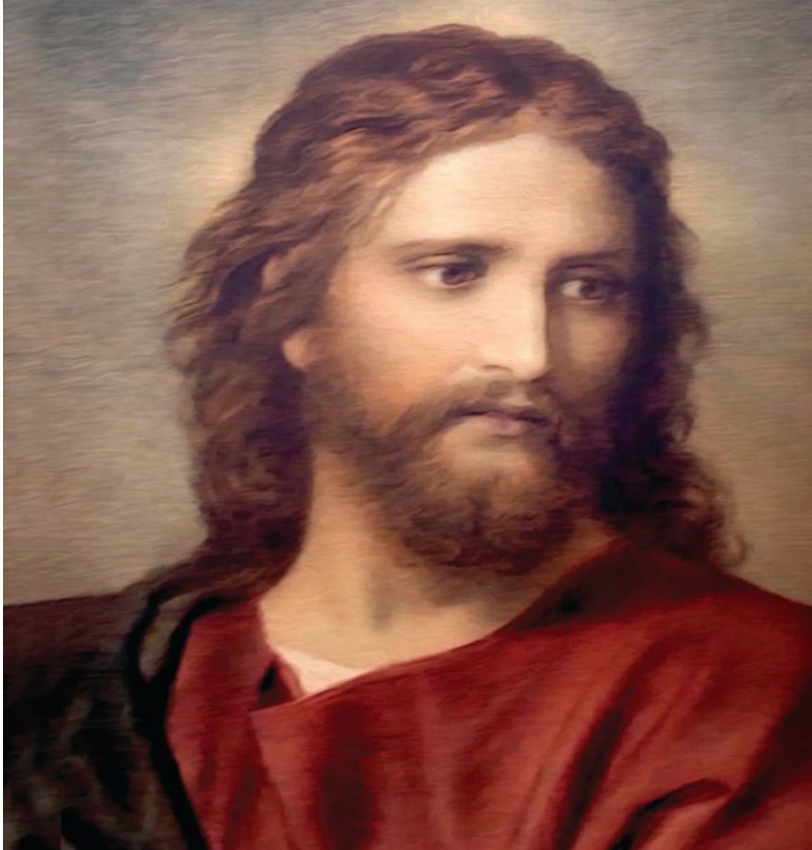




St. Martin of Tours Church

November 30, 2025

Full 8-page Bulletin available at www.smt.church/bulletins
11967 W. Sunset Blvd. | Los Angeles | 90049



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

- Mt 24:44

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass - 8:15 am

Sunday Mass

7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am & 5:30 pm

Livestream Mass - Sunday at 9:30 am

www.youtube.com/c/saintmartinoftoursLA

Adoration & Confession

Saturday following 8:15 am Mass

Confessions end with Benediction at 9:50 am

Infant Baptism

www.smt.church/baptism

Marriage Preparation

www.smt.church/marriage

Faith Formation—Children & Adults

www.smt.church/news/FaithFormation

Funerals

www.smt.church/funerals

SMT School

www.smtschoo.net/admissions

Rectory Office | 310-476-7403

7:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

Fr. Paul Fitzpatrick, Pastor (x. 301)

Christine Scheibal, Accounting (x. 312)

Donna Alvarez, Office Manager (x. 300)

Alaina Alvarez, Office Assistant (x. 311)

Gerardo Sanchez, Facilities (x. 303)

School Office | 310-472-7419

Debbie Margulis, Principal (x. 205)

Michelle Berlin, Admissions (x. 201)

Carol Mahaffey, Main Office (x. 200)

ParishSOFT
by Ministry Brands®

A deepfelt thanks to all who support our parish!

A safe, secure stewardship tool is e-Giving through Parish Soft. To learn more, please visit:

<https://smt.church/news/eGiving>.

If you prefer using church envelopes, please contact the rectory. If you want to make sure that 100% of your gift remains at SMT, please use a PINK Restricted envelope, or mark your gift "Restricted to SMT." Thank you for your generous response!



Welcome to St Martin of Tours

We encourage you to join us
by registering on our website:
www.smt.church/register.



November 29– Dec. 6

Sat	5:30 pm	Wilfredo Rauda
Sun	7:30 am	Josefina Rodriguez †
	9:30 am	Bailey & Bentley Richardson
	11:30 am	Orlando and Marinos Family
		Mildred Miller †
	5:30 pm	Leeanna MacCauley †
Mon	8:15 am	M.C. Matthews †
Tues	8:15 am	Owen Traynor †
Wed	8:15 am	Kenny Rogers †
Thurs	8:15 am	Duane Cody †
Fri	8:15 am	James Livingston †
Sat	8:15 am	Anne Cronin and Family

Mass Intentions—suggested offering \$20

To request a Mass Intention, contact:
alaina@saintmartinoftours.com



Sacrament of Anointing Of The Sick

Sat, Dec 6 - after 5:30 pm Mass
Sun, Dec 7 - after all the Masses

E-Weekly Bulletin & Newsletter

To get the full 8-page version of our bulletin with scripture & faith reflections please visit our website and complete the online submission pop-up. Sign up now!



STEWARDSHIP

Managing God's Gifts To Us

[For Stewardship Ideas, visit www.smt.church/donate](http://www.smt.church/donate)

"Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come." – Matthew 24:42

Advent calls us to live with awareness and readiness. Stewardship is one way we "stay awake"—by using each day as a gift and offering it back to God through prayer, service, and generosity.

Every act of giving—especially our consistent support of the parish—is a way of saying: *"Lord, I am ready for You."*

This week, take the challenge to give your best time to God—through prayer and through a renewed commitment to faithful giving.



Facts about community grooming

There is a third type of grooming: *community grooming*. In community grooming, a predator creates a controlled environment, projecting an image of a responsible, caring adult. They mimic the behavior of good people around them, to get closer to children and then select a victim. Adults often have trouble seeing potentially troubling behavior, because they have been groomed to see the predator as an upstanding person. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "The Grooming Process" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

ADVENT BULLETIN SERIES

"Preparing a Place for Christ"

Fr. Paul

WEEK I — The Wake-Up Call

Gospel: Matthew 24:37–44

Theme: Be alert. God is closer than we think.

Key Verse: *"Stay awake, for you do not know on which day your Lord will come."*

Reflection:

Advent begins with a holy interruption. Jesus reminds us that it's possible to drift through our days—even our spiritual life—on autopilot. Between school events, parish commitments, family schedules, and the pace of life in Los Angeles, our hearts can easily become distracted or tired.

This first week invites us to breathe, slow down, and become attentive again to God's presence. He is speaking in the ordinary moments: during a walk through the neighborhood, sitting in traffic on Sunset, lighting a candle in the church, or sharing a conversation in the courtyard.

The question for this week is simple and personal: *Where do I need to be more awake to God's presence?*

Practice for the Week:

Give yourself one small pause each day—a quiet minute in the church, a breath of silence before a meeting, a simple act of kindness on campus or at home.

Prayer:

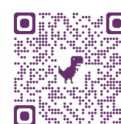
Lord, awaken my heart. Help me notice Your presence in my life today. Amen.



Make the Most Of the Season

Resources
and Activities
Available on
our website:

smt.church/news/advent





Faith Direct is now Parish Soft

For those using Faith Direct, you are set to go with our new platform. There is nothing you need to do!

We invite all to consider embracing eGiving in support of our parish. It is safe and secure way to simplify your stewardship. Here is how to get started:

- Visit giving.parishsoft.com/giving/FD-1145
- Scan the QR code to the right
- Text "Enroll" to 424-233-1164
- Call ParishSoft Customer Service at (866) 930-4774, Option 6



Thank you for your generous support!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

AGES 3 - 6

Meets at 9:30 am in Room 1

For more information & to register, please visit:

www.smt.church/Sunday-School.



Committee for the Poor Collection For Charitable Giving

In the spirit of St. Martin, who gave half his cloak to a poor man, we are assembling 1,200 bags for homeless men & women on Sun, Dec 14 from 8:30 - 10:30 am in the Parish Center. Please join us!

To learn more, and to help support these efforts, please visit www.smt.church/news/outreach.

To learn more, go to www.smt.church/news/outreach.



Pray for Vocations!

For discernment resources visit www.lavocations.org



Knights of Columbus St. Martin of Tours Council 14660

Make a difference - become a Knight.

Contact Paul Ludwig at paulflud@aol.com.

REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS



2025 Goal \$120,000

Amount Raised \$59,430

Help Fund Our Work

Visit www.smt.church/news/repairs

The Advent Wreath

A Sign of Hope and Preparation

As Advent begins, one of the most familiar symbols of the season returns: the Advent wreath. Its simple circle of evergreen, with four candles, quietly marks our four-week journey toward Christmas.

Where It Comes From

The Advent wreath traces its roots to northern Europe. Long before Christianity arrived, evergreens were used as signs of hope during the dark days of winter. By the 16th century, Christians—especially in Germany—gave this custom new meaning, placing candles in a circle of greens to prepare for the coming of Christ. The practice spread over time and became a beloved part of Catholic Advent tradition.

What It Means

Every part of the wreath speaks:

- **The circle** has no beginning and no end. It reminds us of God's eternal love and His unending faithfulness to His people.
- **The evergreen branches**—fresh and vibrant, even in winter—symbolize the life Christ brings to a world grown weary.
- **The candles** are signs of light breaking into darkness, pointing us toward Jesus, the Light of the World.

Marking the Four Sundays

Each candle marks one Sunday of Advent.

- The first, second, and fourth candles are purple, the color of prayerful preparation.
- The third candle is rose, a sign of joy, marking the halfway point of Advent on Gaudete Sunday.

Lighting one additional candle each week helps us feel the season "growing"—the light increasing as our hearts draw closer to the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Marking Our Own Journey

The Advent wreath is more than decoration. It is a gentle weekly reminder that we, too, are on a journey—one that calls us to wake up, prepare our hearts, renew our hope, and make room for Christ. As we light an additional candle each week, we are reminded that God is drawing near. His light grows steadily, even in the busiest or heaviest seasons of our lives.



TOY DRIVE

**December November 30
December 7 & December 14**

Brighten Christmas morning for a needy child. Bring an UNWRAPPED new gift for a child aged 1-15 years on one of the next three Sundays.

It is best to bring toys that do not require batteries since once the batteries fail, the fun ends. Target Gift Cards are especially appreciated by older children.

The deadline is Monday, December 15. Thank you for your support.



ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

To learn more and sign up, please email Rachel Grella-Harding, Altar Server Coordinator at

SMTAltarServer@SaintMartinofTours.com

St. Martin of Tours School

A Preparatory Academy for Grades K-8



St. Martin of Tours Preparatory is the premier Catholic school in Los Angeles offering an exceptional educational foundation for all students in grades K-8. Our graduates attend the finest schools in Los Angeles and most students are accepted into high school honors and advanced placement courses. We are the only school that has been recognized as a STEM Network Partner School in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

All faith traditions are welcome.



(310) 472-7419

- STEAM Academy
- Advanced Courses in Mathematics & Language Arts
- Spanish and Latin
- 1:1 Technology
- Computer Science
- Debate
- Social Emotional Learning

- Drama
- Fine Arts - Art and Music
- Service Learning
- Athletic Program
- Travel Experiences
- Aftercare and Enrichment Opportunities
- International Student Program
- Civics



www.smtschool.net

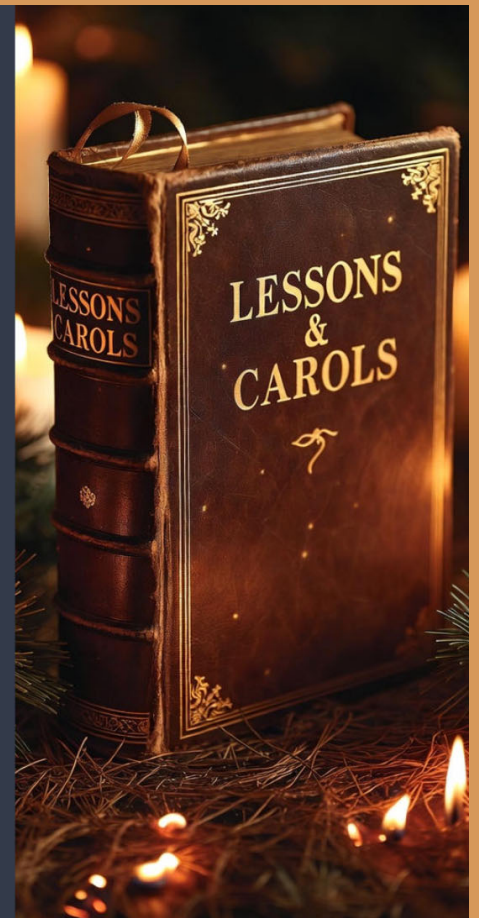


FEAST OF THE
IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION
MONDAY, DEC 8TH
MASS: 6:00PM

SMT'S ANNUAL
ADVENT
LESSONS &
CAROLS

7:00 PM

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW
IN THE PARISH CENTER



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isa 2:5)

Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

Second Reading:

You know the time;
it is the hour now for you to awake from sleep.
For our salvation is nearer now than when
we first believed. (Rom 13:11)

Gospel:

"So too, you also must be prepared,
for at an hour you do not expect,
the Son of Man will come." (Mt 24:44)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"You do not know on which day your Lord
will come," Jesus says. He is reminding us that
we do not know the mind of God. But we do
know the heart of God, and we know that it
is filled with mercy for those who heed the
warning: Stay awake!

Observances for the week of November 30, 2025

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent; Respect Life Sunday
Wednesday: St. Francis Xavier, Priest
Thursday: St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Nicholas, Bishop
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

The St. Andrew Christmas novena is a prayer said from Nov. 30 through Christmas Eve. St. Andrew was the first disciple of Christ, and in saying this prayer Christians follow his example of prescient faithfulness throughout the days of Advent.

Prayer for Advent - Arise

Bless God's Holy Name!
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord.
Awaken them from any places
that have become sleepy or
despondent.
Inspire us with new visions.
Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen.

Readings for the week of November 30, 2025

Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Monday:

Is 4:2-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Is 29:17-24/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Mt 9:27-31

Saturday:

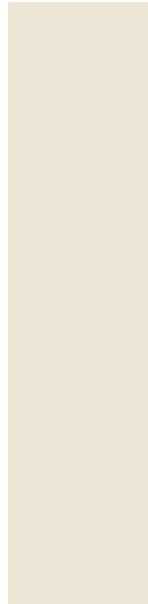
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A few years ago, my house was broken into on Super Bowl Sunday. Turns out, it's a great day for burglars. If the TV isn't on, people are probably watching the game somewhere else, so ... easy pickins'. I'll never forget walking into my bedroom and realizing someone had been there. My stuff was thrown all over the floor. The closet was torn apart. It was disorienting and disturbing — someone had invaded the space I thought was secure. After that, I bought an alarm system. And every Super Bowl Sunday since, I'm extra careful to lock the doors and keep the lights on. That experience made me more alert. Not scared. Just attentive.

That's much like the spiritual place Jesus wants us to be on this first Sunday of Advent. He doesn't start the season with soft candlelight and cozy manger scenes. He starts with two brutal images: a flood and a thief. In other words, chaos and violation.

Why? Because life will flood us. Chaos *will* come. And in the midst of it, Christ will come like a thief — not to steal from us, but to steal us back. He is the intruder we should want. The one who breaks in, not to ransack, but to rescue.

Christ presents himself as the thief but also the new Noah. He builds the ark of the Church to carry us through the flood. And he invites us to join him. How? By participating fully in our parishes. By making our homes places of prayer. By guarding our hearts with truth. By refusing to let spiritual complacency leave us exposed. By repentance.

This Advent, don't just stay vaguely "awake." Prepare. Build. Watch. The flood will come. But so will he.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And His Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth. "But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Watershed Moments

In every life there are watershed moments.

I think of our time on this earth as resembling, in the beginning, a fine, firm sheet of metal, suspended with perfect balance in time and space. If a drop of water falls upon the sheet, it remains precisely where it lands.

But life goes on. We see things, we feel things, and in the seeing and the feeling, the flat, smooth metal sheet is nicked. The impacts created by those experiences are like BB pellets riddling armor; before long, the surface is pockmarked. A falling drop of water will drain or pool either in one way or the other, its action determined by the closest indentation.

A watershed has been created, a summit or valley that disrupts the smooth flatness of life. In today's Gospel, Jesus speaks about the end of the world. I'm no Biblical scholar, but I suspect the topic at hand is the Apocalypse (capital A). The big one. The explosion that upends the sheet itself and sends every drop of water crashing down. But I think, in a smaller way, it's also about all the indentations on the plane: those little apocalypses (lowercase a), the things that felt like the end of the world (or the beginning of a new one).

The loss of a job. The breakup of a relationship. The suffering of a loved one.

Of course the world is ending. It has been ending forever. And the Son of Man is coming — but don't forget, he was already here, too. And his Spirit, even now, is renewing the face of the earth.

"But how?" we ask. "And when? And where?"

Without the chinks in the armor — without the watershed moments — there is tremendous smoothness, certainly. But there is also no movement.

So look to the watershed moments, these little (and big) apocalypses. In these moments that change us, for better or worse, God is there, working, waiting.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Answer:

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

Prayer

Dear God, help me to love you and to be ready for Jesus.

Mission for the Week

Make sure the movies, games, and music you choose help you grow closer to Jesus.

Sharing the Gospel

Remember that when God told Noah to build an ark, his neighbors laughed at him. Then one day God sent the flood. Only Noah's family was saved because they listened to God, and they were ready. Jesus has already told you that one day he will come back. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to be ready. When you read Bible stories, listen carefully. Love God like Noah did, and learn to do what God asks.

Now color
the picture!



Find and circle the words from today's Gospel:

NOAH
EATING
DRINKING

MARRIED
FLOOD
TOGETHER

TAKEN
LEFT
READY

S	T	B	F	L	O	O	D	E	O
N	O	A	H	N	Y	U	R	M	G
U	G	R	D	O	D	T	K	A	N
O	E	A	T	I	N	G	W	R	H
N	T	Y	A	U	R	L	O	R	L
W	H	I	K	L	C	M	H	I	M
O	E	N	E	R	S	E	V	E	L
D	R	I	N	K	I	N	G	D	E
N	O	W	H	N	T	H	I	E	F
I	S	R	E	A	D	Y	C	O	T

