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St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church \* Omaha, Nebraska

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**The Cloak**



**A Church for all people Sharing God’s Love, Following Christ, Serving Others**

January 2023

Greetings,

Welcome to the year 2023!! We are officially in the season of Christmas, which lasts until the Epiphany, January 6th. The season after Epiphany ends at Ash Wednesday.   
  
 Mark, the first evangelist, begins his Gospel with the baptism of Christ. Only later, in response to requests for background information, did Matthew and Luke provide the Infancy Narratives.

Those stories of Christ’s birth, however, are but a prelude to what begins at his baptism, when once again the Holy Spirit descends. The Spirit which is the “Go-between-God” brings life!  
  
 This celebration of Christ’s baptism launches us with renewed vigor into our own vocation of carrying the gospel message of Christ. We recall our own baptism as the beginning of our ministry of proclamation. What we celebrated during the Incarnation Season we must now proclaim through word and deed.

The Church refers to this time as “Ordinary Time.” But the Gospels read during this time are full of the story of God’s love for us—the story of salvation. Indeed, it is a most extraordinary time!

This new year will also bring the Visitation of the Bishop Diocesan, The Right. Reverend J. Scott Barker, on Sunday, January 15th. He will be confirming Juanita Thomas, and receiving Floyd Harvey, Landry Cormier, and Jimmy Miller.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours will be held on January 22, 2023. This is a meeting for the entire parish to detail the “State of the Church” for all members.

Blessings,

Mother Kim+

PRAYER REQUESTS \*

**You may make prayer request additions, deletions, and modifications via Vicar Kim Roberts at** [bkeroberts@msn.com](mailto:bkeroberts@msn.com), **Rev. Mark Kowalski, Deacon** at [kowalskimjk@gmail.com](mailto:kowalskimjk@gmail.com) **or through the Parish Administrator Ann Chambers at** [stmartinomaha@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinomaha@gmail.com) **(402)-733-8815.**

***\*Always confidential***

* **PRAY FOR***:* Stephanie, Steve, Lani, Benji, Becky, Rita, Gary,
* **PRAY FOR**immigrants, victims of violence and war, victims of gun violence, victims of sex trafficking; people with HIV/AIDS; members of the armed forces and their families, people dealing with natural disasters, children separated from their families, immigrants and refugees.
* **PRAY FOR:**Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev Michael Curry; Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Scott Barker,
* **PRAY FOR:**the poor and the hungry; the unemployed; the uninsured and underinsured; prisoners and their families; the homeless and near homeless; shelters and food pantries; victims of gun violence, the military and their families, victims of natural disasters
* **PRAY FOR** peace in the world and in our hearts.
* **PRAY FOR** those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries.
* **PRAY FOR** our church family, the growth of this baptismal community

St. Mart’s News and Announcement

**EPIPHANY**

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Description automatically generatedWe will celebrate Epiphany and the Baptism of Our Lord on Sunday, **January 8th,** followed by an Epiphany Lunch.

**BISHOP’S VISITATION**

The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, Diocesan Bishop of Nebraska has scheduled his annual visitation to the Parish of St. Martin of Tours for **Sunday, January 15, 2023**. He will preach and preside over the Confirmation and Receptions of four members of the parish. He will also join us for Second Table. Please plan to attend— and invite your family and friends.

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Description automatically generatedTHE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**The Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Martin of Tours will be held on **Sunday, January 22, 2023.** We will vote on a slate of officers and Vestry members, and we will present the budget for 2023. All Ministry reports must be sent to Mother Kim by **Sunday, January 15th.** As usual, we will gather for a potluck Second Table.

ALL ARE INVITED TO RECEIVE

****All worshipping at St. Martin of Tours who seek God and are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion at God’s altar.

If you prefer to receive a blessing, please fold your arms across your chest.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Please notify Deacon Mark Kowalski with your prayer requests for the weekly Prayers of the People at [kowalskimjk@gmail.com](mailto:kowalskimjk@gmail.com).

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES**

Please submit articles or items for the Newsletter by the 15th of the preceding month.

**Contacts St. Martin of Tours Episcopal Church**

* The Rt. Rev. J. Scott Barker, Diocesan Bishop of Nebraska
* Rev. Kim Roberts, Rector [bkeroberts@msn.com](mailto:bkeroberts@msn.com)
* Rev. Mark Kowalski, Deacon [kowalskimjk@gmail.com](mailto:kowalskimjk@gmail.com)
* Ann Chambers, Parish Administrator, Music Director [achambers1954@gmail.com](mailto:achambers1954@gmail.com)
* Jim Murphy, Senior Warden
* Steve Mincer, Junior Warden
* Beth Mincer, Treasurer
* Judy Metz, Altar Guild Director
* Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 9:00 am-12 noon
* LIKE US ON Facebook [/StMartinOfToursEpiscopalChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/StMartinOfToursEpiscopalChurch/)

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