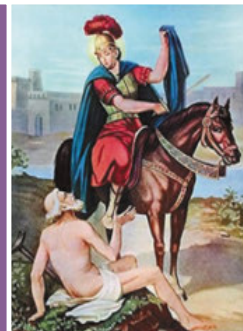




**Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Church
A Century of Blessings 1921 - 2021**

7710 El Cajon Boulevard, La Mesa, CA 91942
stmartinoftoursparish.org
Phone 619.465.5334 - Fax 619.465.7297
Email: info@saintmartinoftours.cc



MASS SCHEDULE

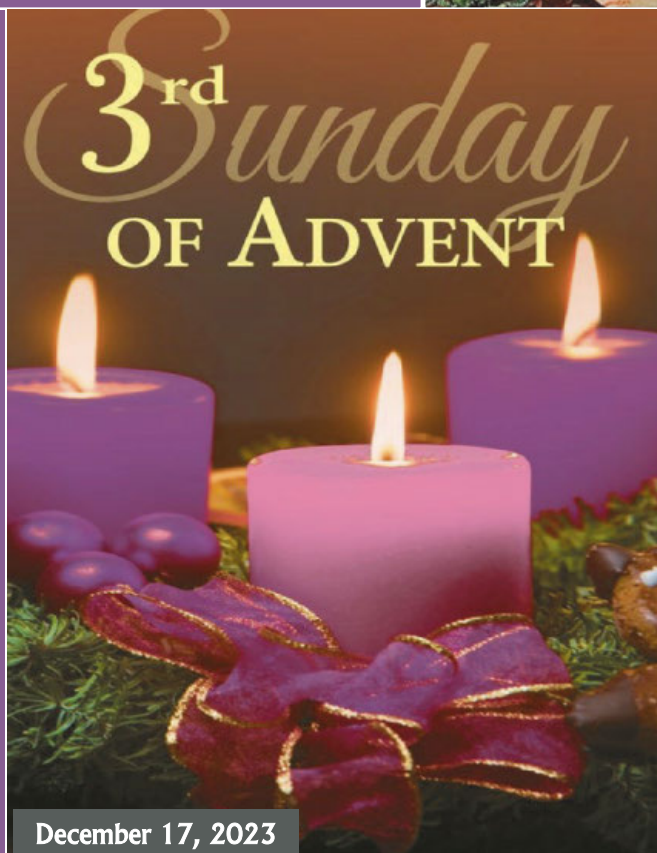
SATURDAY: 5:00pm (Vigil)
SUNDAY: 7:00am, 9:00am, 11:00am
and 5:00pm Mass

DAILY MASS:
Monday through Friday: 8:30am
Rosary before Mass: at 8:00am

CONFESSIONS: Friday (5:00pm - 6:00pm)
ADORATION: Friday (7:00pm - 8:30pm)
First Friday (9:00am to 12:00pm)

OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY through FRIDAY:
8:30 am- 4:30 pm
Closed for Lunch: 12:00 pm - 1:00pm

SAINT MARTIN ACADEMY
Principal: Jennifer Miller
619.466.3241
Web: stmartinacademy.org
Email: info51@stmartinacademy.org
Preschool through 8th Grade



December 17, 2023

WELCOME!

We warmly welcome all visitors to our parish, the heart of our Catholic faith-life in La Mesa since 1921. Thank you for joining us for Divine Worship. We hope you will find ways to participate in and support our parish life and mission by sharing your time, talent and treasure.

If you have been coming here but are not registered or if you just moved into the area, we invite you to join us as a member of our parish family, using the registration form below or stopping by the Parish Office. Your registration makes it possible for us to communicate with you and to plan and provide for your needs more effectively, especially Baptism or Marriage, as well as eligibility to serve as godparents or sponsors.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR "NEW" PARISHIONERS

Your Information: (Please cut and drop in offering basket)

Name _____ **Home Phone** _____

Street Address _____ **Daytime Phone** _____

City, State & Zip _____ **email:** _____

(this registration will be followed by a telephone call to obtain more information)

**WELCOME TO
SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS
CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY**

We invite you to be a "Sharing Member".
Register, Participate, and
Share your Gifts and Talents.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



"We cannot find God in noise or agitation. Within nature: trees, flowers and grass grow in silence. The stars, the moon, and the sun move in silence... In silence, He listens to us; in silence He speaks to our souls. In silence we are granted the privilege of listening to His voice. Silence of our eyes. Silence of our ears. Silence of our minds... In the silence of the heart, God will speak."
Saint Mother Theresa of Calcutta.

The Children's Chapel is open Monday to Friday, from 10am to 3pm, for personal prayer and meditation before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle. Also, we will continue to gather in the Church every Friday from 7pm to closing with benediction at 830pm.

Everyone is invited and welcome to stay as long as time allows.

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading: I rejoice heartily in the LORD, in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

Psalm: My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

Second Reading: May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

Gospel: "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie." (Jn 1:23)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-25/Ps 71/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18/Ps 33/
Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/Ps 1 Sm 2:1-8/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-24/Ps 25/Lk 1:57-66

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-16/Ps 89/Rm 16:25-27;
Lk 1:26-38

December 17,
Third Sunday of Advent

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)



THE YEAR OF EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Eucharistic Revival: The Gospel

The Second Vatican Council teaches us that the Gospels have a special importance among all the books of the Bible because they are "the principal witness for the life and teaching" of Jesus (*Dei Verbum, 18*).

The word Gospel itself means, "Good News." For us, the Good news is God's mercy, love and salvation known through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We have a fourfold Gospel, named after their human writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Each writer gives a glimpse into the life and teaching of Jesus, and all four together gives a fuller sense of the Incarnate Word, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, Jesus who is fully God and fully Man in whom we get to know the Father.

Before the Gospel is read we say a familiar dialogue in which the priest or deacon says, "The Lord be with you!" and the people respond, "and with your spirit!" After the priest introduces the Gospel, the people say, "Glory to you, O Lord!" One will notice at this time that the priest or deacon makes the sign of the cross on the Gospel and then with the people traces the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and hearts. In this small gesture we say with our action, "May the words of the Gospel be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart." We prepare ourselves to hear the Word of God.

Then at the end of the Gospel, the priest or deacon says, "The Gospel of the Lord!" and the response is "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!" Then the priest or deacon kisses the page he just read and silently says, "Through the words of the Gospel may our sins be wiped away." As you hear the Gospel next Sunday, keep these actions and words in mind so you may be attuned to what Christ is calling you to hear.

Visit: www.eucharisticrevival.org

Rev. Chris Bongato

Parochial Vicar
St Martin of Tours Parish
7710 El Cajon Blvd
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 465-5334

PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS - December 17 - 24, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
17 Rev. Timothy Deutsch	18 Rev. Michael Diaz	19 Rev. Ignatius Dibeashi	20 Rev. Daniel Dillabough	21 Rev. William Dillard	22 Rev. Minh Do	23 Rev. Michael Doherty, OFM

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS.



Our women and men religious offer **gratitude**. A sister shares, "I thank the Lord for all who give. I don't think we would make it without them." Thank you for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious last week. Your donation makes a difference in the lives of elderly women and men religious. To learn more about how your gift helps, visit retiredreligious.org.

*Prepare for Christmas like never before...
Sign up for Dynamic Catholic's Best Advent Ever program... Starting on December 3.*

Discover Jesus' Radical Invitation
for You this Advent!

Visit: www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html

PRAYER OF THE WEEK
Third Sunday of Advent

**O God, who sees how your people
faithfully await the feast of the
Lord's Nativity
enable us, we pray,
to attain the joys of so great a salvation
and to celebrate them always
with solemn worship and glad rejoicing,
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.**

WORTHY TEACHERS

All who undertake to teach must be endowed with deep love, the greatest patience, and, most of all, profound humility. The Lord will find them worthy to become fellow workers with Him in the cause of truth.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SPIRITUAL

ACTIVITIES AND SCHEDULE

• **DECEMBER 1 – First Friday Devotion**

9:00 am to 12 noon – Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
7:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Adoration and Holy Hour

• **DECEMBER 2 – Saturday (Family Advent Gathering)**

An afternoon of reflection, advent wreath making and blessing
2:30 pm to 4:00 pm – St. Martin of Tours Parish Hall

• **DECEMBER 8 – Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

8:30 am – Mass (with Academy students)
12:00 noon – Mass
6:00 pm – Mass

• **DECEMBER 11 – Monday (Parish Penance Service)**

7:00 pm – Confessions

• **DECEMBER 24 – Sunday (Christmas Day Vigil Masses)**

5:00 pm - Mass
10:00 pm – Mass

• **DECEMBER 25 – Monday (Christmas Day)**

7:00 am – Mass
9:00 am – Mass
11:00 am – Mass

• **DECEMBER 31 – Sunday**

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

• **JANUARY 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

9:00 am - Mass



• **ADVENT DAILY SPIRITUAL PROGRAM**

Prepare for Christmas like never before with the help of **BEST ADVENT EVER**

Join the Dynamic Catholic email program and discover what the radical invitation and relevant wisdom of Jesus can mean for you this Advent and Christmas...and the rest of your life. Link: www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent



WE ARE CALLED AS FAMILIES TO "SLOW DOWN AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR JESUS."

Advent IS HERE

Faith Formation Sessions
12/3, Step Out 12/10, 12/17

Sacramental Prep
Classes Resume in January

Up Coming Events
1/6 Rosary Walk
1/13 March fo Life
1/26 Family Movie Night


Middle School Youth Group

DECEMBER 2023

Friday, December 1st: Cookie Baking at St. Kieran
 Tuesday, December 12th: Caroling at Good Samaritan
 Monday, December 18th: Youth Group
 Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Mass



For more information or to register please contact Helen Deen at helend@saintmartinoftours.cc



O.C.I.A.

"Order of Christian Initiation for Adults"

Interested in becoming Catholic
O.C.I.A. is the process by which adults enter the Catholic Church.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, completing Sacraments or learning more about the Catholic Faith, this is the process for you.

This is a spiritual journey, led by the Holy Spirit, which can lead to Full Initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. It is also, a way to learn more about the Catholic Faith. One of the goals is to develop a personal relationship with God, accomplished through prayer, scripture and worship.

Everyone is welcome to join us on Tuesdays at 7pm in Barry Hall. December 19 topic is: Eucharist.

If you would like to be part of this Faith Journey to become Catholic, or to help facilitate the Journey, please contact Christine Davis at chris@saintmartinoftours.cc or 619.465.5334.

High School Youth Group

December 2023

Youth Mass 5:00 pm-6:00 pm
 Youth Group and Confirmation 6:00 pm-7:45 pm

* Sunday, December 3rd: Mass and Youth Group
 * Sunday, December 10th: Mass and Youth Group
 * Sunday, December 17th: Mass and Youth Group
 * Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Mass



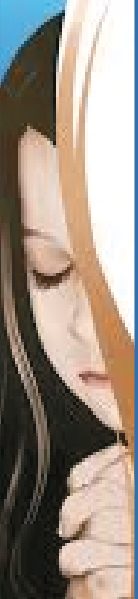
For more information or to register please contact Helen Deen at helend@saintmartinoftours.cc



Mass Intentions

December 17 - 24, 2023

- Sat 5:00pm Sr. Ellen Marie Ryan, CSJ†
- Sun 7:00am Mass for the People
9:00am Virginia Mary Racines-in Appreciation
11:00am Alexandra, David, Olga & Lucia-Good Health
5:00pm The McDonnell Family†
- Mon 8:30am Juanita Vargas†
- Tue 8:30am Juanita Vargas†
- Wed 8:30am Juanita Vargas†
- Thurs 8:30am Jack O'Connor†
- Fri 8:30am Cheryl Dietz†
- Sat 5:00pm Gladys Hanchett†
- Sun 7:00am Clemente Bantilan†
9:00am Mass for the People
11:00am Tommy Duncan†
- CHRISTMAS EVE**
5:00pm The McDonnell Family†
10:00pm Joseph Enema-Blessings
- CHRISTMAS DAY**
Mon 7:00am Mass for the People
9:00am The Andrea Family-Blessings
11:00am Bobby Laminen-Healing
Margaret Laminen-Healing
NO 5:00pm MASS



Remember in your Prayers... All expectant Mothers, MeghanBeth Reynolds, Blanche Stetlear, Erin Heneghan, Fr. Jim Poulsen, Bobby Laminen, Margaret Laminen, Sergio Toscano, Lizette Torres, Berta Villanueva, Teresa Climaco Pantig, Lissa Barber, Miguel & Martha Soto, Ricardo & Consuelo Soto, Walter "Chino" & Delia Urteaga, Shuk Family, Dave Sheppard, Andrew Dietsch, Don Rakestraw, Dora Castaneda, Diana Houze, Rita Bongard, Maria Murrieta, Cindy Mendez, Tanya Mendez-Smith, Joseph Green Gonzalez, Vincent Iagmin, Larry Smith, and healing for all suffering from Covid-19... may they find joy in the healing love of Christ.

*Names will remain listed for four weeks.
Please call the Parish Office at 619.465.5334
or email: Info@saintmartinoftours.cc
to add or delete names on the list.*

CLERGY

Rev. Elmer Mandac, Pastor
Rev. Christopher Bongato, Assoc. Pastor
Deacon Allen Rosker
Rev. Alex Aquino (Supply Priest - Retired)
Rev. Jim Poulsen (Supply Priest - Retired)

SACRAMENTS & MINISTRIES updated 12/23

- ALTAR SERVERS:** Jaime Paredes, Coordinator 619-581-0686
Email: STMARTINALTARSERVERS2023@gmail.com
- BAPTISM:** Call Parish Office 619-465-5334 (Pre-baptism seminar required)
- BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY:** Elvira Medina, Coordinator 619-465-5334
or Email: elvira@saintmartinoftours.cc (in office M/Tu/F)
- BIBLE STUDY:** Deacon Al Rosker, Coordinator 619-851-8578
Saturday 9:30am-11:00am Barry Hall
Thursday 6:30pm-8:00pm are on Zoom
Jeff Seaman-Leader, jkseam@outlook.com
- BUILD-A-MIRACLE:** Jerry & MaryJo Crouch, Coordinators
Email: jrcrouch566@cox.net
- CATHOLIC IN RECOVERY (Men's Lust Recovery):** Pete Lesniewski,
Coordinator 847-917-5379 or
Email: Peter.Lesniewski24@gmail.com
- COMMUNITY GARDEN:** Anne Pacheco, Coordinator 619-466-3241
- CONFIRMATION:** Helen Deen, Youth Ministry Director
619-698-3180 or Email: helend@saintmartinoftours.cc
- CULTURE OF LIFE:** Cheri Hubka Sparhawk, Coordinator 619-459-3002
- EUCCHARIST to the HOMEBOUND:**
Deacon Al Rosker, Coordinator 619-465-5334
- EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS:** Toni Dimuzio, Coordinator
619-286-1877 or Email: ajdimuzio@cox.net
- FAITH FORMATION:** Lisa Zickert, Director 619-698-8434 or
Email: lisaz@saintmartinoftours.cc (Ages: 4y—6th Grade)
- FOOD ASSISTANCE:** Richard Zasueta, Coordinator
619-726-7618 OPEN TUE-THU 10:00am-12:00pm
- KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS:** Chris Warner, Grand Knight 619-884-0532
Email: gkchriswarner14550@gmail.com
- LECTORS:** Donna Tripi, Coordinator Email: tripidonna@gmail.com
- MEN'S MINISTRY:** Chris Bartel, Coordinator -That Man is You
619-971-7321 or Email: chrisbartelfenway@outlook.com
- MUSIC MINISTRY:** Frances Cavanaugh, Choir Director
619-490-9062 or Email: stmartinoftourschoir@gmail.com
Saturday 5:00pm with Cantor & Organist
Sunday 9:00am & 11:00am with Cantor & Organist
- OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation for Adults)**
- OCIC (Order of Christian Initiation for Children)**
Christine Davis, Director 619-465-5334, ext# 307
or Email: chris@saintmartinoftours.cc
- SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION FOR FIRST EUCHARIST and RECONCILIATION:**
Lisa Zickert, Faith Formation Director 619-698-8434
or Email: lisaz@saintmartinoftours.cc
- SCOUTS BSA (Cubs and Troop 51):** Mitzi Elsten
619-889-6003 or Email: jointroop51lamesa@gmail.com
- WEDDINGS:** Parish Office at 619-465-5334
- WOMEN OF FAITH:** MaryMargaret Kissel, Coordinator
619-698-4845
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY:** Lisa Zickert, Coordinator
Walking With Purpose 619-698-8434
or Email: lisaz@saintmartinoftours.cc
- YOUTH MINISTRY:** Helen Deen, Director 619-698-3180
or Email: helend@saintmartinoftours.cc
Junior High (7th and 8th Grade)
High School (9th and 12th Grade)



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to have a poinsettia placed at the altar for Christmas in memory of or in honor of a family member or friend, complete this form

or use the envelope sent with your Sunday collection envelopes and return it to the parish office by Monday, December 18, 2023. *Poinsettias are \$15 each. We have ordered 100 and will receive offerings until they are sold out.*

Name of donor: _____

In Memory of _____
or

In Honor of: _____



CHRISTMAS CARDS!

The Knights of Columbus will be selling, Christmas Cards and other items, after all Masses, this weekend, in the Gathering Plaza.

SAN DIEGO YOUNG ADULT AND ADULT COMMUNITY

Please go to www.sandiegocac.org, to learn more about activities and a social network for adult Catholics: College Age, Young Adults: 20s & 30s, Adults: 40s & 50s and Active Adults 60+.

**EL CAJON DEANERY
Advent 2023 - Penance Services**

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	Mon, Dec 18	10:00am
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Lakeside	Mon, Dec 18	7:00pm
Our Lady of Grace, El Cajon	Tue, Dec 19	7:00pm

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Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.

Our Gifts to God and Parish

We are grateful to you for your presence, your participation, and your financial support of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Parish.

November 25-26, 2023

Sunday Collection:	\$ 8,897.00
Weekly Sunday Mail-in Envelopes:	\$ 4,279.00
Sunday E-Giving (11/20-11/26):	\$ 1,914.27
TOTAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:	\$15,090.27

Our church uses Vanco Payment Solutions for secure online giving. Donate by visiting our website or by scanning the QR code with your smartphone camera! It's the easiest & most secure way to give to our church and it's ministries!

You can make one-time donations or you can set up automatic, recurring giving!



EFFECTS

The effect of our sharing in the body and blood of Christ is to change us into what we receive.

—Pope Saint Leo the Great

BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS must be requested in advance, at least two (2) weeks or more, prior to the desired Sunday. Please send requests via email to

info@saintmartinoftours.cc.

All submissions are subject to approval.

KEEPING FAMILY RECORDS UP TO DATE!

If any of your personal information has changed, please update it by making the changes in your offering envelope or calling the Parish Office at 619.465.5334. It is important that we keep our family records up to date.



U.S. Dept. of Education Green Ribbon School 2022
stmartinacademy.org
December 17, 2023

Preparing Students to Become
Engaged Citizens of the World

The Season of Advent

The Advent season is upon us. We begin a special time of waiting, as we prepare to receive the gift of Jesus born on Christmas day. When it was time for Jesus to be born, there was no room at the inn. During this busy time of year, we must

remember to make room for Jesus in our hearts. St. Nicholas' elves continued a memorable tradition on the Feast of St. Nicholas delivering a candy cane into each child's shoe without being seen. Students left one shoe outside classrooms while younger students eagerly waited to hear jingle bells to know it was time to venture outside.



Alumni News

Jelissa Hansen, Class of 2016 is featured as our Alum of the Month for December. Jillian Nowicki and Melissa Wilfhart, Class of 2020 were featured in Women in Sports Edition in an Academy of Our Lady of Our Lady of Peace publication. Go to: www.stmartinoftoursacademy.org/alumni to read the articles. If you are a graduate and would like to share your special memories and accomplishments, call or email the school office at info51@stmartinacademy.org. We would love to hear from you!

ALUMNI NEWS
DECEMBER 2023

Jelissa Hansen
Class of 2016



After graduating from SMA in 2016, I embarked on a new endeavor at Steele Canyon High School. I was active in every avenue of the school from athletics to student leadership, all things I did at SMA as well. This place helped me discover my passion for health and wellness and find a voice for myself as I continue to grow.



Unfortunately, my senior year experience was cut short due to COVID-19, yet this was not the end. I graduated from SCHS in an unconventional, but memorable way with my family by my side and welcomed the new chapter in Phoenix, AZ. I went on to attend Grand Canyon University where I am currently a senior studying Nutritional Sciences. I served on the Associated Students of CU for the last 2 years and have been a fitness instructor for the last 2. As my time here ends, however, I plan to return to San Diego, take a gap year, and apply to Physician Assistant school.



Saint Martin's will forever be a place I hold near and dear to my heart. Memories from this place continue to be remembered even now. 6 years later, one fond memory was in third grade when my classmates and I were fascinated with the idea of performing plays for our teacher and the rest of our class. We had created "Mouse Trap," don't ask me what this was about nor who played what, but let me tell you this was a hit. So much so, that we went to fourth grade and created College Kids. Life at College. Now that I am in college, it is safe to say nothing we imagined was happening. Nonetheless, SMA is a part of my story and is a place that will forever be in my heart.



THE POWER OF WOMEN IN SPORTS
BY JILLIAN NOWICKI '24



PERSONAL STORY
I have been playing basketball since I was 10. I remember the first time I stepped onto the court, the excitement, the adrenaline, the feeling of being part of a team. It was a moment that changed my perspective on myself and my abilities. Basketball became more than just a sport; it became a passion, a way of life. It taught me discipline, teamwork, and the importance of hard work. Through the years, I have seen my skills improve, my confidence grow, and my love for the game deepen. It's not just about the game itself, but about the people you meet along the way. The coaches, the teammates, the friends who become family. It's about the memories that are made on the court and the lessons that are learned off it. Basketball has shaped me into the person I am today, and I am grateful for every moment spent on the court.

PERSONAL STORY
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BALANCING ATHLETE AND LIFE
BY KARISSA WILSHIRE '24



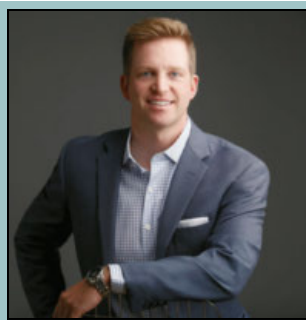
One of the greatest joys of being an athlete is the healthy competition. You never see it in your practice, but you see it in the arena. You see it in the way you push yourself, in the way you give your all, in the way you strive for excellence. It's a feeling that is hard to describe, but it's one that is worth the effort. It's a feeling that is worth the sacrifice, that is worth the hard work, that is worth the dedication. It's a feeling that is worth the struggle, that is worth the pain, that is worth the tears. It's a feeling that is worth the wait, that is worth the long hours, that is worth the late nights. It's a feeling that is worth the risk, that is worth the uncertainty, that is worth the doubt. It's a feeling that is worth the everything, that is worth the nothing, that is worth the all.

PERSONAL STORY
I have been playing basketball since I was 10. I remember the first time I stepped onto the court, the excitement, the adrenaline, the feeling of being part of a team. It was a moment that changed my perspective on myself and my abilities. Basketball became more than just a sport; it became a passion, a way of life. It taught me discipline, teamwork, and the importance of hard work. Through the years, I have seen my skills improve, my confidence grow, and my love for the game deepen. It's not just about the game itself, but about the people you meet along the way. The coaches, the teammates, the friends who become family. It's about the memories that are made on the court and the lessons that are learned off it. Basketball has shaped me into the person I am today, and I am grateful for every moment spent on the court.



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JAMES S. IAGMIN
Trial Lawyer

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