

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 Wroblewski

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

Reverence at Mass

Answers to Catholic Questions

Dear Grace,

I have moved to a different parish within the last couple of years and I am getting conflicting information from two parish priests regarding practices for readers, among other things. I have attempted to research something in particular and am unable to find anything written on it. I have been a lector/reader for several years. Originally, when I was trained (by the parish priest at the time) I was told that upon stepping onto the ambo and before beginning to do any reading, the reader should face the priest and gently bow as a sign of respect to the priest. Upon coming to this new parish, our pastor has a very casual and different attitude. For example, he refuses to wear clerical dress outside of Mass, he prefers if parishioners refrain from calling him "Father." He has recently stated that some lectors practices of genuflecting towards the tabernacle on the way up to the ambo and bowing to the priest prior to reading is silly and unnecessary. Could you please clarify this for me? I don't want to be legalistic about things, but on the other hand if these practices are correct I would like to know.

Without a doubt, moving to another parish can sometimes become a challenging experience. This may be especially so for persons involved in lay ministry who have been trained and practiced their ministry under the guidance of another pastor or priest. It is of course true that we will find some things are done differently in a new church community from the way we have been used to, and there will be some variation. When it comes to liturgical celebrations, however, there are rules or "rubrics" that must be followed. Your questions concern the gestures of genuflecting and bowing on the part of the reader (lector) at Mass.

On Holy Thursday, 2000, Pope John Paul II approved the revised *Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani*, popularly known as the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*. This present revision replaces the 1975 edition of the *General Instruction*. It is the most current document in use that gives the general guidelines for planning the Eucharistic celebration properly and sets forth the rules for arranging the individual forms of celebration.

In this document, we find no instruction indicating that the reader should bow to the priest before proclaiming the Word of God. There is only one instance when the reader is to bow. Upon reaching the altar after the introductory procession, the reader, along with the priest and other ministers, makes a profound bow (the body bending from the waist) to reverence the altar (*GIRM*, 122).

Bowing is a gesture of reverence. Therefore, one can see how this custom of bowing to the priest might be sometimes practiced or desired by some. Even so, it is optional for a reader to bow before proclaiming the Word of God, as the *General Instruction* is silent on this point.

Regarding genuflecting to the tabernacle by the reader on his or her way up to the ambo, the *General Instruction* is specific: "If there is a tabernacle with the Blessed sacrament in the sanctuary, the priest, deacon and other ministers genuflect to it when they approach or leave the altar, but not during the celebration of Mass itself" (*GIRM*, 274). This probably has to do with the flow of the liturgy. During Mass, they must walk around the sanctuary area and it would take much longer if they each had to stop to genuflect each time they passed the tabernacle when it is located in the sanctuary.

Your concerns are certainly valid and your fervent desire to show reverence is not "silly." Many Catholics today long for the same. You will be happy to know that the new *General Instruction* does make many provisions for a more sacred and reverent liturgy. For example, admonishing that the Liturgy of the Word "must be celebrated in such a way as to promote meditation," the *Instruction* cautions against "any kind of haste which impedes recollection" and recommends brief moments of silence throughout the liturgy, especially after the readings and the homily so that the word of God may be "taken into the heart by the fostering of the Holy Spirit" (*GIRM*, 56). It was the intention of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council to make the Mass more accessible to the lay faithful. But that good intention has at times been misunderstood, and this has caused the attitude you see today on the part of some, including clergy. Pray for your pastor. And let us also pray that with time we will see in all the people of God an increased hunger for reverence in our sacred liturgy.

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.

Adult Confirmation

A new instruction series for Catholics who have not been confirmed will begin shortly. Please call Fr. Donie for details.

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.

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.

Bible Class

The focus of this week's study is "The Christmas Story in Scripture" We meet on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome; coffee is served.

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.

Christmas Schedule 2007

Confessions

- Friday, December 21 - 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- Saturday, December 22 - 4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24th

Additional Parking Courtesy of University Synagogue

- 4:00 pm - Children's Choir
- 6:00 pm - Contemporary Choir
- 11:00 pm - Christmas Eve Concert - Traditional Choir
- Midnight Mass - Traditional Choir

Christmas Day - December 25th

Additional Parking Courtesy of University Synagogue

- 7:30 am - Cantor and Organist
- 9:00 am - Traditional Quartet
- 11:00 am - Traditional Choir
- 1:00 pm - Contemporary Choir
- NO 5:30 pm EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY!

January 1st - New Year's Day

January 1st - 9:00 am
No 5:30 pm Mass on this day
All Masses will be celebrated in the Church

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Tuesday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Wednesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Thursday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Friday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a;
Lk 1:39-45
Saturday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Sunday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7;
Mt 1:18-24

MASS INTENTIONS

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, Spec. Int. **Msgr. O’L.**
12:00 – Edward Masterson, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**
5:30 – Harold & Yellie Chan, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

Monday, December 17

8:00 – Joe Novello, Spec. Int.
5:30 – Elias Medawar, R.I.P.

Tuesday, December 18

8:00 – Angela Bisal, Spec. Int.
5:30 – Ek-Sheng Tan, Spec. Int.

Wednesday, December 19

8:00 – Nellie Kubaney, R.I.P.
5:30 – Mary Ann Warner, R.I.P.

Thursday, December 20

8:00 – Sam Farmer, R.I.P.
5:30 – Teresa Robles, R.I.P.

Friday, December 21

8:00 – Henry Tomei, R.I.P.
5:30 – Andrew Warner, R.I.P.

Saturday, December 22

8:00 – Michael Lynch, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**
5:30 – Connor, Tommy & Maggie Hunt, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

Sunday, December 23

7:30 – Charles & Fanny Vella, R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**
9:00 – Connor, Tommy & Maggie Hunt, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**
10:30 – Paul Gilmartin, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**
12:00 – Our Parishioners, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**
5:30 – Harold & Yellie Chan, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**



Today is Msgr. O’Leary’s 80th birthday. He celebrates the 10:30 am mass, and I would invite all of you to stop by the parish hall after mass for a reception to celebrate with him.

The Christmas schedule is available at the Information Table. Please note the changes in the times of masses on Christmas day. It is also available on our website at www.saintmartinofours.com.

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as “Gaudete” (means Rejoice) Sunday because it comes from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon for this day. The season of Advent was originated as a forty day fast in preparation for Christmas that begins a day after the feast of St. Martin. That is why it was often called “St. Martin’s Lent.” However, in the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to 4 weeks. Because Advent preserves the characteristic of penitential season like Lent, this Sunday marks the midway through the season to break away this penitential mood to “rejoice” to signify the nearness of the Lord’s coming – a theme that we hear in all the readings today.

At the time of Jesus, there were many false messiahs. A man named Judas of Galilee led a bloody revolt against the Roman census in the year 6. Another man named Simon, who was a slave of Herod, also became a messianic figure in year 4. There was no shortage of false messiahs claiming to be God’s holy one, that is why John asked, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” This question presents a problem for Jesus. If he said “yes,” then the religious leaders could use that against him, and if he said “no,” then he was lying. To get out of this situation, Jesus points to the passage of Isaiah in the first reading today (the blind receive their sight, the lame walk...) to answer this question. Jesus basically suggests, “Look at what I am doing and decide for yourself whether I am a real Messiah.”

Another reason that John wanted to know whether Jesus is the Messiah or not is because he thought that when the Messiah comes he will “purge” the evil of the world as we hear in the gospel last week, “He will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” But, to John’s great surprise, Jesus is nowhere near his expectation of the Messiah in this regard. Not only does he not purge, he brings “sinners” into the fold!

Therefore, it would be an excellent question for us to reflect this Advent season, “What is your expectation of God? What do you think God will do when he comes?”

Fr. Ben