FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024



OUR MISSION

To bring by the power of the Holy Spirit as many people as possible to know, love, and serve God as revealed through Jesus Christ; and to be transformed into spiritually renewed disciples of Jesus who know, love and serve one another and the world.



FROM THE RECTOR

IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, WELCOME.

Jesus' first words to His earliest disciples were very simple, "Come, follow Me..." (Matthew 4:19) It was a gentle invitation to take seriously the wonderful journey of faith found in Christ. For more than 2,000 years, people of all ages have responded to that invitation through a personal decision to follow Jesus Christ in a community of prayer, study and service. St. Martin's is just such a place.

St. Martin's is a member Church in the Diocese of Texas, The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and the greater worldwide Anglican Communion consisting of more than 77 million people. Our Parish Church considers it a tremendous honor to be a place where men, women, youth and children can grow in their personal relationship with our Lord, come to know and use their own spiritual gifts, and discover a personal ministry to be expressed both in the Church, the greater Houston area and beyond.

I want to personally invite you to participate in our worship services and as many of our activities and ministries as your own commitments and time will allow.

The Pay Dr. Puscell I Layonson In Page

The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr., Rector

Prayers Before Worship

O Lord, we thank You that You have called us as members of Your family into this beautiful house of God. Grant that here we may feel Your presence and the beauty of Your peace, and that, as we return to our homes and work, we may sense Your guiding hand and loving care and be used in the service of our neighbors, our nation and the world, and all You send our way, through Him Who came not to condemn the world but to save it, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOTICES

St. Martin's is a gun-free campus.

St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.

^{*}indicates when latecomers may be seated so as not to disturb other worshipers

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY 28

Christian Education for Adults will not be offered today so all may participate in the Annual Parish Meeting in Bagby Parish Hall at 10:15 a.m. Traditional and Riverway Worship Services will begin at 11:30 a.m. to allow for the meeting.

7-1-7 Students

Sunday Get-Togethers

For students in grades 6-12 10:15-11 a.m. Student Life Center, Living Room

For more information about 7-1-7 Students, contact Florence Ritchie at 713-985-3843 or students@smec.org.

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

For children through grade 5 10:15-11 a.m.
Children's Life Center

Childcare is available during all morning services for infants through three-year-olds.

For more information about Children's Ministry, contact Rocio Velazquez at 713-985-3807 or rvelazquez@smec.org.

Music Ministry

Young Singers of St. Martin's

For children and youth in grades 1-12 8:15 a.m. | Rehearsal in Children's Life Center 9:15 a.m. | Family Table service in Parish Life Center

For more information about Young Singers of St. Martin's, contact Carole Nelson at 346-335-8677 or cnelson@smec.org.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 3

Adults

Saintly Stitchers

Monday, Jan. 29

10 a.m.-noon | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Praver Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, Jan. 30

9-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Knit and crochet shawls to be blessed for those in need of prayer. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Blanket Ladies

Wednesday, Jan. 31

10-11:30 a.m. | Activity Center, Family Room

Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild

Wednesday, Jan. 31

Noon-3 p.m. | Activity Center, Upper Hall East

St. Clare's Guild undertakes a variety of needlepoint projects in worship spaces and for outreach programs. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Church Tours

Wednesday, Jan. 31

11 a.m.-noon | The Church

The Docent Guild offers a formal tour of The Church. To schedule a group tour or special tours of The Church windows, Christ Chapel or Campus gardens, please contact the Docent Line at 713-830-4117. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Ministry Study Group

Wednesday, Jan. 31

4:30-6 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom

Learn and grow in the practice of prayer for healing, with an opportunity to train as an OSL prayer minister. For more information, contact the Rev. Sharron Cox at 713-830-4131 or scox@smec.org.

St. Martin's 20s & 30s

Wednesday, Jan. 31

7-9 p.m. | Children Life Center

Young adults meet weekly for a time of fellowship and study. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at 346-335-8680 or rwarning@smec.org.

Parish Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, Feb. 1 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Choir Behearsal Hall

Sing a variety of traditional music in service to the Lord and our congregation. For more information, contact Dr. David Henning at 713-985-3820 or dhenning@smec.org.

Men

Men of St. Martin's

Thursday, Feb. 1 7-8 a.m. | Bagby Parish Hall

This men's group meets for fellowship, mutual support and Bible study. For more information, contact the Rev. John Sundara at 713-985-3842 or jsundara@smec.org.

Dads' Bible Study

Thursday, Feb. 1 8-9 a.m. | Welcome Center

Join dads with children of all ages for coffee, fellowship and Bible study. For more information, contact the Rev. Wesley Arning at 346-335-8680 or rwarning@smec.org.

Women

Christian Life Study

Tuesday, Jan. 30 – Evening Group | 6:30-8 p.m. | Children's Life Center and via Zoom Thursday, Feb. 1 – Day Group | 9:30-11:30 a.m. | Parish Life Center and via Zoom

This friendly and loving group of women meets over the course of the year to target various topics in the Bible to deepen faith. For more information, contact the Rev. Marty Bastian at lgallien@smec.org.

The Moms' Group

Wednesday, Jan. 31

9:15-10:30 a.m. | Student Life Center Living Room

Join mothers of infants through grade 12 students for a book study and fellowship. For more information, contact Ashley Monacelli at 713-985-3816 or amonachelli@smec.org.

7-I-7 Students

Life Groups

Wednesday, Jan. 31 6-8 p.m. | Student Life Center

Students in grades 6-12 connect with their peers for fun activities and great discussions about faith and life. Please bring \$5 to cover the cost of dinner.

HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. is a spoken service. Musical pieces in this booklet will be skipped or replaced by spoken liturgy, as noted.

The Celebrant greets the People. Following the greeting, all stand.





 $Words: Harry \ Emerson \ Fosdick \ (1878-1969), \ alt.; \ Music: \textit{Cwm Rhondda}, \ John \ Hughes \ (1873-1932); \ Copyright: \ Words: \ By \ permission \ of the \ author.$

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847); Music: Lauda anima, John Goss (1800-1880).

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray. (kneel)

The Celebrant says the Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

	Please be seated.
Τŀ	HE LESSON
1	Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
	in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
2	Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
	they are studied by all who delight in them.
3	His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
	and his righteousness endures for ever.
4	He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
	the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
5	He gives food to those who fear him; *
	he is ever mindful of his covenant.
6	He has shown his people the power of his works *
	in giving them the lands of the nations.
7	The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
	all his commandments are sure.
8	They stand fast for ever and ever, *
	because they are done in truth and equity.
9	He sent redemption to his people;
	he commanded his covenant for ever; *
	holy and awesome is his Name.
10	The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
	those who act accordingly have a good understanding:

his praise endures for ever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

All stand.



6 O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be thou our guide while life shall last, and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90; Music: St. Anne, melody att. William Croft (1678–1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889).

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus and his disciples went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on pages 24-25.



and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90; Music: St. Anne, melody att. William Croft (1678–1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823–1889).

be thou our guide while life shall last,

Please be seated.

THE NICENE CREED (stand)

Celebrant and People

I believe in one God,

the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only-begotten Son of God,

begotten of his Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father;

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation

came down from heaven,

and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the

Virgin Mary,

and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered and was buried;

and the third day he rose again according to

the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,

and he shall come again, with glory,

to judge both the quick and the dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;

who with the Father and the Son together

is worshiped

and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and

apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;

and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (kneel)

Minister and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for thy holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve thee;

That thy Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai and Hector, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of thy Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Joe, our President, Greg, our Governor, John, our Mayor, and the Congress and the Courts; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the World;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do thy will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in thy sight.

We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested, especially ___; for those who are hospitalized, especially ___; and for those on our continuing prayer list; have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

We pray for those who have died, especially ___; give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We give thee thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially those remembered today with Altar flowers, ___; and we praise thee for thy saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in thy heavenly kingdom.

In this moment of silence, let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

A period of silence, during which people may add their own petitions quietly in the privacy of their hearts.

Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minister says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

A moment of silence is observed.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE PEACE (stand)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Please be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please see page 28 for upcoming events.

THE OFFERTORY

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

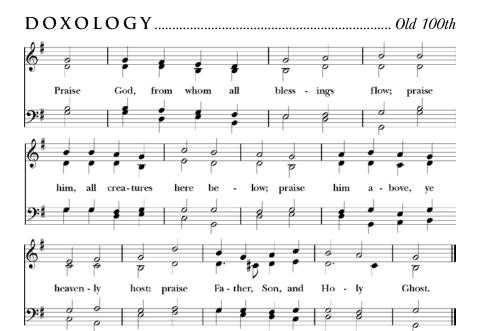
Text:John 3:16-17.

AT THE PRESENTATION (stand)

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Doxology)

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord;

People: And of thine own have we given thee.



Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637–1711); Music: Old 100th, melody from Pseaumes octante trois de David, 1551, alt.; harm. after Louis Bourgeois (1510?–1561?).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

(said at 8 a.m., sung at 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.)



John Merbecke, 1549. Copyright © 1940, 1943, 1961. The Church Pension Fund.

The Celebrant continues (kneel)

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant and People

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

(8 a.m. only in place of sung Fraction Anthem)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



Text: Celtic Alleluia, Christopher Walker; Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker; © 1985, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, public by OCP Publications. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under LicenSingOnline #U3219.

Then may be said

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Celebrant and People

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Celebrant says the Invitation.

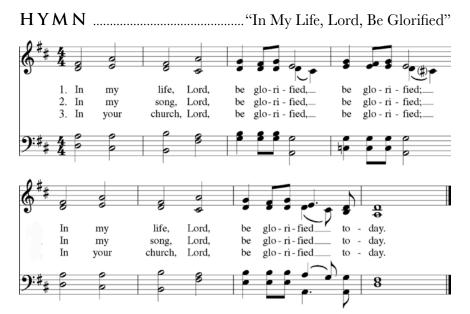
All Christians who have been baptized with water and in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and are permitted to receive Holy Communion in their own church are welcome to do so on this occasion. If you do not wish to receive one or both Elements, cross your arms over your chest and the Clergy will give you a blessing. Please tell the Clergy administering Communion if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

ANTHEM"Ubi Caritas" Maurice Duruflé

Ubi cáritas et ámor, Déus ibi est. Congregávit nos in únum Chrísti ámor. Exsultémus et in ípso jucundémur. Timeámus et amémus Déum vívum. Et ex córde diligámus nos sincéro. Amen.

Where there is charity and love, God is there. The love of Christ has gathered us together. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Let us revere and love the living God. And from a sincere heart, let us love one another. Amen.

Text: Antiphon for the washing of feet, Maundy Thursday Eucharist. Music: Gregorian Chant, setting by Maurice Duruflé. ©Durand Editions Musicales, 1960.



Music and text: Bob Kilpatrick (b. 1952); Copyright: © 1978 Bob Kilpatrick Music, P. O. Box 2383, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. CCLI #805314.





a - lone

are my

strength, my shield;

To

Words and Music: Martin Nystrom; CCLI Song #1431; © 1984 Maranatha Praise, Inc.; All rights Reserved. CCLI #805314.

You

long to wor-ship you.

more than an - y - thing. ap - ple of my eye. After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

At 9 and 11:30 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us the Communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

All stand.



Words: Timothy Rees (1874–1939), alt.; Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907–1991); Copyright: Words: Copyright held by A. R. Mowbray & Co. Ltd. Music: Copyright © 1942, renewed 1970 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

VOLUNTARY "Pasticcio"

Jean Langlais

Personal prayers are available at the west Side Chapel after this service.

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

On the occasion of their marriage

by Alexandra Nicole Blakley and William Harrison Hepner In thanksgiving for the baptism of Annabelle Louise Schramm by Amy and Payton Schramm In memory of Jim Weatherly

by Cindy Weatherly



WEDDINGS

Jan. 20 Analise Eugenia Riddle and William Daniel Hughes III

To mark a special occasion with an altar flower dedication, visit bit.ly/smecaltarflowers or contact Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam at relhakam@smec.org.

SERMON NOTES

"A Pocket Prayer" Via Pastor Max Lucado

"Father,
You are good.
I need help.
They need help.
Thank you. In Jesus' name, Amen."

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE OLD TESTAMENT Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses said: The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE EPISTLE1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; but anyone who loves God is known by him.

Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. "Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Individuals are included on the Continuing Prayers list for numerous reasons, some of which may include recovery from illness, thanksgiving or need for support for special ministry and mission. In addition to praying for participants in cancer support groups, the Alzheimer's Caregiver's Support Group and The Gathering, this week please pray for the following:

Robin Adair Mary and Jim Jennings John Justice Bobbie Adams Sandra "Sandy" Justice Carolyn Alban Mary Anne Kannard Katie and Harvey Altmann Scotty Arnoldy Candi Keebler Ally Babineaux Dick Kilday Shelly Bain Reggie Lang Kathy Beadnell Rhea Latta Beth Beathard Bruce Michael Lee

Bob Beeley Nancy Liles

Cory Blackman Nicole Holdford Lockney Kenny Brown Ryan Logan Bella Carosi Bella Martin Cole Cattan Ronnie Martin Debbie Chernosky Ianet McDaniel Doug Clarke Barbara McMahon Hallie Cooley Dave McStravick Michael Craig Frances Melicks Sam Cruse Len Menefee Gail Davis Margaret Milner Bobby de Sosa Ruth Moorhead

Linda de Sosa Stuart Nixon Ross Dunn Ann Noel Kiersten Dyke Deborah Oliver Andrew O'Mallev Jim Easterling Stacey and John Elliott Bob Paddock Charles Flores Iim Paddock Judy Peach Will Fogle Betty Polando Julie G. Joseph Powell Catherine Gonzales Nancy Gore Ophelia Pujol Bette Haidusek Heather Rathnau Ann Halverson Dana Raymant

Kayla Hamaker Ted Reed
Amy Heath Marjorie Reeks
Mollie Hill Phyllis Reinhardt
Marguerite Hillgers Monica Rivera
Marilyn Ingham John Davis Roady
Christine Jean Joe Rodriguez

Consuelo Saldana Suzzy Schuwerk Helen and Jim Shaffer Caroline Shanahan Clif Shoemake Bob Spencer Paul Therrien LaVonne Waldron Mary Watters Stephen Wedemeyer

Maggie Rodriguez

Ann Winters Eric Zoerb Alexi Atticus Henry Laura Lynne

Stacy Wood

Please be advised that we will be updating the Continuing Prayers list twice a year in the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day. The list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Continuing Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

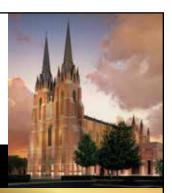
CONTINUING PRAYERS

Prayers for those on Active Military Duty in the Armed Forces:

LCDR Bradley Hoffman Lt. Col. Wesley J. Hunnell Capt. Blake J. Kidd Capt. Jack Mullen lst Lt. Alex Mullen Lt. Paul Piana Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant

Please be advised that each year the week after Veterans Day, this list will be completely redone. To add or remove someone on the Military Service Prayers list, please contact Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

Hunual PARISH MEETING



Sunday, Jan. 28 10:15 a.m. Bagby Parish Hall

Parishioners are invited to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to learn about progress in the preceding year and plans for 2024. Sunday School for adults will not be offered on this Sunday so that all will have the opportunity to attend. The 11:15 a.m. services in The Church and Parish Life Center will begin at 11:30 a.m. to accommodate the Annual Parish Meeting.

Please join us!

RIVERWAY

Celebration Sunday!

Celebrate January Birthdays and Anniversaries with Riverway.

SUNDAY, JAN. 28
Parish Life Center Narthex

Following the 11:30 a.m. services

We invite everyone who has had a recent birthday or anniversary to join us in acknowledgement of your special day, and share a dessert or breakfast item with us. Everyone is welcome!

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.





Do you love to needlepoint?

Consider joining St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild. This guild welcomes stitchers of any skill level and teaches needlepoint from basic stitches to detailed and advanced work.



SUNDAY, JAN. 28 1-4 p.m. **Activity Center Upper Hall East**

St. Clare's also meets during the week. For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.



o st.claresneedlepoint



🚹 St. Clare's Needlepoint Guild



SUNDAY, JAN. 28

5 p.m. • Christ Chapel

Join us this Epiphany to reflect and hear from the Lord through the contemplative sounds of Taizé Prayer. Through chant-like songs, Scripture and silent meditation, this quiet and prayerful time will nourish your soul!

Contact: Rebekah Maddux El-Hakam • relhakam@smec.org • 713-830-4146







MEMBERSHIP 101

MONDAY, JAN. 29

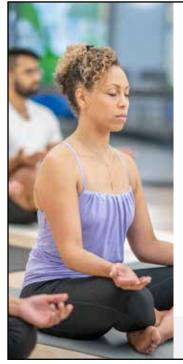
Bagby Parish Hall and Online • 6-9 p.m. • Dinner will be served. *Reservations are required by 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28.*

Learn more about the mission and core values of St. Martin's and broaden your understanding of our ministries and your role in the Church.

CONTACT

Kathy Johnson, Director of Membership membership@smec.org • 713-985-3834

Register at bit.ly/Membership-101 Case sensitive



ACTIVITY CENTER

LUNCHTIME YOGA

Mondays and Thurdays Noon–12:45 p.m. | Aerobics Room

Join Megh for a slower paced yoga class that focuses on breathing, controlled movements and stretching. Help bring peace to your mind and body! Open to all levels.

MOST CLASSES ARE FREE!

For more information, visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter.

Contact | Victoria Wilson activitycenter@smec.org • 713-985-3835





Monday-Friday | 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Front Reception Desk

Please donate your leftover Christmas gift wrap to Outreach Ministries! If you have extra Christmas gift wrap – opened rolls are fine – please drop them off during business hours.

Contact Tracee Tindol at outreach@smec.org or 713-985-3811 for more information.







THURSDAY, FEB. 1
Parish Life Center, Kitchen
6–8 p.m. • Cost is \$75/person
Sign up at bit.ly/cafestmartinscooking4

Guest Chefs Graham Gemoets and Robert Iris of Butter and Company are returning to St. Martin's for a fun-filled cooking evening that will capture the hearts of young and old alike. The duo have planned a delicious menu that will please every palate.

Contact: Chrissy Kana • ckana@smec.org • 713-985-3806

ALL-PARISH WINDOW



BUILDING FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

In August 2021, St. Martin's celebrated the culmination of the "Building for the Ages" campaign, with a weekend filled with dedications, blessings and consecration of new buildings and garden spaces. You can contribute to the legacy of St. Martin's by donating to the All-Parish Window in the Parish Life Center.

Give online at bit.ly/givetosmec
Select » All Parish Window

Contact I Ashley Pratka, Director of Development apratka@smec.org • 346-335-8658.





Saturdays • 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Rain or Shine Sage and Woodway sterlingsmarket.org



Find delicious treats for your loved ones!

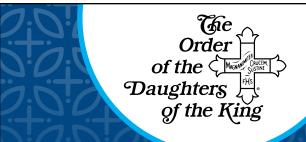




Indulge your loved ones with unique treats. Discover crafted goods and specialty foods, including farm-fresh produce and meats from local farmers and vendors. Choose specialty treats for your furry loved ones as well!

A portion of the proceeds supports St. Martin's Outreach Ministries.

Contact: Justin Jacobson Avery • info@sterlingsmarket.org • 713-985-3838



SATURDAY, FEB. 3 · 10 A.M. CHILDREN'S LIFE CENTER

SPRING ASSEMBLY HOST PREPARATION

The group will assemble gift bags and decorate gift favors for the Diocesan DOK Spring Assembly participants at St. Martin's in March.

For more information, please contact Tracee Tindol at tmartin@smec.org or 713-985-3811.



SUNDAY, FEB. 4 9 A.M. • THE CHURCH

St. Martin's recognizes Scouts and leaders from Churchsponsored Scout Troup 354 and Cub Scout Pack 354 during this special worship service, in which Scouts will also participate. Former and current Scouts and Scout leaders are encouraged to wear their uniforms for this service.

Contact | The Rev. Alex D. Graham III • agraham@smec.org • 713-985-3836





St. Martin's International Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing Community offers a service of prayer for healing and wholeness on the first Wednesday of each month. This short service is held for anyone in need of prayer for themselves, friends or family.

Next Service

Wednesday, Feb. 7 | 5 p.m. Parish Life Center or via Zoom

bit.ly/oslservice

For more information, contact Amanda DeViney at 713-830-4110 or adeviney@smec.org.



SUNDAY, FEB. 11

10-11 a.m.

Children's Life Center and Activity Center

Join us for the 14th annual Serve Day for St. Martin's Parishioners. Our faith in Christ is expressed by helping others in our community. Activities are planned on Campus to serve the many agencies we support.

CONTACT

Tracee Tindol • tmartin@smec.org • 713-985-3811



LENT

AT ST. MARTIN'S

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Traditional Worship
Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • The Church
Riverway Contemporary Service
Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes
6:30 p.m. • Parish Life Center

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Sundays, before and after the morning services Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20 4:30–5:30 p.m. · The Church

Holy Week, Monday–Thursday, March 25–28 11 a.m.–1 p.m. • The Church Good Friday, March 29

11 a.m.–noon · The Church
"A Short History of Chris

LENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

"A Short History of Christian Thought" Led by the Rev. Dr. Jim Jackson, Jr. Sundays, Feb. 18–March 17 10:15–11 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT LENT SERIES

"Lord, Teach Us to Pray..."
Led by the Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.
Wednesdays, Feb. 21–March 20
5 p.m., Dinner · Bagby Parish Hall
5:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist · The Church
6:30 p.m., Program Begins · Bagby Parish Hall

THURSDAY AFTERNOON ADULT LENTEN SERIES

"Then Sings My Soul" Led by St. Martin's Clergy Thursdays, Feb. 22–March 21 4–5 p.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

LENTEN QUIET DAY

"Putting on Christ: The Baptismal Nature of Christ" Sponsored by St. Martin's Chapter of OSL Saturday, Feb. 24 9 a.m.–noon. • Parish Life Center



For more details about our Lenten offerings, visit bit.ly/smeclent



A NEW BOOK by the Rev. Russell J. Levenson, Jr.



Order Your Copy Today! https://a.co/d/9hypX4Q



"This is a book about God's help."
– Russell J. Levenson, Jr.

A Perfect Gift for Valentine's Day!

"IN GOD'S GRIP: What Golf Can Teach Us About The Gospel"

"If you enjoy golf, as I do, you think often about how to improve your game. Russ Levenson's well-written, well researched new book, In God's Grip, is a winsome parable that uses golf to gently confront us with profound, life-changing tips to improve something far more important, our relationship with Christ."

Max McLean, Founder & Artistic Director,
 Fellowship for Performing Arts

Place orders now at St. Martin's Gift Shoppe or wherever fine books are sold.
Contact Barbara Shoemaker at bshoemaker@smec.org or 713-985-3834.

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU! GOD LOVES YOU!

General Questions

Contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040.

Prayer Requests

Contact the Prayer Request Line at 713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

After Hours Emergencies

Call 713-621-3040 and press 2 to reach the Priest on Call.

Death Notifications and Funerals

Contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@smec.org.



HHCI CARES

Grief Comes in Waves FEBRUARY 15

Thursday at Noon CT Available In-Person & Online Register at hhci.org/events

Presented by Dr. Virgil Fry, Director, Interfaith Spiritual Care Coalition, Institute for Spirituality and Health

For more information, contact Emilee Clyburn at eclyburn@hhci.org or 346-335-8622

WAYS TO GIVE



TEXT
Text SMEC to 73256



St. Martin's Episcopal Church 717 Sage Rd., Houston, TX 77056



ONLINE bit.ly/smecgiving



BEQUESTS

Contact: Ashley Pratka at apratka@smec.org or 346-335-8658



TRANSFER OF ASSETS

Pledging and setting up a recurring gift online helps you and the church budget

For all stewardship questions, contact Debbie Hutchison at dhutchison@smec.org or 713-985-3803.

OUR STAFF AND VESTRY

SUNDAY PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. David Henning

Director of Music and Parish Organist dhenning@smec.org

Mr. Keith Lathrom

Choral Director of the Adult Choir klathrom@smec.org

Ms. Hannah Cen

Associate Organist hcen@smec.org

Ms. Carole Nelson

Coordinator of Children's Music Ministries cnelson@smec.org

Mrs. Ashley Monachelli

Director of Children's Ministry amonachelli@smec.org

Mrs. Kathy Johnson

Director of Membership kjohnson@smec.org

Mrs. Barbara Piana

Verger and Worship Coordinator bpiana@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S VESTRY

Vestry Executive Committee

Mr. Tommy Ford, Senior Warden

Mrs. Michelle Bain, Junior Warden

Mr. Gib Surles, Missions Chair

Mr. Dan Meyer, Treasurer

Mr. Ryan LaRue, Clerk

Mr. Matt Anderson, Past Senior Warden

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., Parish Stewardship Chair

Mr. Andy Harvin, Chancellor*

Vestry Members

Mrs. Nancy Bynon

Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes

Mrs. Whitney Gormley

Mr. Will Hedges

Mr. Matt Mogas

Mr. Roy W. Nichol

Ms. Sherrie Perkins

Mrs. Courtney Schilling

Mr. Logan Walters

Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

The Hon. James A. Baker, III, Special Counsel to the Vestry*

Mr. David Harvin, Senior Council Representative 2023-2024

Mrs. Beth Reeves, Senior Council Representative 2023-2024

Mrs. Hope Huber, *Altar Guild President* 2023-2024

Mrs. Kathy Bennett, ECW President 2023-2024

Mr. Perry Ruthven, Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2024

Mr. Bob Porter, Usher Representative 2022-2024

 ${\it *Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.}$



Mr. Milton West Vestry Representative Morning



Mr. Ryan LaRue Vestry Representative Evening

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ

The Head of This Church



The Rev. Dr. Russell J. Levenson, Jr. Rector lhough@smec.org



The Rev. R. Wesley Arning

Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries rwarning@smec.org



The Rev. Martin J. Bastian Vice-Rector mbastian@smec.org



The Rev. Naomi B. Sundara Chaplain to the Preschool nsundara@smec.org



The Rev. John D. Sundara Vicar for Worship and Evangelism jsundara@smec.org



The Rev. John R. Bentley, Jr. Pastoral Associate jbentley@smec.org



The Rev. Lisa R. Neilson Vicar for Pastoral Care lneilson@smec.org



The Rev. Nicolas (Nick) R. D. Dyke Pastoral Associate ndyke@smec.org



The Rev. Alex D. Graham III Associate for Children and Family Ministries agraham@smec.org



The Rev. Richard (Dick) H. Elwood Pastoral Associate delwood@smec.org



The Rev. Sharron L. CoxAssociate for Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Ministries scox@smec.org



The Rev. Gillian (Gill) B. Keyworth Deacon gkeyworth@smec.org

WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE.

