

St. Martin of Tours Church

December 21, 2025

See Back of Bulletin for Christmas Mass Schedule—No Mass on Dec 26

Full 8-page Bulletin available at www.smt.church/bulletins

11967 W. Sunset Blvd. | Los Angeles | 90049



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" - Mt 1:20

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.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.



December 20 – 27

Sat	5:30 pm	George Harris †
Sun	7:30 am	Kevin & Janat Thorton
	9:30 am	Mary Sawin †
	11:30 am	James Zeruk Jr. † & John McKenna †
	5:30 pm	Peter Richards
Mon	8:15 am	Ana Ferrufino & Fredy Hernandez
Tues	8:15 am	Lino Alvarez
Christmas Eve—Christmas Day		
See back of bulletin for Mass Schedule		
Fri	Dec 26—No Mass—Church Closed	
Sat	8:15 am	Christina Galeana

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

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid...” – Mt 1:20

Joseph teaches us a quiet, trusting stewardship—responding to God not with many words, but with generous obedience. He gives his life, his plans, and his future to God, trusting that the Lord will provide.

Our stewardship follows the same path: placing our time, resources, and hopes in God's hands, knowing He is faithful.

This week, take the challenge to give with Joseph's trust—placing God first, without fear.



Check Christmas presents for hazards

Many parents will be spending the next few days assembling (and reassembling) their children's gifts, and it's important to be on the lookout for potential hazards, including button batteries and small parts. A couple of safety tips include following age guidance and other safety information on toy packaging; getting safety gear, including helmets, for scooters and other riding toys; and keeping small balls and toys with small parts away from children younger than age 3. For more information, visit <https://www.cpsc.gov/Safety-Education/Safety-Education-Centers/>

ADVENT BULLETIN SERIES

“Preparing a Place for Christ”

Fr. Paul

WEEK IV — Joseph's Quiet Yes

Gospel: Matthew 1:18–24

Theme: Trust God when plans change.

Key Verse: “Joseph... do not be afraid to take Mary into your home.”

Reflection:

As Christmas draws near, Matthew invites us to stand with Joseph—a man whose life shifted in ways he never expected. Yet Joseph responded not with panic or resentment, but with quiet trust. He listened. He discerned. He acted with courage and love.

Joseph shows us that God often works through the simple, hidden acts of faithfulness that fill our days. In our parish and in our families, plans often change—schedules shift, challenges arise, responsibilities multiply. Joseph reminds us that holiness doesn't depend on having perfect circumstances. It grows through daily trust, one step at a time.

As Christmas nears, the question becomes: *What quiet yes is God asking of me?*

Practice for the Week:

Offer one simple act of trust—patience with a child, compassion toward a spouse, care for someone lonely, forgiveness when it's difficult, or a sincere “yes” to God's prompting.

Prayer:

Lord, give me Joseph's courage. Help me welcome Your presence into every part of my life—my home, my family, and our parish. Amen.



**Retirement
Fund for
Religious**

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 at the doors to 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

No Class on December 28 & January 4
www.smt.church/Sunday-School.

Welcome to St. Martin of Tours!

As we enter this final week of Advent, whether you come often, have been away, or are still finding your way back, know that our hearts and our parish home are open to you.

These days remind us that God comes gently, seeking only a little room in our lives.

Christmas proclaims that He meets us where we are and invites us to begin again.

Wherever your journey has taken you, you are welcome here.

May the peace of Emmanuel—God with us—fill your heart and home in the days ahead.

With prayerful welcome,
Fr. Paul



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 \$71,062
Help Fund Our Work

Visit www.smt.church/news/repairs

The Grace of These Last Days

This final Sunday of Advent arrives quietly—and quickly. In these last days before Christmas, the Church invites us to slow down and listen with fresh hearts to the promise that began in Nazareth:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel—God with us."

Every year, this promise meets us differently. We carry new joys, new burdens, new hopes. Yet the heart of the message does not change: **God chooses to come close.** Not when life is tidy or calm, but in the very middle of our ordinary, imperfect days.

Like Mary, we are asked to make room—a small space of trust, a moment of quiet assent, a simple "yes" in the midst of everything else.

These final days of Advent are not meant to add pressure. They are meant to open our hearts – to remind us that Christ comes gently. He is light for our darkness, peace for our worries, and hope for our weary world.

My prayer for you this week is simple:

that you find—even briefly—a moment of stillness in which the nearness of Christ can be felt. He is Emmanuel. He is with us. And He delights in drawing near to you and your family.

May these last Advent days be filled with grace, and may the joy of Christmas renew your heart.

With prayers and gratitude,
Fr. Paul

Called to Renew: Parish Center Renovation

For updates, please visit
www.smt.church/news/ctr

Thank you for supporting our campaign!



11/30/2025 Update

St. Martin of Tours Parish Goal	\$1,135,000
Families who pledged	135
Total Pledged	\$1,280,738
Cash Collected	\$936,379
% Collected	73.1%



ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

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

SMTAltarServer@SaintMartinofTours.com



Christmas Mass Schedule

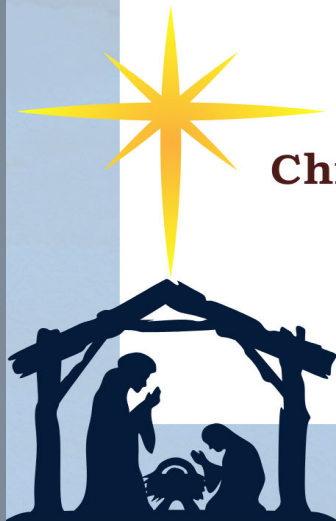
Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24th

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

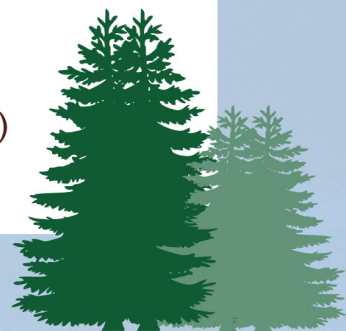


Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th

9:00 AM Christmas Morning Mass

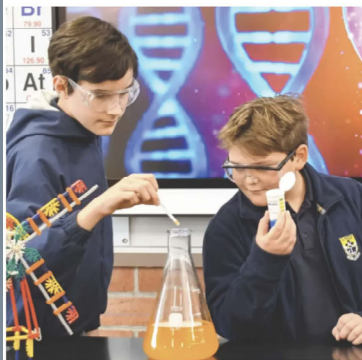
10:40 AM Christmas Music before Mass

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
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(310) 472-7419



STEM Network
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www.smtschool.net

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign:
the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isa 7:14)

Psalm:

Let the Lord enter; he is king of glory. (Ps 24)

Second Reading:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Rom 1:7)

Gospel:

"Joseph, son of David,
do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home.
For it is through the Holy Spirit
that this child has been conceived in her.
She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins." (Mt 1:20-21)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

Observances for the week of December 21, 2025

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Wednesday: Christmas Eve
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord
Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Next Sunday: The Holy Family



Devotions, *Explained!*

Las Posadas is a Mexican tradition which recreates the Holy Family's search for lodging in Bethlehem. This nine-day devotion anticipates the birth of Jesus Christ, who seeks refuge in the heart of every man and woman.

Prayer for Advent - Miracles

Dear God,
You are in the miracle business.
I still believe that You can move
mountains and separate seas.
Break into every unknown and
astound us with Your goodness
and grace.
Amen.

Readings for the week of December 21, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and
14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps
89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Thursday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13
(Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/
Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and
8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest friend recently told me a remarkable story. One of his cousins reported having a vivid dream in which an angel told him the family needed to exhume their grandmother's body from a cemetery in New York and return it to her birthplace in Romania. She had been dead nearly ten years. As you might expect, the family thought it was, well, crazy. But astonishingly they exhumed her body. It was incorrupt, showing no signs of decomposition. That experience sparked healing, faith, and reconciliation throughout the family.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Joseph also receives a dream. He's confused, afraid. But in the quiet of sleep, God speaks: **"Do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home" (Matthew 1:20).** When he wakes, Joseph acts. He doesn't overanalyze or dismiss the message. He trusts, and acts.

God still speaks — not necessarily through literal dreams but through those deeper intuitions of the heart. St. Ignatius of Loyola taught that God's voice draws us into peace, courage, and love. But we have to listen to it. Advent is a time for stillness. As we prepare for Christ's coming, we're invited to enter that quiet space where God's voice can be heard.

When and how do you become most receptive to God? Is it in silence? In prayer? In nature? At Mass? This week, go there. Be still. Listen. And like Joseph, have the courage to act on what God shows you.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

The First Transfiguration

I imagine Joseph waking up the morning after the dream, blinking in the dim half-light of the dawn.

One day, decades from now, the baby his wife carries will stand on a mountaintop. His face will shine like the sun, and those who look upon him will fall down upon their own faces in fear.

We call this the transfiguration, and Joseph won't be there to see it. But that doesn't matter. What those men will learn on the mountaintop, Joseph already knows. He learned it last night.

Today, he shrugs off the remnants of slumber and stands up.

"Rise, and do not be afraid." This is what the baby — a baby no longer, but a man now, one in the last days of his life — will say to his companions on the mountain a few decades from now. They will look up to see him standing there the same as he always was, and they will realize that he did not change at all. They did.

"Do not be afraid." This is what the angel said last night as he revealed to Joseph the will of God: that Joseph take Mary and the Child as his own, despite having so many reasons not to do so. And today Joseph wakes up and the world is the same as it always was: Mary is pregnant, and the Child does not belong to him.

No, the world has not changed. Joseph has.

He rises, and goes to Mary.

Advent is drawing quickly to a close, and Christmas is coming soon. The change is upon us. Do we rise to accept it, or do we fall on our faces in fear?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?

Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the difference between tithing and stewardship?

Answer:

Both tithing and stewardship are part of a spiritual way of life that calls us to use all of our resources for the service of the Gospel. Everything we are and everything we have comes from God. Offering back to God what He has given us is part of how we worship and give thanks to God.

Tithing is the practice of giving back 10 percent of what we earn. It comes from the Old English word for "ten." The first Scriptural example of tithing came from Abraham who gave a tenth of his possessions to the priest Melchizedek. He did so as an act of thanksgiving to God.

Stewardship as a way of life calls us to use well all that we have and all that we are, placing all things in service of others and God. Stewardship helps us see the good we can accomplish by making God and our spiritual life the most important values in our life. Whatever we accumulate in this life stays here. We can't take it with us! Both tithing and stewardship help us remember that nothing is mine or even ours ... all belongs to God.

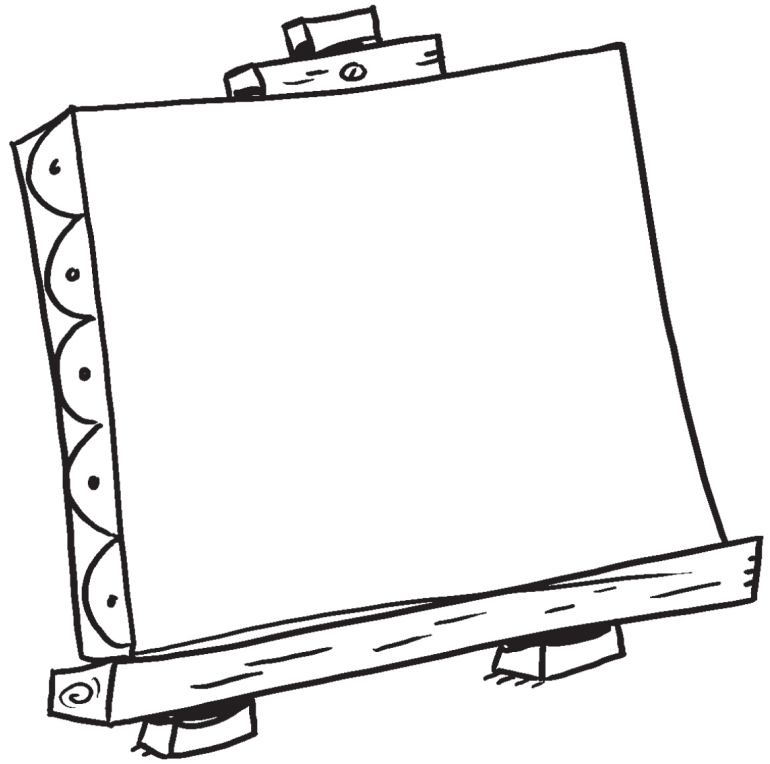
Prayer

I am proud that I am your child, Father God.

Mission for the Week

I will thank my parents for having me and taking good care of me.

Draw a picture of yourself when you were a baby.



Sharing the Gospel

An angel told Joseph to marry Mary because her baby was through the Holy Spirit of God. They would name the baby Jesus because he would save his people from their sins. God called you by name, too. Before you were born, he could tell you how many hairs would be on your head. He knew how long your feet would be. He knew all the good things you would do for his people.

**Now color
the picture!**

