

### St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church

is currently seeking an energetic and vibrant individual to help coordinate and guide our brand new Early Childhood Religious Education Program! It is important to start the positive experience of our church families' spiritual journey at a young age, so this program will be geared towards the ages 3 ½ - 5 years old.

If you are interested, please contact Father Ben Le at (310) 476-7403.

### Bible Study

The focus of our Bible Study this week will be on "The Chosen People".  
Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in room 1

### Blessed Sacrament

**June 3**, 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.**

### PARISH MISSION

#### Fall Mission – Fr. Tom Allender

**Sept 6 & 7:** Preach at all Masses

**Sept 8:** After 8:15 am Mass  
11am – 2pm: for Students  
7pm

**Sept 9:** After 8:15 am Mass  
7pm

**Sept 11:** 7pm for School Parents

#### Advent Renewal – Fr. Edward Beck

**December 6 & 7** 7:30pm Sunday

#### Lenten Mission – Fr. Melvin Short

**March 28 & 29** Preach at all masses  
**March 30** 7pm  
**March 31** 7pm  
**April 1** 7pm

### Enrichment

The series "Lives of Great Christians" continues on Monday at 7:30 p.m. in room 1 with a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and St. Maximilian Kolbe.

**The Baptism preparation class** will be held on **Wednesday, June 4th**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Room 1.

### The Committee for the Poor

will have its monthly collection of food for the poor and homeless on **June 7th & 8th**. Monetary donations that will be used to purchase additional items are also accepted. Please leave donations inside the church near the front side door. Thank you!

### LMU Courses at Parishes This Summer

The Center for Religion and Spirituality at Loyola Marymount University is offering lectures in various parishes this summer. Each talk is free and open to the public on selected Sunday evenings, and continues with a full course through LMU Extension on the Loyola Marymount University campus after the first night.

The free lectures at parishes include:  
"Meeting Jesus at the Movies," Sunday, June 15, 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m., at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 6657 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, with Sr. Rose Pacatte, F.S.P., and Sr. Gretchen Hailer, R.S.H.M. A look at the ways cinema provides opportunities for people to meet Jesus in daily life.

### Our Income for May 2008 was:

1st week: \$ 10,769  
2nd week: \$10,975  
3rd week: \$ 8,589  
4th week: \$ 8,631  
Credit card: \$ 8,264  
Total: \$ 47,228

# Dear Grace

## Answers to Catholic Questions

### The Ten Commandments

**Dear Grace,  
My son and I were discussing the importance of the Ten Commandments and how they are to be used as a guide. He says they are part of the Old Testament and therefore we need not focus that much on them. His attitude towards them is that they are just a lot of "Do Nots." Can you help me explain why God gave us these commandments and why they are still important for us today?**

While it is certainly true that many people have this understanding or attitude towards the Ten Commandments, it just so happens that the complete opposite is true. The reality, you see, is that the reason God gave them to us was not to limit or restrict us, but rather to set us free – free from sin. Who is it that knows us better than the One who made us? Because we belong to God who loves us so much, the only way we can be truly free and happy is when we live according to His ways. That is when we become “who we really are” – sons and daughters of the One, True, and Living God. It is precisely when we try to be “who we are not” that we are not free.

Deep within every human heart, God inscribes what is known as the natural law, a sort of code of moral conduct by which our reason tells us whether something is in conformity with our true human nature (Romans 2:15). All of those things that are not in agreement with our nature we are obviously to avoid because ultimately they will not fulfill us. In other words, they will hinder and possibly destroy the possibility of attaining our true destiny, heaven. This should make sense. Would we feed our bodies gasoline when they are made to live on food and water? This same basic principle applies to the moral order of our lives, for we are a people who are a unity of body and soul. The Ten Commandments are, if you will, a summary of this natural law, which reveals all that is good for us. When the Hebrews, wondering in the desert, failed to obey the natural

law inscribed within them, God then gave to them therevealed law – the Ten Commandments.

In his beautiful encyclical *Veritatis Splendor* (the Splendor of Truth) the Holy Father John Paul II tells us that man’s freedom is not unlimited. Every human person “is called to accept the moral law given by God. In fact, human freedom finds its authentic and complete fulfillment precisely in the acceptance of that law. God, who alone is good, knows perfectly what is good for man, and by virtue of his very love proposes this good to man in the commandments. God's law does not reduce, much less do away with, human freedom; rather, it protects and promotes that freedom” (n. 35).

Throughout the Scriptures, a certain theme is woven in – that in life, there are two roads, the road to life and the road to death. By this we mean eternal life and eternal death, for we know that this life here on earth is temporary. If you can imagine this, on the road to life, there are signposts, if you will, and these signposts are the Ten Commandments. This connection between the commandments and eternal life is clearly demonstrated by Jesus in the story of the rich young man in Matthew’s Gospel. When asked, “Teacher, what must I do to gain eternal life?” He answered him, “If you wish to enter into life, keep The commandments” (Matthew 19: 16-17).

Yes, to many the commandments seem so challenging and restrictive, and this is so because we live in a world where at every turn there is the temptation to sin. But like Peter, who could do what seemed like the impossible when he walked on water only by keeping his eyes fixed on Jesus (Matthew 15:29-30), we too can follow the Lord to our heavenly home. So, let us follow the “signs.” The road to life is the right road to be on! You are indeed a good mother in wanting to teach your children to love God.

**Please pray for our sick relatives  
and friends**

Harold Martinez, Alexandra Payne, Elaine Helbock,  
Jeanne Brown, Kaylee Cote, Rosemary Coda,  
Forough Mesbahzadeh, Howard Kaufman and  
Kathy Nielsen.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Pt 1:2-7; Mk 12:1-12  
Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18; Mk 12:13-17  
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12; Mk 12:18-27  
Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15; Mk 12:28-34  
Friday: 2 Tm 3:10-17; Mk 12:35-37  
Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8; Mk 12:38-44  
Sunday: Hos 6:3-6; Ps 50; Rom 4:18-25;  
Mt 9:9-13

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, May 31**

8:15 – Mother’s Day **Fr. Donie**  
5:30 – Edward Kroll and  
Karen Schmitz **Msgr. O’L.**

**Sunday, June 1**

7:30 – Our Parishioners **Fr. Ben**  
9:00 – Sr. Olivia Fernandez, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**  
10:30 – Nicolas Amodio, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**  
12:00 – Marie Hodal **Fr. Donie**  
5:30 – Domenic Renda, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**

**Monday, June 2**

7:00 – Rosemary Coda, Spec. Int.  
8:15 – Fred Simon, R.I.P.

**Tuesday, June 3**

7:00 – Andrea Weimholt, R.I.P.  
8:15 – Gary Lee, R.I.P.

**Wednesday, June 4**

8:15 – Nancy & Bobby Cifuentes, Spec. Int.

**Thursday, June 5**

8:15 – Rosemary Coda, Spec. Int.  
7:00 – Stella Warne, R.I.P.

**Friday, June 6**

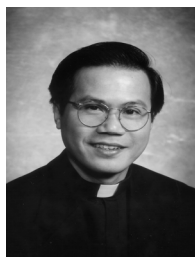
7:00 – Mary Hurley, R.I.P.

**Saturday, June 7**

8:15 – Rosemary Coda, Spec. Int. **Fr. Ben**  
5:30 – Sam Farmer, R.I.P. **Fr. Ben**

**Sunday, June 8**

7:30 – Our Parishioners **Fr. Ben**  
9:00 – Dorothy Elvin, Spec. Int. **Fr. Donie**  
10:30 – Michael Davis, R.I.P. **Msgr. O’L.**  
12:00 – Colomba Hernadez, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**  
5:30 – Edward Korzec, R.I.P. **Fr. Donie**



The collection for the month of May was very low. Unfortunately this results in that we are about \$30,000 over the budget for this month.

On Saturday, May 31st, the Archdiocese ordained 12 new priests, and one of them is my cousin, Thai Le. With the shortage of priests, they are truly gifts to all of us. It has been such a long time, 10 years ago, since we have a big ordination class, and we do not see the same number of ordination in the near future. Please pray for these men and pray for others to answer God’s call.

Houses are built to be lived in and not just to be looked at. If they can also be good to look at, that is a bonus, but they are primarily for living in. A house is a symbol of the self, and so the self too is for living in, not for looking at. This is obvious when you say it, but in our time appearances are often taken to be more important than substance. Appearances are more visible than substance, they strike a person first, and in an age of high speed there is often no time for more. The Bible, like all wisdom literature, is full of warnings about appearances. "The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7). "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment" (John 7:24).

In the same way, our faith is primarily for living in, not for looking at or talking about. Appearances are many, and for that reason they fascinate and preoccupy us, but the substance is one; it is easier to talk about appearances. If the substance is a rock, appearances are like the sand. The 'rock' is when we "hear these words of mine and act on them." The 'sand' is when we "hear these words of mind and do not act on them." The difference is in the doing. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." The one who only has the right words has not yet been put to the test: the test is "doing the will of my Father in heaven."

We can think a thousand things, but we can do only one at a time. In that sense, doing is a kind of dying to the self, an engagement with reality. There is a solidity and simplicity about it too, because all our faculties are involved and not just the mind alone. We cannot live in the mind alone. Our faith is a way of living. That is why it was known as "the Way" before it was known as "Christianity."

Fr. Ben