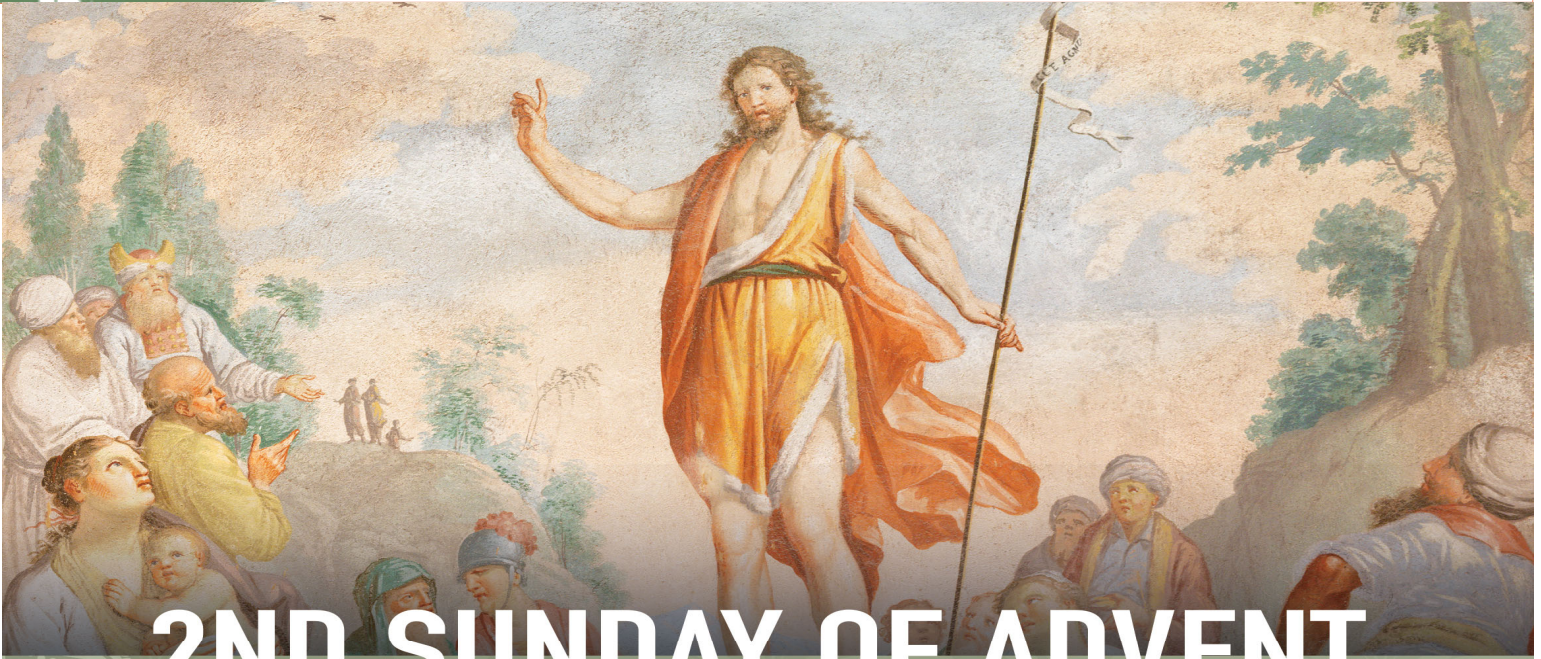


# St. Martin of Tours Church

December 7, 2025

Full 8-page Bulletin available at [www.smt.church/bulletins](http://www.smt.church/bulletins)  
11967 W. Sunset Blvd. | Los Angeles | 90049



## 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!'" - Mt 3:1

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](http://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](http://www.smt.church/baptism)

#### Marriage Preparation

[www.smt.church/marriage](http://www.smt.church/marriage)

#### Faith Formation—Children & Adults

[www.smt.church/news/FaithFormation](http://www.smt.church/news/FaithFormation)

#### Funerals

[www.smt.church/funerals](http://www.smt.church/funerals)

#### SMT School

[www.smtschool.net/admissions](http://www.smtschool.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)

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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](http://www.smt.church/register)**.



### December 6–13

Sat	5:30 pm	Lino Alvarez & Amabilia Rauda
Sun	7:30 am	Derek Lusting †
	9:30 am	Diana Herrera †
	11:30 am	Jose Sr. & Vicenta Almiranez †
	5:30 pm	Phillip, Harold & Yellie Chan †
Mon	8:15 am	Stephen Valle & Michael Gordon †
	6:00 pm	Stephen Valle & Michael Gordon †
Tues	8:15 am	Trevor Shea
Wed	8:15 am	Nola Jean Hyland †
Thurs	8:15 am	Michelle Guevara
Fri	8:15 am	Louise Valle †
Sat	8:15 am	Rosary Group †

### Mass Intentions—suggested offering \$20

*Requesting a Mass Intention for loved ones, living or deceased, is a cherished Catholic tradition. To request a Mass Intention, contact: [alaina@saintmartinoftours.com](mailto: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)**

**“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.” – Matthew 3:3**

John the Baptist reminds us that preparing for Christ begins in the heart. Stewardship is one concrete way we do that: by giving our time, talent, and treasure in a way that places God first.

Generous and consistent giving clears space in our lives for Christ to enter more fully—into our homes, our parish, and our community.

**This week, take the challenge to prepare the Lord's way through a renewed act of faithful giving.**



### Red flags in gift giving

'Tis the season for giving and receiving gifts, but some gifts are inappropriate for children to receive from adults. Talk to your children about appropriate gift giving – who they should give presents to and who they do not need to give to. Discuss when they should accept a present or not. This would be a good time to establish family rules about gift receiving. For example: friends and family may not accept gifts outside of established holidays, like a birthday or Christmas. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “An embarrassment of riches: establishing a framework for gift giving to kids” at [lacatholics.org/did-you-know](http://lacatholics.org/did-you-know).

### ADVENT BULLETIN SERIES

#### “Preparing a Place for Christ”

*Fr. Paul*

### WEEK II — Prepare the Way (John the Baptist)

**Gospel:** Matthew 3:1–12

**Theme:** Turn toward God. Let Him straighten what is crooked.

**Verse:** “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!”

### Reflection:

John the Baptist enters Advent with clarity and conviction. His message—prepare your heart—is not meant to burden us but to free us. Repentance means turning back toward God, letting go of what weighs us down, and allowing grace to reorder our lives.

Here at St. Martin's, Advent gives us real opportunities to do exactly that. This week especially, our parish gathers in prayer and beauty as we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, December 8. The holy day Mass will be followed at 7:00 pm by Lessons & Carols, a time of Scripture, music, and song—an opportunity to breathe, reflect, and let your heart be renewed.

If life has felt scattered or stressful, come. Let the beauty of the liturgy help straighten what feels crooked, and let God's peace surround you.

### Practice for the Week:

Take one step toward spiritual renewal—come to the December 8 celebration, return to Confession, extend forgiveness, or begin a simple prayer practice.

### Prayer:

Lord, help me turn toward You with humility and trust. Clear the path of my heart and lead me closer to You this Advent. Amen.



### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Today, many of our religious sisters, brothers and priests are elderly and need assistance. Please reach out to help them.

Envelopes are in the church. Thank you for your support!



**ParishSOFT**  
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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](http://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!

### SMART GIVING WITH TAX ADVANTAGES

IRA Charitable Rollovers (QCDs) are an effective way of giving, but must be planned for the beginning of the year. To learn more, please visit [www.smt.church/donate](http://www.smt.church/donate).



### 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](http://www.smt.church/Sunday-School).

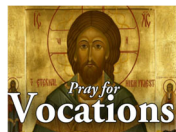
### Committee for the Poor Collection For Charitable Giving



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](http://www.smt.church/news/outreach).

*To learn more, go to [www.smt.church/news/outreach](http://www.smt.church/news/outreach).*



### Pray for Vocations!

For discernment resources  
visit [www.lavocations.org](http://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](mailto:paulflud@aol.com).

**REPAIRS &  
IMPROVEMENTS**



**2025 Goal \$120,000**  
**Amount Raised \$65,320**  
**Help Fund Our Work**

Visit [www.smt.church/news/repairs](http://www.smt.church/news/repairs)

## Monday, December 8

### An Evening of Faith and Fellowship

You are warmly invited to join us for a special evening.

#### Mass of the Immaculate Conception — 6:00 p.m.

This holy day points us to the deepest truth of Advent: God prepares the way long before we see the signs. In Mary—conceived without sin—we see God's perfect beginning for the coming of Christ. Her "yes" opens the door for our redemption. Celebrating this feast in the midst of Advent helps us slow down, listen, and make room in our own hearts for Christ to be born anew.

#### Advent Lessons & Carols — 7:00 p.m.

Immediately after Mass, we gather for an evening of Scripture and song—a quiet, luminous pause in the busyness of December. The readings walk us through the great story of salvation; the music helps us receive that story with fresh hope. Lessons & Carols is more than a program; it is prayer. It gently draws us into the mystery of the season and helps us prepare for Christmas not by doing more, but by being still before the Lord.

#### Reception Following

A simple reception will follow the service. Advent is a season of community—of standing together in hope as we await Christ's coming. Sharing food, conversation, and time together strengthens the bonds of our parish family and reminds us that we do not journey toward Christmas alone.

#### A Beautiful Way to Begin Advent Together

In the midst of crowded calendars, school events, shopping lists, and year-end responsibilities, this evening invites us back to what matters most. It offers a chance to breathe, pray, and experience beauty.

Join us for the grace of the feast, the peace of the music, and the joy of being together as a parish family.



### TOY DRIVE

**LAST SUNDAY:  
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](mailto: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.



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

- Drama
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- Service Learning
- Athletic Program
- Travel Experiences
- Aftercare and Enrichment Opportunities
- International Student Program
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**STEM Network**  
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[www.smtschool.net](http://www.smtschool.net)

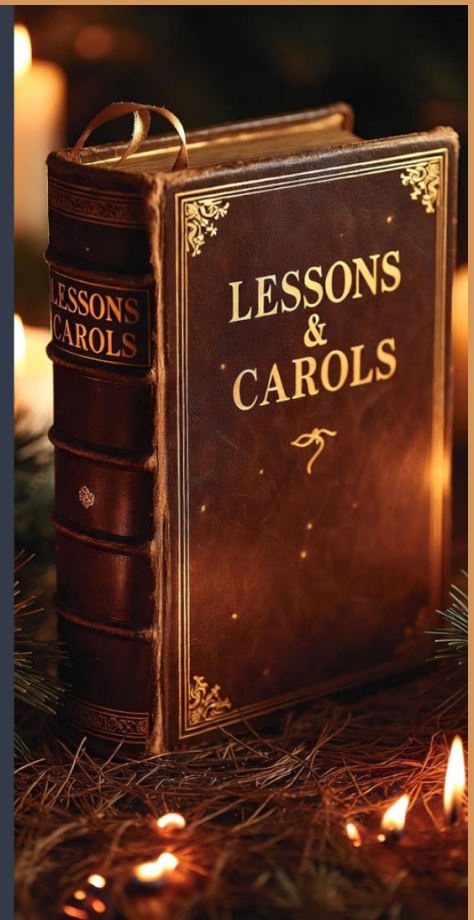


FEAST OF THE  
IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION  
MONDAY, DEC 8TH  
MASS: 6:00PM

SMT'S ANNUAL  
ADVENT  
LESSONS &  
CAROLS

7:00 PM

LIGHT RECEPTION TO FOLLOW  
IN THE PARISH CENTER





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:  
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
a spirit of counsel and of strength,  
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

### Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.  
(Ps 72)

### Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

### Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,  
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

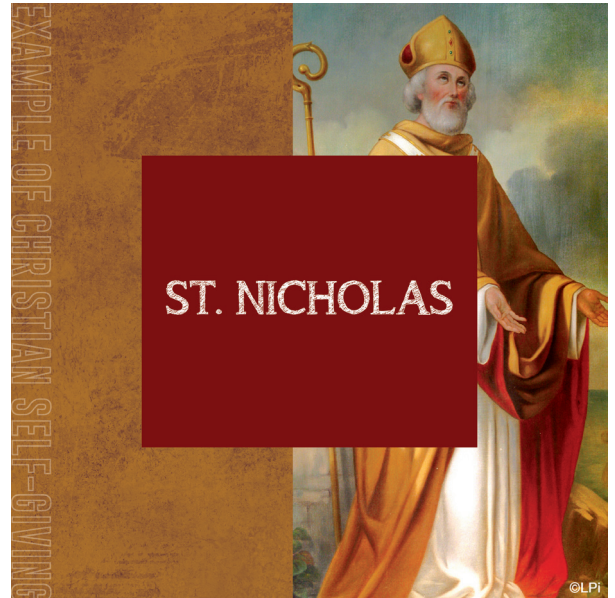
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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,  
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

## Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

<b>Sunday:</b>	2nd Sunday of Advent
<b>Monday:</b>	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Our Lady of Loreto
<b>Thursday:</b>	St. Damasus I, Pope
<b>Friday:</b>	Our Lady of Guadalupe
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	3rd Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, *Explained!*

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

## Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!  
Bring your peace to our world.  
Inspire reconciliation, heal  
divisions, bind wounds,  
rewrite scripts.  
You are the Prince of Peace,  
bring that light into every space.  
Amen.

## Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

### Sunday:

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

### Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

### Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/  
Mt 18:12-14

### Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/  
Mt 11:28-30

### Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/  
Mt 11:11-15

### Friday:

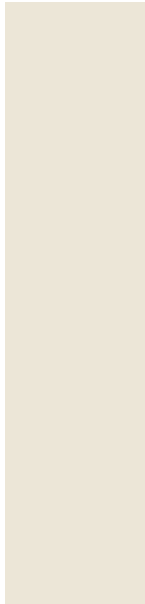
Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

### Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,  
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

### Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10  
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (**Mark 1:6**). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— *Father John Muir*



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## (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

### Culturally Catholic

Catholic culture is so thick, you could spread it on a scone. Or a baguette. Or a slice of ciabatta bread. Or naan (Wait, do you put butter on naan? I would, because I'm Midwestern, but I sense that this is, perhaps, incorrect).

Okay, maybe my comparison is imperfect, but what I'm saying is this: Catholic culture is delicious, it's versatile, and it's nourishing. It's the same everywhere, even though it also looks and feels totally unique in every place. The Day of the Dead in Mexico, Simbang Gabi in the Philippines, St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, Meskel in Ethiopia, Semana Santa processions in Spain: these are all touchstones of Catholic culture.

It is so, so beautiful to be culturally Catholic. But today, when I hear John the Baptist's words to the Pharisees and the Sadducees, I am reminded that Catholicism is so much more than just cultural expression.

The Pharisees and Sadducees were loyal sons of Abraham and scrupulous observers of the law of Moses. Their culture, you could say, was strong. But John the Baptist is telling them — and he's telling us — that culture isn't enough.

Actions, rituals, traditions, sentiments, nostalgia — none of it matters unless it bears the fruit of a transformed heart.

It's something to remember especially as we approach Christmas, a time when culture and cultural rituals become so (beautifully) prominent. In the cultural practice of Christmas, we are like the Wise Men approaching the manger, bearing our gifts. But how terrible would it have been if the wise men had hurried away, their culture expressed, their ritual complete, and gone back to the world unchanged by the gaze of the Infant?

So be culturally Catholic. Bring these gifts to the Christ Child — but linger there. Reflect. And then when you return to the world, you will bring Catholic culture with you.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

I've heard people call Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit being "immaculately conceived." Is that what the Immaculate Conception is?

### Answer:

While these two events are often confused, they are not the same thing. We celebrated the conception of Jesus on March 25th, the feast of the Annunciation. While that was surely miraculous, it isn't what we refer to as the "immaculate conception." The Immaculate Conception is Mary's conception, and we typically celebrate it on December 8th. If the 8th happens to be a Sunday, the Church moves the feast to December 9th. It is a holy day of obligation. Why does the Church consider it so important to celebrate?

Mary's conception is immaculate because she was conceived without original sin. The angel Gabriel acknowledges this when he hails Mary as "full of grace" (Luke 1:28). Scripture scholars identify several theological ideas that confirm this. In the Old Testament, the sacred, pristine Ark of the Covenant held the presence of God. The presence of God is now held within a new "ark" — the womb of Mary. Genesis 3 also prophesies of a woman who would oppose the devil and whose child would crush the devil's head. Christ is the "New Adam." This passage sets up Mary, then, as the "New Eve." Jesus and Mary are the beginnings of a new creation, one we all can participate in through the grace of our baptism. After all, God's love is more "original" than our sin!

## Prayer

Lord, teach me to be truly sorry when I do something wrong.

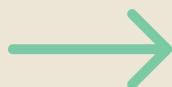
## Mission for the Week

I pray that people thinking of doing evil will choose God's way instead.

## Sharing the Gospel

Today you are with John the Baptist. He is wearing a camel skin coat and has a leather strap around his waist. He shares two grasshoppers and a little wild honey with you. He says, "Turn back to God! The kingdom of heaven will be here soon." You tell John, "I am very sorry for my sins. I am now obeying God's laws." Then John baptizes you in the Jordan River to make you ready for the kingdom of heaven.

**Now color the picture!**



Match John the Baptist to his right shadow.

