jacques, Trey Niles, Margaret Murdock, Connie Hamel, Sandy Kulvete, Alice Ostrowski, Deb Nichols, Mary Amistadi, Dylan Murray, Anne Marie Beliveau, Alicia Wieszorek, Claudette Yackowski, Emma Blais, Angela Martin, George Yackowski, Donald Leblanc.

POLICY FOR DAILY MASS IN WINTER

If school is cancelled or delayed on a day that daily Mass is scheduled, that Mass will be cancelled for the safety of all.

NEXT WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Get more out of Sunday Mass, by reading ahead...

December 24, 2017 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 SAMUEL 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 • ROMANS 16:25-27 • LUKE 1:26-38

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Christmas

December 24: 4 pm at Holy Cross

December 24: Midnight @ St. Martin's

December 25: 10:00 am at Holy Cross

New Year's Day

January 1: 8:00 am at Holy Cross

January 1: 10:00 am @ St. Martin's



(This year Christmas Eve is on a Sunday. There will be the usual Sunday Morning Masses and the Christmas Eve ones listed above. New Year's Eve also falls on a Sunday, however, there will be NO New Year's Vigil Masses that day. Instead we will have two Masses on New Year's day.)

2018 COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Boxed sets of collection envelopes for 2018 are available in the vestibule. If you have used envelopes in the past two years, a set with your name has been prepared. If you would like to begin using envelopes, blank sets are available.

FIRST PENANCE

Congratulations to all the students who made their First Penance recently. May the joy that comes from knowing God's forgiveness be always with you.

2018 CALENDARS

Calendars for 2018 are available in the vestibule. Thank you to Normand and Andrew Boucher of Boucher Funeral Home, 110 Nichols St., Gardner, who make these calendars available to our parishioners each year.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass intention book for 2018 is now available. Mass Intentions can be scheduled by calling the rectory at 978-939-5588, by emailing saintmartin-church@mail.com, or by speaking to Pat Gale after Mass.

CONFIRMATION 2018

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Robert J. McManus on Friday, April 27, 2018 at 7 pm at Holy Rosary Church, Gardner.

THE NOTICE ZONE

A quick reference to "Need to Know" and upcoming Holy Cross & St. Martin Parish Events

*Christmas Lights - LaSalette Shrine - Has been rescheduled to Dec. 30, 3-9 pm, Rosary Sodality invites parishioners. There are a few more seats available, call Joy Taintor 978-632-1104.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MASSES

A message from the Diocese: "As you know, the 4th Sunday of Advent is celebrated by the Church this year on the 23rd and the morning of the 24th of December. The celebration of Christmas begins on the afternoon of the 24th and continues into Monday the 25th of December, Christmas Day.

"As disciples of the Lord, and good stewards of all that we have received, we are called to return to God a portion of the good things we have received to God himself. In addition to our talent and our treasure, an essential portion of our life as good stewards is our time, time for worship even amidst the many demands placed upon us in this month of December.

"Also, our journey through this time of Advent preparation which the Church has provided for us is only completed with the celebration of the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

"While we recognize the difficulty for many in coming to Holy Mass twice in three days, the Church calls upon us to prioritize these days of sublime Grace, for us, for our families, and for our communities, and join with us in being good stewards, by returning that portion of our commitment to worship at Holy Mass with our brothers and sisters in the Lord."

ST. MARTIN'S HOLIDAY FAIR

"Thanks!" to all who supported our Holiday Fair. After expenses, our income from the fair was \$8,120. The proceeds from our fairs and festivals support the parish Improvement Fund. **If you won a prize at the fair and have not yet picked it up, stop by the rectory after Mass today.**

120 CLUB

The "Big Drawing" will be held at the end of this month. All tickets must be paid in full to be included in the drawing. If your ticket is not yet paid, please speak to Linda Columbus.



Diary of a Little Soul

WEEK 12: December 18

Guess what! If you could see me now, you would know whether I am a boy or a girl. Also, my vocal chords are starting to form for the day when I will sing Christmas carols with Mommy and Daddy during this joyful season. Another bit of news is that I can grasp and hold things thanks to my amazing thumbs. Before you know it, I will use them to open Christmas presents under the tree.

"Do you hear what they are saying?" Jesus said to them. "Yes; and have you never read the text, 'Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise?'"

Matthew 21:16

© 2017 Fr. Michael Chabon

OPLATEK – A POLISH TRADITION TO BE SHARED

St. Martin's has Oplatek available in the vestibule for a free will donation for those who would like to keep or begin this tradition.

MARCH FOR LIFE REGISTRATION

The 45th Annual March for Life in Washington, DC will be held on Friday, Jan. 19, 2018. The Worcester Diocese is sending buses there. For information, visit www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life or call 508-929-4311.



St. Martin's Catholic Church

248 State Road, Otter River, MA 01436

Rev. Patrick Ssekyole, Pastor

Richard J. Tatro, Deacon

Telephone 978-939-5588 • www.saintmartinchurch.org

Office email: info@saintmartinchurch.org

Rosary

30 minutes before Sunday Mass

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard from 3:30 to 4:15 pm on Saturdays at Holy Cross Church or by appt.

Sacrament of Christian Marriage

Plans may be made by contacting the Pastor at least one year prior to the intended wedding date.

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

Please notify us when a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized so that we may visit the confined person and offer the sacraments of the Church.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the area, we welcome you to join our parish family. Please introduce yourself after Mass and register in the parish. We want to know and serve you.