

# St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

11967 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90049



[www.saintmartinoftours.com](http://www.saintmartinoftours.com)



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

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**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

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**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

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## 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

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## LITURGY MINISTERS

**Children Mass Coordinator** - Michelle Steffes

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

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

**Decisions of  
Conscience**

**Dear Grace,  
I am confused about something. If the Church teaches that we should follow our conscience, but then turns around and teaches us that we must obey Church teaching, then what is the difference? Who am I supposed to follow, the Church's teaching or my own conscience? How will I know what is the right thing to do?**

Yes, it is true that the Church teaches that no person must be forced to act contrary to his/her conscience. Nor must they be prevented from acting according to their conscience, especially in religious matters (*Dignitatis Humanae*). The reason that the Church can teach this, however, is because she knows that "deep within his conscience man discovers a law which he has not laid upon himself but which he must obey. Its voice, ever calling him to love and to do what is good and to avoid evil, sounds in his heart at the right moment.... For man has in his heart a law inscribed by God.... His conscience is man's most secret core and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths" (CCC 1776).

What the Church is telling us is that when we truly listen to our conscience, we will hear God speaking to us. We do not belong to ourselves. We belong to God; He made us and we are on a journey back to Him. He wants for us to be very happy, and, because He made us, He knows best all that is good for us. So, He builds inside us this conscience through which He will try to guide and lead us to do what is good and right. In this life, we will face many serious, moral decisions, and we will have choices to make. These choices cannot be made blindly. In other words, our conscience must be informed. This means that we must first take certain steps to learn everything we can in regard to what we are trying to make a decision about. This is called discernment.

Let us say that you are a parent, and your son or daughter has come to you and asked you to help them to have an abortion. This would certainly be a grave moral decision requiring the formation of conscience. What do you do?

The first thing to do is to listen to what the Church has to say on the matter and why. Remember that the Church was established by Jesus Christ (who is God Himself) and given authority by Him to teach in His name. So, when we listen to the Church, we hear God. In a case as grave as abortion, what the Church teaches should be what we follow because she speaks for God and teaches infallibly in matters of faith and morals. In making decisions or choices that are less grave, there are additional steps we can take to inform our conscience in order to do what is right before God. We should consult professionals and get expert advice. Find out what is involved in any procedures that will be required.

Then, seek advice from trusted friends and family or anyone who might have gone through the same experience. Finally, take the matter before the Lord in prayer, asking Him to reveal to you through your conscience what you should do.

When you have done all these things, make your decision, and move forward. This way, even if you make a mistake, you will be able to say to God that you did all you could; you did your best. He knows our hearts and minds and will know if we are sincere. You see, the Church can say "follow your conscience" because she knows that if you truly listen to God in your conscience, then what you hear will be no different than what the Church teaches, for she teaches only what God has revealed to her. There is no conflict between following your conscience and following the Church.

**Grace MacKinnon is a syndicated columnist/writer and public speaker on Catholic doctrine. Readers are welcome to submit questions about the Catholic faith to: Grace MacKinnon at [grace@deargrace.com](mailto:grace@deargrace.com). You may also visit Grace on the Internet at [www.DearGrace.com](http://www.DearGrace.com). The material in the "Dear Grace" column may be reproduced for use in subscriber's parish publications only. All other reproduction is prohibited without permission from the writer.**

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### Retirement Fund for Religious

This weekend we are collecting funds to assist the financial needs of elderly religious through the national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Today, 5,452 women and men religious need skilled nursing care that costs an average of \$49,850 each. Please be generous. Learn more about this appeal at [www.retiredreligious.org](http://www.retiredreligious.org).

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**The Office of Justice and Peace** is hosting a Social Justice Ministry Celebration Mass and Reception on Sunday, December 9, 2007 from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. Rev. Oscar A. Solis will be celebrating the mass at 3:00 pm at St. Mary Magdalen Church, 1241 Corning St., L. A. A reception will immediately follow in the parish hall.

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**Donations are being accepted for the people** in Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti affected by the tropical storm Noel. Please use the special envelopes in the pews for your donation.

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### Enrichment

A new Enrichment series continues on Monday at 7:30 p.m.  
This week's focus will be on  
**"Worship"**  
All are welcome  
Refreshments are served

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### Bible Class

The focus of this week's study is  
**St. Paul's Letter to the Romans**  
We meet on Wednesdays at  
9:00 a.m.  
All are welcome; coffee is served.

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### Respect Life News

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.

### Please Join Us As We Celebrate Monsignor O'Leary's

80th Birthday  
Sunday, December 16, 2007  
Mass 10:30am  
celebrated by Monsignor O'Leary

Reception immediately following in the  
Monsignor O'Leary Parish Center

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### Toy Collection

Let us not forget needy children as you prepare for Christmas. Please take a gift tag from the tree outside the church and return an unwrapped new gift for a boy or girl ages 1-15.

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### Congress 2008

The annual Religious Education congress held in Anaheim, Calif., is ready to enrich and revitalize us once more. Sponsored by the Office of Religious Education at the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, Congress draws in excess of 40,000 participants over the course of this internationally acclaimed 4-day event. The annual Youth Day draws 15,000 youth from all over Southern California and beyond. Congress' international presence continues to grow, with participants attending from over 14 different countries. This year there will be more than 270 workshops available to choose from, covering a vast range of topics and interests from spirituality and personal development to biblical studies, theology and catechesis. This year the Congress is scheduled for February 28 (Youth Day), through March 2, 2008 and focuses on the theme "Lift Your Gaze...See Anew". Over the weekend participants will enjoy morning praise, workshops, evening liturgies and a variety of prayer experiences with internationally renowned leaders in the areas of liturgical music and worship. Concerts at noon-time and evening offer additional opportunities for praise and worship - delightful experiences which engage and renew participants!

Don't miss out! Register now for this spirit-filled and enriching weekend! For more information or to register stop by your parish religious education office for a guidebook, or call the R.E. Congress info line at 213.637.7348. For more information or to register online visit us at [www.RECongress.org](http://www.RECongress.org).

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26  
Tuesday: Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14  
Wednesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a,  
Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47,  
Thursday: Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15  
Friday: Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19  
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13  
Sunday: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146; Jas 5:7-10;  
Mt 11:2-11

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, December 8

8:00 – Dino Abat, Spec.Int. **Fr. Donie**

5:30 – Elaine Marie Davis, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

### Sunday, December 9

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

9:00 – Our Parishioners **Fr. Ed**

10:30 – Frank Milewski, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

12:00 – Rolland Gaydou R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**

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

### Monday, December 10

8:00 – Mary B. Seitz, R.I.P.

5:30 – Tom Kelly, R.I.P.

### Tuesday, December 11

8:00 – Lois Nolan, R.I.P.

5:30 – Catherine Carvalho, Spec. Int.

### Wednesday, December 12

8:00 – William Tebo, R.I.P.

5:30 – Mary Ann Warner, R.I.P.

### Thursday, December 13

8:00 – Sam Farmer, R.I.P.

5:30 – Elias Medawar, R.I.P.

### Friday, December 14

8:00 – Anne Eu Lin Fong, R.I.P.

5:30 – Minnie La Monte, R.I.P.

### Saturday, December 15

8:00 – Bob Hadfield, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

5:30 – Jardelina Cancio, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

### Sunday, December 16

7:30 – Our Parishioners **Fr. Ben**

9:00 – Richard Herczog, R.I.P. **Fr. Ed**

10:30 – James Lernihan, R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**

12:00 – Edward Masterson, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

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



This week’s readings are a visual and lyrical juxtaposition of prophecies that illustrate for us the depth of our call as Christians.

Isaiah’s words paint a picture of transformation that is inspiring yet seemingly beyond what we ordinarily conceive of as possible. And yet this is not merely a possibility; it is a declaration of truth about the Incarnation of Jesus. Jesse is the father of King David, and thus establishes Jesus to be descendant of David to fulfill the promise of God about the Messiah. The power of transformation, which is so beyond our comprehension and experience in this life, comes from the power of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, and fear of the Lord (or actually “in awe” in the presence of God). These are Gifts of the Holy Spirit. No wonder Isaiah called the Messiah, “The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah presents an unfolding of images derived from the landscape of nature - root, breath, child and lion- an unfolding that is at the same time infused with a miraculous outpouring of Spirit. The Kingdom of God is so completely “other” in *order* yet intimate in *nature*. Such is the legacy of our Christian faith in the life and words of Jesus. We are a part of a movement that is still unfolding, a hope and a healing that has endured for two thousand years. Let us not take our place in this process for granted but allow it to inform and inspire our celebration during the Christmas season. Let us bring this awareness into the world this New Year, like a holy fire that attests to something greater than what the evening news would lead us to believe is possible. “The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as water covers the sea.” Let us be that knowledge.

One aspect of the Advent season that is foreign to us is repentance or transformation. We do not expect to hear this message until Lent! However, “prepare the way of the Lord” requires us to do some self-examination. If you notice, in our conversations about the “problems of the world,” we always insist that the Republicans and Democrats be reformed; we demand the Church to change its structure and laws; we want nations to disarm; we require our boss to change his/her management style; we believe our families and friends should be the ones who must change their behaviors and attitude in order to get along with us, and so on. We can’t imagine we would have to change!!!

“Filled with the knowledge of the Lord” requires us to clear out “my knowledge”. If you ever wonder why our path of discipleship doesn’t seem improving, it is because we have set up roadblocks that prevent the Spirit of God and the knowledge of the Lord to permeate our being.

**Fr. Ben**