

St. Martin of Tours Church

December 14, 2025

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



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he." - Mt 11:11

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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.



December 13—20

Sat	5:30 pm	Rodolfo Rauda †
Sun	7:30 am	Thomas Roley †
	9:30 am	Bill Hoppock † & Joanie Hoppock
	11:30 am	Domenica Britelli Tomei †
	5:30 pm	Cathy H. & Jim Riedman †
Mon	8:15 am	Rick Naatz †
Tues	8:15 am	Stephen Smurda
Wed	8:15 am	John Houston †
Thurs	8:15 am	Jennie Allard †
Fri	8:15 am	Richard Habic †
Sat	8:15 am	Maynard Naatz †

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



Sacrament of Anointing Of The Sick

Sat, Jan 3 - after 5:30 pm Mass
 Sun, Jan 4 - 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

“Go and tell John what you hear and see.” – Matthew 11:4

Jesus invites us to recognize His presence by the signs of His goodness around us. Stewardship is part of that witness: our generosity makes the works of Christ visible in our parish—healing, hope, and help for those in need.

When we give consistently and joyfully, our lives become a testimony that Christ is truly among us.

This week, take the challenge to let your giving be a sign of Christ's presence for others.



Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over.

All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the “Holiday Safety” article on <https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/>.

ADVENT BULLETIN SERIES

*“Preparing a Place for Christ”
 Fr. Paul*

WEEK III — Rejoice! (Gaudete Sunday)

Gospel: Matthew 11:2–11

Theme: Joy is the quiet assurance that God is at work.

Key Verse: “Go and tell John what you hear and see.”

Reflection:

Gaudete Sunday arrives like a soft sunrise—a shift in tone, a reminder to rejoice. Not because everything is easy or perfect, but because Christ is near. Jesus points to signs of hope: the poor hear good news, the broken are restored, and God's mercy is alive in the world.

We see these signs here at St. Martin's, too—children preparing for sacraments, families returning to Mass, volunteers serving those in need, parishioners supporting each other in times of illness, grief, and joy. Joy isn't noise or glitter. It's the steady, quiet confidence that God is truly working in our lives and in our parish family.

Practice for the Week:

Each day, name one moment of grace—a kindness, a bit of light, a sign of hope at home, at school, or in the parish—and give thanks for it.

Prayer:

Lord, open my eyes to Your goodness. Let Your quiet joy take root in my heart and in our parish. 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!



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!

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.



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 \$68,062
Help Fund Our Work

Visit www.smt.church/news/repairs

A TURNING POINT IN ADVENT

Fr. Paul

On December 17, the Church enters the second, more intense half of Advent. The prayers shift, the great O Antiphons begin, and our readings focus directly on the birth of Christ.

One of the most important is the Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). At first it seems like a long list of names, but it tells the truth of our faith.

God Works Through Real, Imperfect Families

Matthew includes the faithful and the flawed, outsiders and ordinary people.

The message is clear: **God enters real human history**, not a perfect one. Christ comes into our real stories too, with all their beauty, wounds, and unfinished places.

Christ comes into our own complicated stories just as He came into theirs.

God Is Faithful Across Generations

The genealogy spans centuries, showing how patiently God works. Even when His plan is hidden, His promises endure. In these final Advent days, this becomes our reassurance: God has not forgotten us.

Christ Is the Center of Human History

All the names in the genealogy move toward one moment and one Person: Jesus, born of Mary. Advent reminds us that history has a center—and it is not a political power, a cultural trend, or a technological age. It is a Child, born in Bethlehem, who reveals the heart of God.

We Belong in This Story

Through Christ, we too are woven into this family of grace. As Christmas draws near, we can ask:

- Where is God quietly at work in *my* family story?
- What needs hope, healing, or a new beginning?

Beginning December 17, Advent becomes a direct journey toward the manger. And the Genealogy of Jesus tells us why:

Christ comes into the real story of our lives—into our history, our families, our hopes. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

TOY DRIVE LAST SUNDAY



Brighten Christmas morning for a needy child. Bring an UNWRAPPED new gift for a child aged 1-15 years. This is the last Sunday. The gifts are picked up tomorrow.

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.

Once again, the deadline is Monday, December 15. Thank you for your support.



Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24th

4:00 PM Vigil Mass/Family Mass with Gospel Pageant

6:00 PM Vigil Mass-Christmas

8:40 PM Christmas Music before Mass

9:00 PM Mass at Night

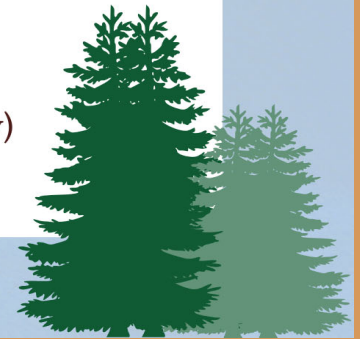


Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th

9:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass

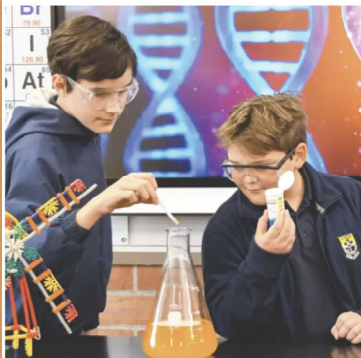
10:40 AM Christmas Music before Mass

11:00 AM Christmas Mass (final Mass of the day)



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.



- 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



(310) 472-7419



www.smtschool.net

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing,
crowned with everlasting joy;
they will meet with joy and gladness,
sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146)
OR
Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters,
until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,
"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
(Mt 11:4-5)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard,"
Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he
is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We
have heard. We have seen. We must go and
tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who
do we think Jesus is?

Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico City in 1531. The Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beloved symbol of faith, motherhood and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

Prayer for Advent - New Growth

Dear God,
Bring new life! Your love creates
and cultivates.
Bring Your power into the places I
think of as "deserts"
and your grace to the prayers I
fear may be "deserted."
You can redeem and restore,
bring a new song to my heart.
Amen.

Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

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

Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/
Mt 1:1-17

Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/
Mt 1:18-25

Friday:

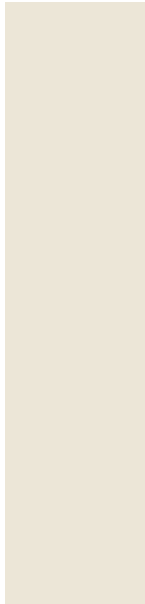
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Saturday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: **“What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?” (Matthew 11:7).** He’s not just describing the crowd’s mis-aimed pursuit. He’s naming our tendency to chase after what’s flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can’t satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn’t a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

Answer:

As Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

Prayer

Dear God, show me ways to help my friends follow God, too.

Mission for the Week

If you have any videos that tell Bible stories, watch one or two together with your family.

Sharing the Gospel

Name someone that you think is very important. Jesus said that John the Baptist was the greatest man ever born. John the Baptist did not live in a big house or wear nice clothes. He was not the president, and he did not own a huge company. You would probably think he was very poor. But John the Baptist was truly great because he loved and trusted God with his whole heart. He helped other people follow God, too.

Now color
the picture!



Fit this Gospel Message into the empty squares:

Tell John what you have heard and seen.

