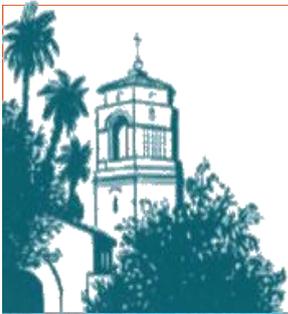


St. Martin of Tours Church

February 22, 2026

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

11967 W. Sunset Blvd. | Los Angeles | 90049



1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, "All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me."
- Mt 4:8-9

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

©LPI

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily Mass - 8:15 am

Rosary - 7:30am

Sunday Mass

Saturday Vigil - 5:30 pm

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.



February 21-28

Sat	5:30 pm	Nancy Estes† Frank Fitzpatrick †
Sun	7:30 am	Flora Villacarlos Borromeo † Patricia Linda Widiker †
	9:30 am	Santos Romero
	11:30 am	George Harris† & Dirk-Frye Family
	5:30 pm	Antonio Munguia
Mon	8:15 am	Eileen Pinza †
Tues	8:15 am	Michele Hunter & Dirk-Frye Family
Wed	8:15 am	Ana Ferrufino & Dirk-Frye Family
Thurs	8:15 am	Fredy Hernandez & Dirk-Frye Family
Fri	8:15 am	Delia Ruada & Dirk-Frye Family
Sat	8:15 am	Sean Hunter & Dirk-Frye Family

Mass Intentions—suggested offering \$20

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



Sacrament of Anointing Of The Sick

Sat, March 7 - after 5:30 pm Mass
Sun, March 8 - 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

“One does not live on bread alone...” – Mt 4:4

Lent calls us to put God first. In the desert, Jesus rejects the temptation to rely on material things and chooses trust in the Father.

Stewardship is one way we live that same trust—offering our time, talents, and treasure as a sign that God is at the center of our lives.

This week, begin Lent by giving back to God first in a concrete and intentional way.



Domestic Violence and Children

Domestic violence has many forms, including emotional, financial, physical, and sexual abuse. Research on children who live in homes with domestic violence shows that there can be long-standing consequences to a child’s health. The single greatest predictor of whether children will grow up to be perpetrators of domestic violence is whether they witness it themselves as children. For more information, read the VIR-TUS® article “Domestic Violence, Part 1” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.

Guided by the Saints on the Journey to Easter
Fr. Paul

St. Anthony of the Desert

Jesus goes into the desert and is tempted.

He faces hunger, power, and control—and in each moment, He chooses trust in the Father.

The desert is not just a place. It is a space where everything is simplified, and what is in our hearts becomes clear. That is why, from the very beginning of the Church, Christians have been drawn to the desert.

One of the first was St. Anthony of the Desert. As a young man, he heard the Gospel—“Go, sell what you have and follow me”—and he took it literally. He left everything behind and went into the wilderness to seek God. But the desert was not easy.

Anthony faced temptation, discouragement, and spiritual struggle. Yet over time, he discovered something important: the real battle is not around us—it is within us. And the victory comes not from our strength, but from remaining close to God.

People began to seek him out, not because he had escaped life, but because he had learned how to live it with clarity, peace, and trust in God.

Lent is our desert. We may not leave our homes, but we are invited to create space—to step back from distractions and return to what matters most.

This week: Choose one small way to enter the desert—a few minutes of silence, less screen time, a simple act of self-denial—and ask the Lord: “Help me to see what is in my heart, and to choose You.”



ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

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

SMTAltarServer@SaintMartinofTours.com



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.

Walking with Christ in the Desert

A Reflection

Our forty days of Lent are not arbitrary. They mirror the forty days Jesus Himself spent in the desert — praying, fasting, and preparing for His mission.

Lent, then, is not simply a season of personal discipline. It is a season of companionship.

We walk with Christ as He enters the desert—facing temptation, trusting the Father, and allowing His heart to be strengthened for what lies ahead.

The desert is a place of clarity. It strips away what is unnecessary and reveals what is essential. And that is why the Church invites us, each year, to enter into this season intentionally.

The Church gives us three simple practices to guide this journey: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Prayer unites us to Jesus in His trust in the Father. Fasting teaches us freedom and helps us see what has a hold on us. Almsgiving turns our hearts outward in love.

Together, these practices shape our path: walking with Christ in prayer, learning freedom through fasting, and opening our hearts through love.

Lent is not meant to weigh us down. It is meant to set us free and draw us closer to Christ.

This week: Choose one simple step—a few minutes of quiet prayer, a small act of fasting, or an act of charity—and take it faithfully.

Fr. Paul



SUNDAY SCHOOL

AGES 3 - 6

Meets at 9:30 am in Room 1

www.smt.church/Sunday-School



Lent Penance Service

Monday, March 9 at 7 pm

Four priests available for confession.

Make the most of Lent!

Lent Resources:

www.smt.church/news/lent



Visit www.smt.church/news/tim to learn more!

If you have received your **Together in Mission (TIM)** letter for 2026, we invite you to prayerfully consider your pledge and use the 2026 response card.

For those new to TIM, please make a pledge. Envelopes are available in the church, or follow the link above. Thank you for your generous response!

Lent Gatherings

Fridays of Lent:

February 20th through March 27th

5:30 PM-Eucharistic Adoration/Benediction

6:15 PM-Stations of the Cross

7:00 PM-Lenten Dinner in Parish Center

Adults \$15 Children & Seniors \$10



Knights of Columbus

St. Martin of Tours Council 14660

Make a difference—become a Knight.

Contact Paul Ludwig at paulflud@aol.com.

ARCHDIOCESE OF

TOGETHER IN MISSION

LOS ANGELES

OUR MISSION DURING THIS TIME FOR *Love*

LEARN MORE AND PLEDGE ONLINE: WWW.SMT.CHURCH/NEWS/TIM

Help St. Martin of Tours Meet our 2026 Goal of \$50,000

Thank you for your support!!



Catholic Schools

A Lifeline for Catholic Classrooms

Seventy-nine Catholic schools stand as living witnesses to Christ's love - places where families find belonging, where teachers serve as missionary disciples, and where children discover their purpose in God's plan.

Your gifts to **Together in Mission** help ensure that the doors of our schools stay open to all who seek a Catholic education. In doing so, it sustains communities of hope and faith where the next generation of saints and scholars is being formed each day.

"Without the financial support of Together in Mission, we would not be able to provide the level of assistance we currently offer, ensuring our mission remains accessible."

—Evangeline Garay, Principal at Immaculate Conception STEM Academy



Parishes

Where the Gospel Lives and Nurtures Faith and Service

Keeping parish doors open means more than worship. It means offering refuge: feeding the hungry, welcoming the lonely, and supporting families in need. Twice a month, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Jefferson Park, Los Angeles, opens its parish hall to more than 100 families. Along with groceries, families take home the reassuring support of their parish community. Such acts of love reflect that Christ is alive in His Church today.

"The hour for love means helping people and giving to others in need. It is a blessing to serve others through our mini-kitchen."

—Yvette, St. Theresa Mini-Kitchen Parish Volunteer,
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

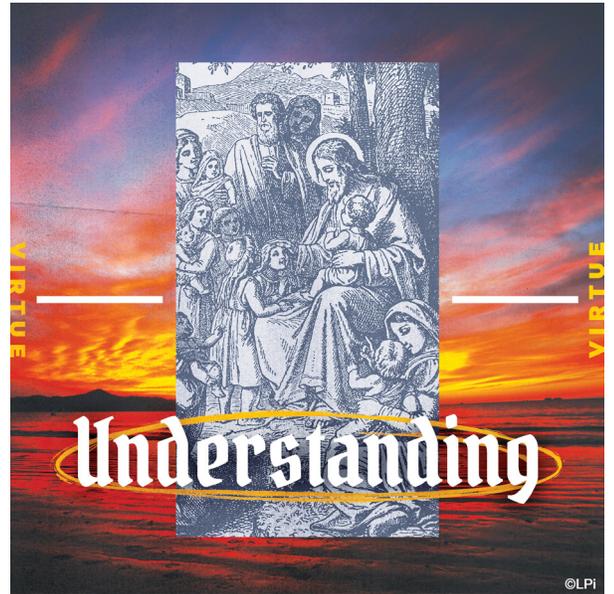
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

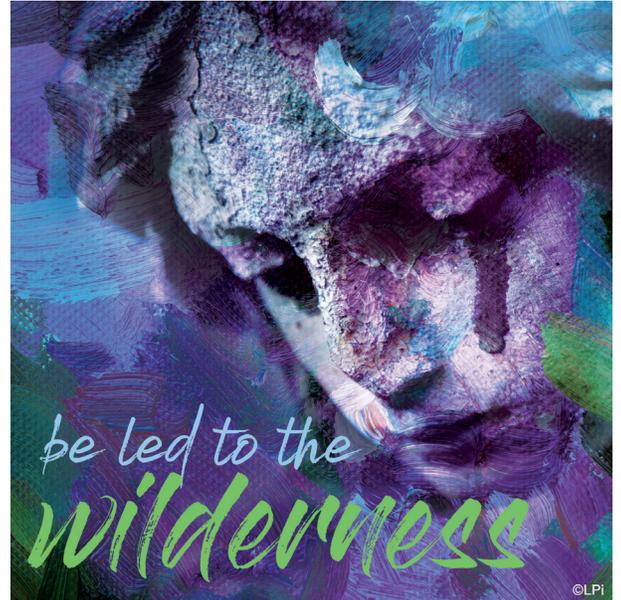
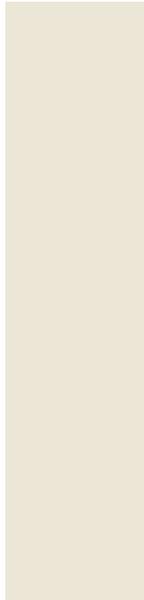
Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).** The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: There are many reasons why the Word became flesh. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world.

Into the Desert

When we first got married, I wanted to know everything my husband was thinking, exactly when he was thinking it.

Thirteen years later, I still want to know it all. But I want to know it after he's had a snack.

I think he still wants to know what I'm thinking, too. But he wants to know it after I've had 10 minutes without hearing the word, "Mommy!"

Life has taught us, you see, that it's hard to be a good person, a nice person, a gentle person, when your body doesn't feel good or nice or gentle. When you're hungry. When you're exhausted. When you're anxious.

It's not impossible, of course. It's just ... *hard*.

We're entering a penitential season, a time in which we purposefully deprive ourselves in certain ways. During Lent, we intentionally enter into the desert of physical hunger and weakness. Why, in preparation for Easter and in an effort to spiritually purify ourselves, do we go to this place where it's so *hard to be good*? Why do we go to the desert?

Because Christ has shown us that the desert is where decisions are made.

There are many reasons why the Word became flesh to accomplish God's plan for our salvation. But I think one of the most important reasons must have been that God wanted to show us that He knows, intimately, how easily the devil exploits our physical experience of this world. We see it in today's Gospel: Jesus, hungry and weary. Jesus, taunted and tempted.

We see him. We recognize him. We are him.

And we hear his voice, even though it trembles with fatigue: "Get away, Satan!"

Today, we enter the desert. Because the desert is where decisions are made.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What does Jesus mean when he talks about taking up our cross?

Answer:

Our journey of faith begins in baptism. When we are faithful to it, we find God's plan for us, his way of allowing us to participate in his saving work, which in turn becomes for us our own salvation. Stated simply, we share in the mission of Jesus each day. We live our life with all of its ups, downs, joys, and sorrows in union with the mission of Jesus. Our work then is holy. It is joined to the cross, God's will for Jesus — the way in which he destroys sin and death and makes eternal life possible. His sacrifice accomplishes what we ourselves cannot do.

To take up the cross, then, means that we share in the mission of Jesus and so embrace the sufferings of the cross. It is our daily life made holy, given a redemptive mission. It is our purpose and goal to unite our life to that of Christ. St. Paul says it best, "If we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection" (Rom 6:5).

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from the devil's tricks.

Mission for the Week

One really good way to fight the devil's tricks is to pray often. Pray in the morning, at noon, and at night.

Sharing the Gospel

After Jesus' baptism, Jesus went 40 days without eating. Imagine how weak, hungry, tired and cranky you could be if you went that long without eating. That was the moment the devil chose to try to trick Jesus into using God's power selfishly. But Jesus was still strong. Jesus had been praying those 40 days, getting ready to save you and the whole world from the devil's tricks. Jesus would never give in to his enemy.

Now color
the picture!



Fit this Gospel message into the empty squares:

Worship the Lord your God
and serve only him.

