

St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

11967 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049



www.saintmartinoftours.com



Administrator: Rev. Ben Le
Pastor Emeritus: Msgr. Lawrence O'Leary
Rev. Donal Keohane
Rev. Ed Wrobleski

RECTORY OFFICE (310) 476-7403
FAX (310) 476-0290

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday - 8:00 am - 7:00 pm
Sunday - 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS: 5:30 pm
SUNDAY: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, 12 Noon &
5:30 pm

DAILY: 8:00 am & 5:30 pm

HOLY DAYS: 6:30, 8:00 am & 5:30 pm

SACRAMENTS

RECONCILIATION: 4:15 - 5:15 pm on Saturday, and by appointment. Please call the rectory office.

BAPTISM: 1:00 pm on Sunday and by appointment. Please call the rectory office to register.

MARRIAGES: Arrangements by appointment and a minimum of six months prior to marriage. Please call the rectory office.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS SCHOOL

Cecile Oswald - Principal (310) 472-7419
Fax (310) 440-2298

LITURGY MINISTERS

Children Mass Coordinator - Michelle Steffes

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

First Communion & Confirmation
Michelle Berlin (310) 472-1757
smtchurchlady@aol.com

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA) Those over 18 years of age who would like to join our faith.

Father Donie Keohane (310) 476-7403

LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Laura & George Braunstein (310) 476-3752

ALTAR SERVERS

Maryann Sheps

MUSIC DIRECTORS

TRADITIONAL CHOIR - Sundays at 10:30 am

Bruce Goldes (661) 298-2890

CONTEMPORARY CHOIR - Sundays at 5:30 pm

Nové Deypalan (310) 787-1999

Dear Grace

Answers to Catholic Questions

Mary, Mother of God

Dear Grace,

Why do Catholics call Mary the “Mother of God”? Was she not created by God? Does this title mean that she existed before God?

It is so good that you desire to understand the Church’s teaching about Mary, the one through whom Christ our Savior came into the world. New Year’s Day is the day the Catholic Church celebrates the divine motherhood of Mary, which is based on the teaching of the Gospels, on the writings of the early Fathers, and on the express definition of the Church. It is a beautiful title for Mary. What many do not realize is that this is a name that Christians have been using in reference to her for almost seventeen centuries.

In order to understand how we can call Mary the Mother of God, we must first realize and accept the fact that our faith is grounded in mystery. There is much we do not fully understand now, but one day we will. That which we do understand, however, comes to us from what God has revealed.

The Bible tells us that Mary "brought forth her first-born son" and that He was called Jesus (Matthew 1:25). We also read in the Gospel of John that Jesus is the Word made flesh. The Word, Who was God, assumed human nature in the womb of Mary (John 1:15).

We are referring here to the mystery of the Incarnation, the Word becoming flesh. Jesus Christ (the Second person of the Holy Trinity, one in being with the Father) entered this world, taking on human flesh and a human soul. Jesus is true God and true man.

Because we believe that Mary was truly the mother of Jesus, and that Jesus was truly God from the first moment of His conception, then it makes perfect sense that Mary is truly the Mother of God.

We must be careful and make clear that we are not saying that Mary created the divine person of Jesus. Mary gave birth to Jesus, the God-Man. When God “assumed” or “took on” a human nature, it was the result of His perfect will to do so. He chose to be born of her.

Therefore, it cannot be said that Mary created God or that she existed before God. We simply mean that a woman is considered a man’s mother when she has conceived and given birth to him. St. Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, who defended this teaching, stated that "it was not that an ordinary man was born first of the Holy Virgin, on whom afterwards the Word descended. What we say is that, being united with the flesh from the womb, (the Word) has undergone birth in the flesh, making the birth in the flesh His own..." Therefore, the Blessed Virgin Mary is rightly called Mother of God (*Theotokos*).

Bible Class

The focus of our Bible study, beginning Wednesday, January 9th at 9:00 am will be "An overview of the Old Testament."

Enrichment

A new Enrichment series entitled "The Lives of Great Christians " begins on Monday, January 7th at 7:30 pm
All are Welcome

The Baptism preparation class for parents will be held on **Wednesday, January 2nd**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Because the first Tuesday of the month falls on January 1st there will not be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on that day.

Babysitting During Masses

On Sundays there is babysitting during the **9:00** and **10:30 a.m.** mass in room 1 of the Parish Center

Respect Life Mass at the Cathedral

In January, we will gather in our Cathedral as an Archdiocesan family to celebrate our annual Respect Life Mass. With the Auxiliary Bishops, priests, deacons, religious and faithful, we proclaim our respect for life in a joyful and moving liturgy. With the music of the **Shantigarh Requiem for the Unborn**, we sing God's praises and affirm the value of each and every human life. Before the close of the Mass, there is a special ceremony during which members of the assembly bring forward candles - one candle for each life lost to abortion that day in the County of Los Angeles. Honoring these brief lives is a particularly poignant and inspiring moment in this liturgy, the memory of which will remain with you long after all have returned home.

Date: Saturday, January 19, 2008

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angeles

The **Committee for the Poor** will have its monthly collection of food on **next Saturday and Sunday**. Please see the suggested shopping list inserted in today's bulletin. Monetary donations, that will be used to purchase additional items, are also accepted. Please leave items inside the church near the front side door. **Thank you!**

Congratulations to the Daigle Family, who won the Father Murray Scholarship Fund trip to Hawaii for 8 days, 7 nights. The trip was donated by the William Hannon Foundation and proceeds from the raffle benefit the SMT tuition assistance fund. Thanks to all who bought tickets and supported the raffle. Aloha!!

Calling All Married Couples

The Office of Family Life's Marriage Preparation Program is looking for married couples (married in the Catholic Church) to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony through our One Day Marriage Preparation Classes. If you are interested, please call Candy Metoyer at (213) 637-7250.

Respect Life News

The "Shower the Unborn Drive" was most successful! Thank you to all parishioners who donated baby clothes benefiting St. Anne's Maternity Home. They were greatly appreciated by the young mothers.

The St. Martin of Tours Respect Life Committee is seeking volunteers to visit with the elderly retired Sisters living at Carondelet Center (adjacent to Mt. St. Mary's College). The Sisters are truly delightful and are appreciative of any amount of time spent with them (writing notes, reading, playing games or just visiting). Anyone wishing to participate please call Judy Salz at (310)476-9234. Thank you to everyone who has already volunteered to assist this program!

Our November Respect Life meeting was well attended. Thank you to all committee members who were present. Our next meeting will be in February. Anyone wishing to join our committee please call Judy Salz.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
Tuesday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps. 67; Gal 4:4-7;
Lk 2:16-21
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28
Thursday: 1 Jn 2:29 — 3:6; Jn 1:29-34
Friday: 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42
Saturday: 1 Jn 3:11-21; Jn 1:43-51
Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6;
Mt 2:1-12

MASS INTENTION

Saturday, December 29

8:00 – Mary Ann Warner, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

5:30 – Lynne Rank, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

Sunday, December 30

7:30 – Domenica Tomei, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

9:00 – Mary Hurley, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

10:30 – Patrick Casey, R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**

12:00 – Our Parishioners, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

5:30 – Phillip Chan & Nguyen Duc Nang R.I.P.
Fr. Donie

Monday, December 31

8:00 pm – Andrew Warner, R.I.P.

5:30 pm – Jack Hiney, R.I.P.

Tuesday, January 1

9:00 – Jack Hiney, R.I.P.

Wednesday, January 2

8:00 – Dianne Kelley, R.I.P.

5:30 – Josephine Tando, R.I.P.

Thursday, January 3

8:00 – Mathew Lee, R.I.P.

5:30 – Lillian Casey, R.I.P.

Friday, January 4

8:00 – Elaine Marie Davis, R.I.P.

5:30 – Patrick Minehane, R.I.P.

Saturday, January 5

8:00 – Sister Carolyn Marie Armstrong, R.I.P.

Fr. Ben

5:30 – Pat Harrer, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

Sunday, January 6

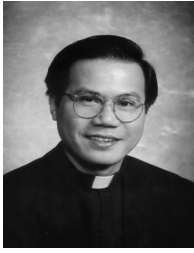
7:30 – Eva Logan, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

9:00 – Henry Tomei, R.I.P. **Fr. Ed**

10:30 – Bob Hadfield, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

12:00 – Our Parishioners, R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**

5:30 – Harold & Yellie Chan, R.I.P.
Fr. Ben



Happy New Year! I wish all of you a New Year filled with success and happiness.

This year, the Feast Mary, Mother of God, is not a holy day of obligation, so there is only one mass in the morning at 9:00 am. We invite you to join us at that mass to begin this new year.

Every year right after Christmas, we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. On Christmas, we celebrate the profound mystery of God becoming human and in saying this it means God takes on the full nature of being human, and a part of being human is family.

The scene of Christmas as we celebrate it today is very misleading because it does not portray the real condition of the Incarnation: a young pregnant woman has to ride on the back of a donkey about 80 miles so she can have her baby in a stable full of dirty, smelly animals; soon after that the whole family have to flee to Egypt for their lives and stay in the foreign land for several years; the adolescent Jesus is missing for three days. As all of us know by now, family life is filled with challenges, difficulties, tense moments, and opportunities for misunderstanding. This is the real human experience!

However, when Jesus takes on the human body, he “divinizes” it – not in the sense that we are divine but in the sense that our human body becomes “sacred” because we are created in the image of God, and because of this we can say the same thing about human family, that is, family is also created in the image of God because God is not one but a family of Three.

I have an uncle who for a long time wanted to enter the monastery to live for the rest of his life. At that time, he was only 52 years old, had a wife and 7 young children because he had enough with family life! Also, he thought that holiness is to be away from the chaos of the world, especially the chaos of family life. However, the feast of the Holy Family illustrates to us that holiness is not only achieved in the monastery but also in the chaos of family. Second Vatican Council teaches us that all people in whatever state of life, single or married, can achieved holiness. I always tell people that when Jesus came to the world he did not live in the monastery away from everyone but lived right in the midst of the craziness of human life. Holiness is not about being extraordinary but ordinary with extraordinary love. Thus, family life can be a profound path to communion with God.

Happy New Year to all of you!

Fr. Ben