



# Parish events and updates

## Winter weather notice

Should weather during these colder months make roads unsuitable for driving to St. Martin of Tours Parish for any class or program, it is recommended to stay home until conditions improve. The cancellation of faith formation programs (Youth Group, OCIA and OCIC) follow updates provided by the Fife School District—for example, if Fife schools are closed on a given day, Parish programs that same day will not take place. Please stay safe this season!

### January 28; February 4, 11 and 25 (6 to 7:30 pm)

Youth Group

[Learn more on next page](#)

### January 28; February 4, 11 and 25 (7 to 8 pm)

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

[Turn page for additional details](#)

### Monday, February 2 (8:30 am)

Mass for Candlemas (Feast of the Presentation of the Lord)

*Join Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy for this celebration*

### Tuesday, February 3 (10 am; Social Room in Parish Hall)

Altar Society monthly meeting

*All ladies of the Parish welcome! Light lunch served*

### February 4 and 18 (10 am; Social Room in Parish Hall)

St. Vincent de Paul Conference meetings

*Adults ages 18 and older may attend; see more on next page*

### Sunday, February 8 (during 8:30 and 10 am Masses)

PREPARES "Open Your Heart" Collection

*Please show your support for Pregnancy & Parenting Support (PREPARES), which provides parish-based outreach to families from pregnancy to a child's 5th birthday—collection envelopes will be available at church*

### Sunday, February 8 (following all Masses; Parish Hall)

Coffee Hour (hosts: John & Maria) and Altar Society card sale

### Sunday, February 15 (during 10 am Mass)

Rite of Sending for OCIA participants

### Sunday, February 15 (following all Masses; Parish Hall)

Coffee Hour (host: SVDP) and Altar Society card sale

### Monday, February 16 (Presidents' Day)

Parish Office and Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy closed

*Both to reopen on Tuesday the 17th (school also closed on February 6 and 13)*

## Lent begins February 18 with Ash Wednesday

### Parish Family Mass schedule

St. Martin of Tours (English)	Sacred Heart (Spanish)	All Saints (English)
9 am (with school)	8 am	8:30 am (with school)
7 pm	12 pm (bilingual)	12 pm

  

6 pm	8 pm	7 pm
8:30 pm		8:30 pm (bilingual)

### Sunday, February 22 (following all Masses; Parish Hall)

Coffee Hour (host: Altar Society) and card sale

# Pastor's Message

**[first appeared in January 15 Parish e-Newsletter]**

Dear Parish Family,

Earlier this week, in one of our weekday Masses [January 14], we heard the reading from 1 Samuel in which the prophet Samuel received his call to serve the Lord. In the Old Testament tradition, prophets always responded to a call by the Lord to serve in prophetic ministry. In this account from 1 Samuel, Samuel is a minister or apprentice of Eli, a High Priest and one of the last Judges of Israel.

Samuel, asleep in the temple area, hears a voice calling him. He assumes that it is Eli, so he goes to him and says, "Here I am." Eli sends him off as it was not him calling Samuel. This repeats twice more, and in the third instance, Eli understands that it was the Lord calling Samuel. He instructs him that when the Lord calls again, say, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Sure enough, the Lord calls Samuel a fourth time, and Samuel does what Eli instructed him to do, and at that moment, his prophetic ministry begins as he responds affirmatively to the Lord's call in his life.

In so many ways, this story illustrates how the Lord continues to call forth vocations to the priesthood and religious life today. A calling begins with a voice or desire within a young person's heart (the voice of conscience), with the Lord speaking to them in that interior space. As with the example of Eli, the Lord also speaks through people around the young person, inviting them to consider priesthood or religious life: "You would make a great priest/religious/sister; have you thought or prayed about this?" In short, calling forth vocations to the priesthood and religious life is a task that entails all of us!

I am very excited that our Parish Family has a newly-formed Vocation Ministry (made up of members of our Family) to lead the charge, fostering a culture of vocations and providing resources for us. One of the events that they are helping to organize is the *Called by Name* campaign. You can find information about this in this [month]'s Bulletin and [January 15] e-Newsletter. In short, it is an opportunity for us to consider young people we know who may have a vocation and to nominate them to the Church. They will be contacted and invited to participate in a vocational dinner later in the year.

Let's all pray to the Holy Spirit to inspire us with many names of young people around us, within whom we sense a religious vocation!

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Cal

Thank you to all who gave valuable feedback at the Synodal Session on January 18 at St. Martin of Tours. See below for remaining Sessions within our Parish Family—please attend!

## One Parish Planning Synodal Listening Sessions

### Part Two: Challenges and Opportunities

#### JANUARY 25 (11:30 am)

Sacred Heart

#### JANUARY 31 (9 am, 12 pm & 2 pm)

Sacred Heart

#### FEBRUARY 1 (10 am & 12 pm)

All Saints

# Growing our faith together

## Youth Group

Grades 7 to 12 can join us on Wednesdays at 6 pm for faith, food and fun! (Required for teens seeking Confirmation)

**Reminder:** No Youth Group or Confirmation class on Ash Wednesday (February 18); teens invited to 7 pm Mass  
Questions? Email Ms. Terri: [faith@stmartinoftoursfife.com](mailto:faith@stmartinoftoursfife.com)

## OCIC (Order of Christian Initiation of Children)

**Reminder:** March 1 deadline for Baptismal certificates from First Communion candidates

## OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

We welcome all who wish to refresh their Catholic Faith or seek Sacraments to be in Full Communion with the Church.

Sessions are in the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 pm. To get started, call the Parish Office: (253) 922-7882.

### Reminders:

- Rite of Sending during 10 am Mass on February 15
- No OCIA on February 18 (Ash Wednesday); special Masses at 9 am and 7 pm
- Rite of Elect at 11 am on February 28 at Tacoma's St. Charles Borromeo Church

## Baptism for children

Parents and godparents seeking Baptism for their child(ren) can find dates of upcoming preparation classes (hosted by Deacon Pat and Lory Kelley) by contacting the Parish Office: (253) 922-7882 or [faith@stmartinoftoursfife.com](mailto:faith@stmartinoftoursfife.com).

Paperwork is provided at each class.

Families are asked to be registered with St. Martin of Tours Parish—find Registration Cards at church, or a form may be completed online here:

[stmartinoftoursfife.com/join-us/register-with-parish](http://stmartinoftoursfife.com/join-us/register-with-parish).

## Did you know...



The **Book of Petitions** in the main church vestibule is open to all Mass visitors who seek to offer prayers for those struggling with illness or other forms of suffering. During Sunday liturgies, the Book is taken to the altar with the bread, wine and collection, a sign of the faithful's need for physical and spiritual nourishment that only the Lord can fulfill. Thank you for sharing in this Parish tradition.

## A look back

Los Reyes Magos (Three Kings Day) with Holy Rosary Bilingual Academy and Father Dexter (January 6)



# Opportunities to give

## 2026 Stewardship (and 2025 giving letters)

We are very grateful for all 2026 Stewardship pledges received (**\$158,039.20 as of January 8!**). Your financial commitment in this new year helps our Parish thrive through vibrant liturgies, outreach to those in need, and more. Making a one-time or recurring gift online is simple and secure—visit [Pushpay.com/g/stmartinoftoursfife](https://Pushpay.com/g/stmartinoftoursfife).

Last year's Parish donors were sent via email or postal mail a 2025 giving letter in late January. If you have an email address with the Parish and cannot locate the letter (with Pushpay as the sender) in your Inbox, please check Spam or Junk folders. For those who have yet to receive a letter, please call Parish Office staff at (253) 286-0021.

## Fife-Milton Community Food Bank

We are a non-profit member of the Emergency Food Network of Pierce County, and have been a ministry of St. Martin of Tours Parish since 1992, a time when we served approximately 50 families per month. Over 3 decades later, we assist about 630 families per month, helping to feed roughly 32,000 individuals in 2025 alone.

### Ways to support the Food Bank:

- ⇒ Donate online at [Pushpay.com/g/stmartinoftoursfife](https://Pushpay.com/g/stmartinoftoursfife) (select 'Fife Milton Food Bank' under Fund)
- ⇒ Stock our shelves by leaving non-perishables in the container inside the Children's Room at church
- ⇒ Join our all-volunteer team!

To learn more, call the Food Bank (253) 922-0960. **We also have a new website!** Visit us at [FMCFB.org](http://FMCFB.org). Your efforts are changing lives every day—thank you.

## St. Vincent de Paul Conference

This ministry sincerely thanks all who generously provide donations. In 2025, we were able to help over 100 families and individuals with assistance in rent or utilities. We continue to provide information on local resources to those whose needs lie outside our scope of services. We invite you on Sunday, February 15, to the Parish Hall, where we will be hosting Coffee Hour after all Masses.

Blue SVDP donation envelopes are available year-round at church (or to give online, select 'St Vincent de Paul' under Fund at the Pushpay link above).



## Our Parish Family's NEW Vocation Ministry!

*This team is currently serving as our Parish Family's liaison for the Archdiocese's Called By Name campaign, which invites all to nominate individuals who may feel called to the priesthood or religious life. Submit names until February 13 at [ArchSeattle.org/Called-By-Name](http://ArchSeattle.org/Called-By-Name). Learn about the members and mission of Vocation Ministry on our website: [stmartinoftoursfife.com/parish-life](http://stmartinoftoursfife.com/parish-life).*

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