



# TOUR TALK

January/February 2019



## ST. NICK VISITS ST. MARTIN OF TOURS





# In Our School...

## The Unexpected Gift

By Laurie Huff, Director of Religious Education

Each year shortly after the cornucopia is tucked away, preparations for the Nativity Story presented during our Christmas Eve celebrations begins to take shape. Within it a mysterious gift quietly waits in the midst of a proud cast from St. Martin of Tours School, graciously taking on the familiar roles of shepherds, sheep, angels, the Star from the East, the Magi, King Herod, Mary and Joseph.

This year, the ribbons of the unexpected gift began to unveil at the final rehearsals as the anticipation of Advent was coming to a close and Christmas Eve beckoned around the corner with wide-eyed children, in their innocence and simplicity, making this persistent request, "Can I please hold Baby Jesus?!" A humble reminder of a longing we never outgrow!



### Rite of Acceptance

On Sunday, January 13, as a St. Martin's Family, we closed the Christmas season with the privilege to celebrate the Rite of Acceptance with a special young woman.

For the last several weeks prior, she gathered with our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Team as an inquirer, exploring her desire to join our community of faith. With the formal introduction by her sponsor, we marked the end of her period of early exploration and celebrated the new phase of the RCIA process in which she became a catechumen (a person preparing for Baptism).

She will be fully initiated into the Catholic Church upon reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist at the Great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday Night, April 20.

Together, let us lift her in prayers of love and light along with her sponsor during her preparations of the sacred journey of faith!

**Catechumen:** Nancy Magoteaux

**Sponsor:** Dominick Magoteaux



# *In Thanksgiving...*

## *So much to be thankful for*



### **Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Volunteers from our SMOT St. Vincent de Paul Society attended the Annual District Christmas party and mixed with over 200 other Vincentians. They all shared their many accomplishments throughout 2018 and provided some of their upcoming goals for 2019!

Our SVdP volunteers wish to thank our generous SMOT parishioners who make their work in our parish and community possible and their fellow SMOT parishioners wish to thank them for their dedication and hard work.









# Advent Creations





## Why Do Catholics Do That?

By Angela Birkhead-Flight, Music & Liturgy Director

One of my favorite things in my work here at St. Martin Church is playing the pipe organ. This is extra-fun here because I am blessed to have a pastor who grew up playing this organ, shares a passion for music, and knows how to tune pipes and deal with small mechanical issues that come up. On the Feast of Epiphany, for example, one of the low pipes had a cipher:

**cipher, cypher** ['saɪfə] (*Music / Instruments*) A defect in an organ resulting in the continuous sounding of a pipe, the key of which has not been depressed.

So, Fr. Terry climbed up the vintage ladder that is stored inside the organ and shut the valve of that pipe to "off." It will be repaired before Easter when the tuners come.

Another issue had happened earlier when one of the trumpet pipes that was key in the postlude for Christmas went dramatically flat. I came in to practice one day to find that it was now in tune! It's like having a magical elf on the premises. Therefore, I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to see what the theologian, Fr. Paul Turner, has to say about organs. Hopefully, if I keep practicing I can provide for you that "transcendental experience" to which he refers.



### Pipe Organ by Paul Turner

"The pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, for it is the traditional musical instrument that adds a wonderful splendor to the church's ceremonies and powerfully lifts up the spirit to God and to higher things" (120). That short statement from the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy still wins applause from those who love the organ. The council permitted the use of other musical instruments as well, enhancing our liturgy with guitar, piano, flute and bongo. But the pipe organ still remains the jewel of instruments used for worship.

The pipe organ sound is what electronic organs try to imitate. However, traditional acoustical instruments possess a quality that electronic ones have not replaced. Strings, woodwinds, brass and percussion instruments use a variety of natural products in concert with live human touch to bring vitality and sincerity to music. By comparison, electronically produced sound is artificial. Acoustical instruments in live performance create an experience that captures the presence of the musician, the instrument, the listener and even the weather.

The pipe organ, an acoustical instrument, uses natural products - wood, metal, leather and wind, to produce a sound that the player changes from placid to piercing, from penitent to playful. It can support an assembly, a choir or a soloist, and it can play music on its own. The pipe organ is a versatile instrument of uncommon beauty. By its kinship with nature, it fits neatly with Catholic prayer, which relies on natural products like bread, wine, water, oil, wax and ashes to transport us to the divine.

Pipe organs bring challenges. They are costly, and the organist shortage is worse than the priest shortage. But a commitment to pipe organs will make possible a transcendental experience of God through the use of elements of creation.

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For an increase in respect for all human life. For the unborn, the very ill, the very old, those on death row, and all those who live in poverty, are victims of violence, or are marginalized due to a lack of this respect.

That through the intercession of St. Blasé, (feast day February 3), all those suffering from diseases of the throat may be cured of their illness.

That through the intercession of St. Scholastica, (feast day February 10), all Catholic nuns will be blessed in their work, their lives, their relationships and their faith.

That the words of St. Polycarp, (feast day February 23), author of the letter to the Philippians, will continue to bring people to Christ centuries after they were first written.

For missionaries and teachers who dedicate their lives to helping people recognize Jesus in their midst.

For our RCIA candidate as we approach Lent, that through our continued prayers and support she may grow closer to Christ on her journey of faith.

As we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11), let us pray that through Mary's intercession we may grow closer to her divine Son through the meditation of the Rosary.

For God to bless our Parish with love for one another as we celebrate St. Valentine's Day.

As we celebrate the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter (February 22), let us pray for Pope Francis, that he continues to lead with grace and wisdom.

For our Pastor, Father Terry Hamilton, may he be blessed with health of mind, body, and spirit and always feel the presence of God in his life.

For those fleeing violence and near certain death in war-torn countries, that they be welcomed to new homes where they can enrich the societies of their new countries.

For the homeless during this cold winter season, that they will see the work of Christ in our efforts to assist them.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

For all recipients of our parish healing/prayer blankets for their physical, mental, and spiritual health.

For the needs of all those who have no one to pray for them.

**We thank you for all your prayers each month!**



## Memorial Mass Fund

### For the Memory/

#### Intention of:

**November 2018**

Chief William R. Owens  
Carol A. Wittkamp  
Thomas F. Roat  
Dolores Kocher  
Marian Greiner Gaston  
Jeannie Dixon  
Mary Lou Friesinger

#### From:

Sunderhaus Family  
Frank & Sue Weyer  
Frank & Sue Weyer  
Stotler Family  
Catherine Huebner  
Jodie Graser  
Tom & Donna Vale  
and Family  
Nancy Meyer  
Nancy Meyer

**December 2018**

Dorothy Reupert  
JoAnn Ernst  
JoAnn Ernst  
Gertrude, Leonard, Thomas  
& Carol Ramstetter  
Joyce & Kenneth Roedel  
Annette Beiting  
Joan Vonderhaar  
Joan Vonderhaar  
Dorothy Reupert

Mary Ann Comer  
Peg Ellis & Family  
St. Martin Choir  
  
Mary Ramstetter  
Mary Ramstetter  
Donna Lustenberger  
Barbara Wuest  
Jeanne Markle  
Cyndy & Jack Rodgers



*Mark Your Calendars Now!*

## 2019 UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

January 27-February 2	Catholic Schools Week
February 10	9:30 a.m. Mass – Anniversary Couples Blessing and Fellowship
March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5, 12	5:00-7:00 p.m. – Lenten Fish Frydays in Fr. Mick Hall 7:00 p.m. – Stations in Church
April 20	8:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil and Reception
April 21	Easter Sunday – Easter Egg Hunt After 11:30 a.m. Mass
May 5	11:30 a.m. Mass – First Holy Communion
May 10	5:00 p.m. – Parish Picnic at Stricker's Grove
May 13	7:00 p.m. – May Crowning
May 20	7:00 p.m. – SMOT Eighth Grade Graduation
June 3-7	8:45 a.m.-noon – Summer PSR (Parish School of Religion)

## Deaths

### November 2018

Barbara Marshall  
Sandra Johnson  
Wilma Barnell  
JoAnn Ernst  
Reinhold Petry  
Marie Runda  
Mary Jean Niklas  
Annette Mohrhaus  
Marilyn Holt

### December 2018

Dorothy Reupert  
Janet Frey  
Dolly Lukas  
Richard Joesting  
Thomas Dietrich  
Joan Vonderhaar  
Gregory Hershner

# WELCOME

## New Parishioners

### November 2018

Holly Galvez  
Jennifer Burriss

### December 2018

David & Karen Fenner  
Brigid Warren  
Rachel Sunderhaus

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### St. Martin of Tours Parish

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*Tour Talk* Deadline is the tenth of each month. Articles and photos can be e-mailed to:

[dbroerman@fuse.net](mailto:dbroerman@fuse.net).

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