SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2025



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.



WELCOME TO ST. MARTIN'S

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.

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

Prayer 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.
- To use a hearing assisted device, see one of our ushers.
- St. Martin's asks that anyone coming into a worship service not bring oversized or large backpacks.
- Please silence all cell phones when entering The Church and also refrain from texting.
 Thank you for being respectful of God and others as we spend time together in worship.





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.

VOLUNTARY

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star: Variations" Max Reger

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





Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.; Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915).

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

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

HYMN AT THE GLORIA (said at 8 a.m.; sung at 9 and 11:15 a.m.)





Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.; Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958); Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

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

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Τŀ	HE LESSON (8 a.m.)84
1	How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
	My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
	my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
2	The sparrow has found her a house
	and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
	by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, King and my God.
3	Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
	they will always be praising you.
4	Happy are the people whose strength is in you!*
	whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
5	Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,*
	for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
6	They will climb from height to height, *
	and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
7	LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;*
	hearken, O God of Jacob.
8	Behold our defender, O God; *
	and look upon the face of your Anointed.
9	For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
	and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
	than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
10	For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
	he will give grace and glory;
11	No good thing will the LORD withhold *
	from those who walk with integrity.
12	O LORD of hosts, *
	happy are they who put their trust in you!

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE LESSON (9 and 11:15 a.m.) Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,

and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,

and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame, those with child and

those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,

and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel,

and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,

and declare it in the coastlands far away;

say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,

and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,

and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,

over the grain, the wine, and the oil,

and over the young of the flock and the herd;

their life shall become like a watered garden,

and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

I will give the priests their fill of fatness,

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 109 (vs. 1-2)......"The First Nowell" The first No well the did an - gel say 2 They look edup and a star saw_ 3 And by the light of that_ same star cer-tain poor shep-herds in fields they lay; to 2 shin - ing the be far, in____ east____ yond_ them 3 from three_ wise_ men came_ coun try far; fields they inas lay, keep - ing their sheep, 2 and to the earth it gave_ great light, 3 seek king their_ tent, for was in to cold win-ter's night___ that deep. was. so nigĥt. 2 tin - ued both so it con day. and 3 fol - low the wher and star____ ev erwent. Refrain No well, No well, No well, No well.



Words: Francis Ridley Havargal (1836–1879), alt.; Music: Hollingside, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

Please be seated.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according

to Matthew.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they

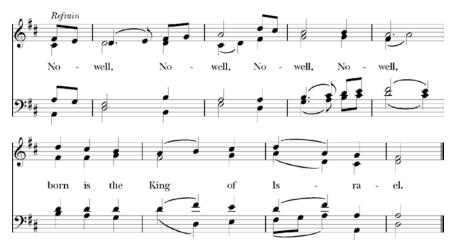
saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The remaining readings for the day are on page 26.





Words: Francis Ridley Havargal (1836–1879), alt.; Music: Hollingside, John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876).

Please be seated.

THE SERMONThe Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon 9 and 11:15 a.m.

Read more about Bishop Idowu-Fearon on page 29.

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 the nomination of the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Andy, Jeff, Kai, Hector and Brian, our bishops; the Clergy of this Parish; for our Search Committee and the fifth Rector; in the Anglican Communion cycle of prayer, for the Church in Wales; for all bishops, priests and deacons;

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

We pray for Joe, our President, Donald, our President-elect, 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.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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.

The 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 27 for classes and events.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEM" "There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth" Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a star from Jacob come forth, and a Sceptre from Israel rise up. And dash in pieces Princes and Nations. How brightly beams the morning star with sudden radiance from afar, with light and comfort glowing! Thy Word, Jesus, inly feeds us, Rightly leads us, Life bestowing. Praise, oh praise such love o'erflowing!

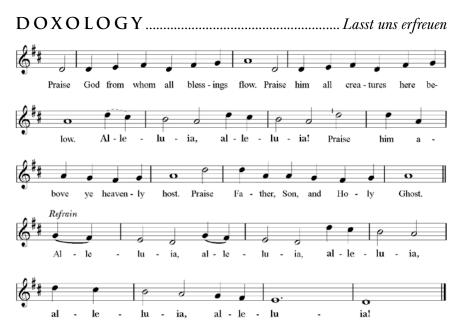
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AT THE PRESENTATION

(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: Thomas Ken (1637-1711); Music: Lasst uns erfreuen, melody from Auserlesene Catholiche Geistliche Kirchengeseng, 1623; adapt. Ralph Vaughan William (1872-1958).

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (stand)

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.

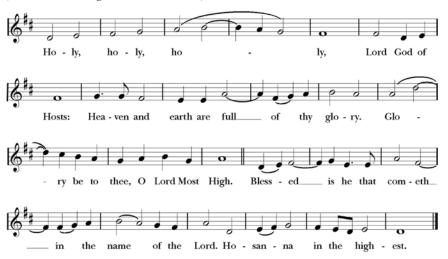
It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

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 and 11:15 a.m.)



Music: From Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena, Healey Willan (1880-1968); Copyright: By permission of Oxford University Press.

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.

FRACTION ANTHEMSt. Louis

Cantor sings

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.

Congregation sings

No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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"O Nata Lux" Thomas Tallis

O Nata Lux de lumine Jesu redemptor saeculi Dignare Clemens supplicum Laudes preces que sumere. Qui carne quondam contegi Dignatus est pro perditis Nos membra confer effici Tui beati corporis.

O Light of light, by love inclined, Jesu, redeemer of mankind, with loving-kindness deign to hear from suppliant voices praise and prayer. Thou who to raise our souls from hell didst deign in fleshly form to dwell, vouchsafe us, when our race is run, in thy fair Body to be one.

Source: Cantiones que ab argument sacrae vocantur (London, 1575), No. 8. Music © 1969 Oxford University Press.



Text: Anon. (v. 1-2 Kirkpatrick, 1885; vs. 3 Charles H. Gabriel, 1892); Music: Mueller; arr. John Weaver.



Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901); Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935); Copyright: Music: Arrangement © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.





Words: E.H. Sears; Music: Carol, R.S. Willis.

After Communion, the Celebrant says (kneel) 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.

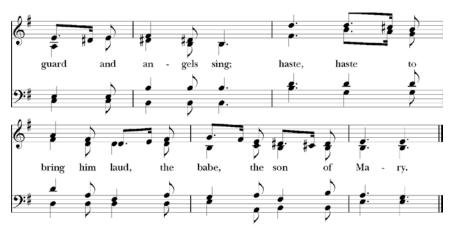
At 9 and 11:15 a.m., after the Post-Communion Prayer, members of the Shepherd's Guild may come forward. The priest or deacon gives the Sacrament to the Eucharistic visitors, saying

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: Mary Ann Thomson (1834–1923), alt.; Music: Tidings, James Walch (1837–1901).

THE DISMISSAL

A Minister says the dismissal

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

VOLUNTARY

"How Brightly Shines the Morning Star: Fugue" Max Reger

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

RECOGNITIONS



FLOWERS GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for the ministry of the Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon In thanksgiving for all St. Martin's Acolytes



SYMPATHY

Nov. 27 Nancy Laura Gardere

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

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:

Crockett Abraham Bruce Michael Lee Bobbie Adams Nancy Liles Carolyn Alban Patrick Maehs Martha Marks Harvey Altmann Edith Avery Bill Maynard Shelly Bain Tom McDade Cory Blackman Janet McDaniel Jennifer Broussard Patricia McDonald Gary Browning Adams McHenry Helen Paige Buck Megan Palsa Delondra Citrano Dan Pate Sammy A. Citrano III Ophelia Pujol Gail Davis Phyllis Reinhardt Paul Davison Hugh Ripps Bobby de Sosa Monica Rivera

Helen and Jim Shaffer Jeanne Dewey Caroline Shanahan Mercedes Dewey Richard Dewey Clif Shoemake Charlotte Dion Fran Gardner Shores Ross Dunn Grantland Wagner Connie Dyer MaeJoyce Wagner Stacey and John Elliott Margaret Watson Catherine Gonzales Mary Watters Nancy Gore Stephen Wedemeyer

John Roady

The Rev. Alex Graham Eric Zoerb Shea Guinn Dave

Bette Haidusek Elizabeth and Scott

Cassidy Haidusek Harold
Cathy Haidusek Henry
Jean Hatton Laura
Nancy Haywood Lynne
Wendy Hurt Sharon
Clare Jan Wayne

Mary and Jim Jennings

Dick Kilday Searcy Kracke Mary Tyler Labhart

Linda de Sosa

Tom Lamb

The Rev. Peter Larson

Please be advised that the weeks after Easter and All Saints' Day, this 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:

Lt. Col. Julian Benton
1LT. Tom Cadwallender
1LT. Yonatan Cadwallender
1st LCDR Casey Gainer
LCDR Brodley Haffman

1st LCDR Casey Gamer LCDR Bradley Hoffman LTC Wesley J. Hunnell 1st Lt. Stephen A. Jeckovich Capt. Blake J. Kidd

Capt. Jack Mullen

1st Lt. Alex Mullen PFC. Parris F. Owen SrA James W. Peoples

Lt. Paul Piana Lt. Col. Thomas C. Plant

PO1 Brian Powell Sgt. Joel Rowell PO Evan Tomlin

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.

OTHER WORSHIP SERVICES





9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Family Table service with Holy Eucharist combines contemporary worship music with traditional liturgy and is designed for families with young children.

11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The Riverway Contemporary Service is both Anglican and modern, offering the Holy Eucharist in a relaxed service with contemporary music.

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Holy Eucharist Services 7 a.m., noon and 6 p.m. • Christ Chapel

OSL Healing Prayer Service First Wednesday of the month 5 p.m. • Parish Life Center Online at bit.ly/oslservice

READINGS FOR THE DAY

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

THIS SUNDAY

ADULTS

8+ with the Rev. Elizabeth Miller

Discuss the lectionary readings of the day following the 8 a.m. service.

8:55 a.m. • Chapel Reception Hall

THEOLOGY FOR LIFE with the Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon "Frequently Asked Questions: What is the Anglican Communion?" This series hopes to give the best answers to the questions you have about our faith.

10:15 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall

STUDENT MINISTRIES

SUNDAY GET-TOGETHERS

Students in grades 6–12 spend time in fellowship and discuss the Scriptures shared in worship.

10:15 a.m. • Student Life Center

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children through 5th grade are given a solid foundation of Biblical and theological knowledge in age-appropriate ways.

10:15 a.m. • Children's Life Center

CHILDCARE

Available during all morning services for six-weeks through three-year-olds. 8 a.m. • Children's Life Center

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SOLE HOPE SHOE CUTTING PROJECT

Help cut denim patterns for Ugandan children's shoes. 10:15 a.m. • Activity Center Gym

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



To view all our Christian education options, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smecedu.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARTIN'S

JANUARY 6-11, 2025

ALL ADULTS

Saintly Stitchers *Monday, 10 a.m.* • *Activity Center, Upper Hall East* Saintly Stitchers fill St. Martin's with pew kneelers and other gifts for worship spaces.

Prayer Shawl Ministry *Tuesday*, 9 a.m. • Activity Center, Family Room Knit and crochet shawls to be released for those in need of prayer.

Blanket Ladies *Wednesday, 10 a.m.* • *Activity Center, Family Room* Make receiving blankets for newborn infants at local charity hospitals.

MEN

Men of St. Martin's *Thursday* • 7 a.m. • Bagby Parish Hall
This mens' group meets for fellowship, mutual support and Bible study.

WOMEN

Christian Life Study

Join this women's Bible study and strengthen your relationship with God through the study of His word.

Day Group Thursday, 9:30 a.m. • Parish Life Center and via Zoom

<u>STUDENTS</u>

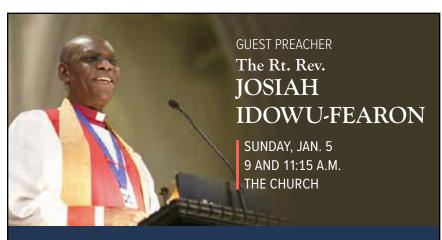
Life Groups Wednesday, 6 p.m. • Student Life Center
Students in grades 6–12 connect with their peers for fun activities

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 the meal.

EVENTS



To view all our upcoming events, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/smecevents.



The Rt. Rev. Josiah Idowu-Fearon is the retired Secretary General of the Anglican Communion. In this role he helped lead the world's 80 million Anglican followers of Jesus.

Previously, he served as Archbishop of Kaduna in the Anglican Church of Nigeria. His Ph.D. and master's degrees in Christianity and Islam equipped him to serve as a bridge builder in his home country and around the Anglican world. Presently, he is Bishop-in-Residence at St. John the Divine in Houston.









ACTIVITY CENTER

WATERCOLOR PAINTING

Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30–11:30 a.m. | Fellowship Room

Enjoy fellowship and watercolor painting each week with supplies and inspiration provided. It's open to everyone!

MOST CLASSES ARE FREE! Visit bit.ly/smecactivitycenter

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





Wednesday, Jan. 8 | 11 a.m. Via Zoom

Parishioners who have been asked to sponsor a St. Martin's grant preapplication are invited to learn more about our Outreach grant giving process for non-profit agencies. Sign up by today, Jan. 5, at the contact below.

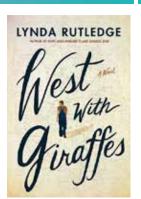
Contact: Tracee Tindol • outreach@smec.org • 713-985-3811



DAY GROUP

enter

Grants

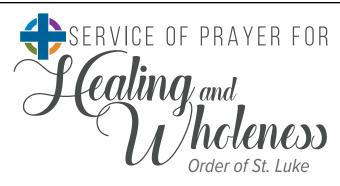


1–2:30 p.m. | Wednesday, Jan. 8 Children's Life Center, Room 132 and Via Zoom | bit.ly/faithinlitdayzoom

While operating within the framework of Christian theology, Faith in Literature seeks to ascertain in our reading how all good literature, if even by its omission, deals with and reflects themes of faith.

This month, we discuss "West with Giraffes" by Lynda Rutledge.

Contact: Amanda DeViney • 713-830-4110 • adeviney@smec.org



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, Jan. 8 | 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.

The Baptism of Our Lord



Sunday, Jan. 12

9:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center 11:15 a.m. • The Church 11:15 a.m. • Parish Life Center

The rite of Holy Baptism is a special occasion for St. Martin's — a service of joy that underscores the communal aspect of worship and expresses God's presence in the midst of His people. Whenever possible, St. Martin's welcomes new members into the Body of Christ on festal days that emphasize the meaning of our Baptism. People of all ages and stages of life are invited to enter into a lifelong journey with Christ through the sacrament of baptism.

If you are interested in being baptized, contact Rocio Velazquez at rvelazquez@smec.org or 713-985-3807.



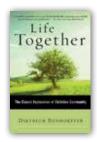
Good Books and Good Conversation

Led by the Rev. Dr. Jordan Hylden "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer JAN. 30 | 6:15–7:45 P.M

CHAPEL RECEPTION HALL

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906–1945) is one of the most well-known theologians of the 20th century. A beloved pastor and teacher, he was imprisoned and executed for his involvement in an attempt to kill Hitler. Bonhoeffer wrote "Life Together" for his students in the underground seminary he led in Nazi Germany.

Contact: Amanda DeViney adeviney@smec.org • 713-830-4110



"Life Together" is available wherever fine books are sold.





HOURS

Monday – Thursday 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Bagby Parish Hall

View our menu at bit.ly/cafestmartins

Come by and discover delicious specialties prepared daily by our café team.

Enjoy our hot meal entrées, sandwiches, salad bar, baked potato bar, desserts and more!

CONTACT

Chrissy Kana, Café Manager 713-985-3806 • ckana@smec.org



ST. MARTIN'S PRESENTS

A VERY SPECIAL LENTEN RETREAT

MONDAY-THURSDAY

March 24-27 • 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. *The Scout Center*

FRIDAY

March 28 • 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Scout Center and Christ Chapel

Theresa Harrison returns to St. Martin's to guide retreatants in creating the icon of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Beginners and experienced iconographers will find this retreat enriching.



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



Registration fee: \$495 Includes all supplies and lunch at Café St. Martin's.



Register at: bit.ly/smeciconretreat

MEMBERSHIP

If you are visiting today, please fill out a Welcome Card from the pew rack to place in the offering plate or complete it online by scanning the QR code or visiting **bit.ly/smecvisitors**. Please introduce yourself to one of



our Clergy and we will be in touch to let you know more about our Parish Family.

Seeking membership in a parish is a very important step and it is our goal to support your understanding of our Parish, its ministries and your place in the life of St. Martin's. Our membership process begins by attending one of our quarterly Membership 101 classes.

Contact: Kathy Johnson • 713-985-3834 • kjohnson@smec.org

ST. MARTIN'S IS HERE FOR YOU

For general questions, contact the Reception Desk at 713-621-3040 during business hours (8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday–Friday).

For pastoral concerns during business hours, contact 713-985-3817 or pastoralcare@smec.org.

For pastoral emergencies after hours and weekends, call 713-621-3040 and follow the prompts to reach the priest on call.

For prayer requests, contact the prayer request line at 713-830-4124 or Valerie Rivera at 713-985-3817 or vrivera@smec.org.

For death notifications and funerals, contact Cyndy Ensign at 713-985-3808 or censign@smec.org.

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

Mr. Tyler (TD) Davis

Interim Director of Student Ministries tdavis@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. Dan Meyer, Senior Warden

Mr. Ryan LaRue, Junior Warden

Mrs. Nancy Bynon, Missions Chair

Ms. Sherrie Perkins, Treasurer

Mr. Logan Walters, Clerk

Mr. Tommy Ford, Past Senior Warden

Mr. Bob Heston, Jr., Parish Stewardship Chair

Mr. Andy Harvin, Chancellor*

Vestry Members

Mr. Scott Anderson

Mrs. Summer Craig

Mrs. Elizabeth Dukes

Mr. Will Hedges

The Hon. Edith Iones

Mr. David Leonard

Mrs. Susan McConn

Mr. Roy Nichol

Mrs. Courtney Schilling

Mr. Milton West

Associate Members

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

Mr. David Harvin, Senior Council Representative 2023-2025

Mrs. Beth Reeves, Senior Council Representative 2023-2025

Ms. Samantha Hutchison, *Altar Guild President* 2024-2025

Mrs. Shelly Newton, ECW President 2024-2025

Mr. Perry Ruthven, Men of St. Martin's President 2023-2025

Mr. John Sutherland, *Usher Representative* 2024-2026

*Denotes Associate Vestry filled at the discretion of the Rector.



Mr. David Leonard *Vestry Representative*

OUR CLERGY

Jesus, The Christ The Head of This Church



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



The Rev. R. Wesley Arning Associate for Riverway and Discipleship Ministries rwarning@smec.org



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



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



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



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Miller Pastoral Assistant emiller@smec.org



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



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



The Rev. Dr. Jordan HyldenAssociate for Christian Education jhylden@smec.org



The Rev. Gill B. KeyworthDeacon
gkeyworth@smec.org



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



The Rev. Gregory W. Cross Curate gcross@smec.org

PRAYER FOR THE SEARCH FOR ST. MARTIN'S FIFTH RECTOR



Heavenly Father,

As a community of believers, we come together in prayer seeking Your guidance as St. Martin's Episcopal Church continues the search for our fifth rector. May we be blessed with Your Holy Spirit's wisdom and discernment. We especially ask that You guide the hearts and minds of the Search Committee who will be deeply involved in this choice. Lord Jesus, shepherd Your flock with tender care and love. Give us patience as we wait, trusting in Your gracious provision. Guide us, Oh Lord, as we navigate this season of change, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Our fervent prayer is that Your will be done.

With humble expectations, we pray this prayer in Jesus name, who we joyfully serve and love. Amen.

WE INVITE YOU TO KEEP THIS BOOKLET FOR REFERENCE.

