

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

Advent

Answers to Catholic Questions

Vol. 1 No. 39

Dear Grace,

Could you please explain the history or the meaning behind the Advent wreath? How was this custom started?

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century, Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany, the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are purple and the fourth is rose/pink. Each day at home, the candles are lighted, perhaps before the evening meal; one candle the first week, and then another each succeeding week until December 25th. A short prayer may accompany the lighting. The advent wreath should be used to remind Catholics and other Christians about the spiritual "cold and darkness" experienced by humanity as it awaited the birth of God's Word on Earth

Dear Grace,

What is the meaning of the rose candle lit on the Third Sunday of Advent?

The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete ("Rejoice") Sunday from the first word of the Opening Prayer at Mass. The season of Advent originated as a fast of forty days in preparation for Christmas. By the twelfth century, the fast had been replaced by simple abstinence, but Advent still preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent,

with the middle or third Sunday corresponding with *Laetare* or Mid-Lent Sunday. On that day, as on *Laetare* Sunday, the organ and flowers, forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used. Rose-colored vestments for the clergy are allowed instead of violet. *Gaudete* Sunday, like *Laetare* Sunday, comes about midway through a season that is otherwise of a penitential character. It signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.

Dear Grace,

Can blue replace violet as the liturgical color during Advent?

Blue is not a normative liturgical color and has only been given special use in Mexico for Marian feasts. Elsewhere it is also frequently used in conjunction with white on Marian feast days. Advent is a season of penance, meant to prepare the faithful for the coming of Christ. There is no church document permitting blue to replace violet during Advent. According to the *2000 General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, "Traditional usage should be retained for the vestment colors... violet is used in Lent and Advent... it may also be worn in offices and Masses for the dead" (n. 346, d). Wearing bluish-purple would perhaps be permitted, but "pure blue" would not. Violet is the traditional penitential color.

Advent is a time of preparation, waiting and hope. The Advent liturgy resounds with the longing cries of the Hebrew prophets, the voice of Jesus, and John the Baptist's preaching that the Lord is near. We still hear their message ringing through today's dark winters. The stories told in the Gospels for the Sundays of Advent should help us listen to their voices.

© Copyright 2007 Grace D. MacKinnon

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. You may also visit Grace on the Internet at 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.

ALOHA!

Imagine yourself sitting on the beach in Maui! You can win a trip for two to Hawaii for 8 days/7 nights at the Royal Lahaina Resort plus \$500 spending money. The Father Murray Scholarship Fund Raffle, generously donated by the William Hannon Foundation, provides assistance to St. Martin's students in need. Try your luck at \$5 per ticket or a book of 5 for \$20. Additional tickets will be available in the rectory. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Father's Club Christmas Dinner Dance on **December 7th**. **WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**. Please take a moment to consider this very worthy cause and mail or drop your tickets off at the rectory.

Enrichment

A new Enrichment series continues on Monday at 7:30 p.m.

This week's focus will be on

"The Afterlife"

All are welcome

Refreshments are served

Santa Claus

Santa Claus will be in the parish center on Sunday, **December 2nd** after the 9:00 a.m. mass. Have the kids bring a **new unwrapped gift to mass** and have a picture taken with Santa Claus.

The Baptism Preparation Class

will be held on

Wednesday, December 5th

at 7:30 p.m. in the

Parish Center.

BLESSED SACRAMENT

December 4th, will be the first Tuesday of the month and there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. **All are welcome.**

**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

Retirement Fund for Religious

The Catholic Church assists the financial need 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.

Sunday, December 9th

Will be the day to collate the bags for direct distribution to the poor. Last year 1,600 bags were assembled. You are all invited to help anytime between 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., in the Parish Hall.

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.

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.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — All the peoples shall stream toward the LORD's house (Isaiah 2:1-5).

Psalm — Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord (Psalm 122).

Second Reading — It is the hour to cast off the dark and clothe ourselves in the light (Romans 13:11-14).

Gospel — Stay awake! Be prepared! The Son of Man will come when you least expect (Matthew 24:37-44).

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 1

8:00 –Glen Perkins, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

5:30 – Francis & Margaret Kelly, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

Sunday, December 2

7:30 Our Parishioners **Fr. Donie**

9:00 – Gaetano & Joan Lanava **Fr. Ed**

10:30 – Mary Jo Lyon Kenny, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

12:00 – Iluminada Ascalon,
R.I.P. **Msgr. O'L.**

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

Monday, December 3

8:00 – William Smith, R.I.P.

5:30 – Florence Smith, R.I.P.

Tuesday, December 4

8:00 – Dianne Kelley, R.I.P.

5:30 – Jean Wright, Spec. Int.

Wednesday, December 5

8:00 – Teresa Robles, R.I.P.

5:30 – Sam Farmer, R.I.P.

Thursday, December 6

8:00 – Argentina Rivas, Spec. Int.

5:30 – Harold Helbock, R.I.P.

Friday, December 7

8:00 – Patrick Casey, R.I.P.

9:00 – School Mass

5:30 – Irene Margaret Martin, R.I.P.

Saturday, December 8

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

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

Sunday, December

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**



Imagine you are coming to an event, let's say a birthday party, and you do not know anyone there. While people talk and enjoy each other, you, on the other hand, feel absolutely awkward, bored, and lonely. Definitely, you want to get out of there ASAP and probably say to yourself, "I will never want to go there again." Therefore, the theme for our parish this Advent season is "Come Home for Christmas" because at this time of the year we start seeing people that we normally do not see present at mass. Thus, it is imperative for us to reach out and welcome them.

The First Reading is Isaiah's prophetic anticipation of God's coming into the world. "The mountain of the Lord's house" refers to Mt. Zion on which the Temple of Jerusalem (God's house) is built. Mt. Zion will be the "highest mountain...raised above the hills" because from it God's word and instruction are revealed for all nations. God's Word is the revelation of who God is, and in our Christian tradition we understand God's Word is not the written words on paper but in the person of Jesus. Strikingly, the revelation of God's word is Peace. When God comes and people come to this mountain to listen to God's instruction "one nation shall not raise the sword against another."

"Come, let us climb the mountain of the Lord" expresses the longing of people who were and now are waiting for the coming of God. It heralds the advent of hope for humanity, setting the tone for the liturgical season that is upon us today.

The Second Reading speaks to us more directly, calling us from our slumbering tendencies and inspiring us to trade our worldly priorities for spiritual ones during this auspicious time of year.

The Gospel, on the other hand, contributes the most transformative insight to the conversation of the first two readings, taking us full circle from Jesus' birth to the "Coming of the Son of Man" and also, more personally, to the possibility of encountering Jesus again. This week's Gospel leads us to the door of conversion that becomes available when we recognize that Jesus' presence is a perennial gift of grace which we can always choose to receive in love. During the season of miracles and grace, let us clear the house of worldly concerns and prepare spiritually for Jesus' return, keeping in mind that our conversion encounter requires from us wakefulness, trust and hope. Let us climb to the place in our hearts where the Lord is already waiting for us.

Fr. Ben