



ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

20870 VENTURA BLVD., WOODLAND HILLS, CA | 818.340.6020 | WWW.STMELPARISH.ORG

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

THE HOLY FAMILY



He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Families can be very difficult things to negotiate. This is true not only of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our Church, our society, and our global family as well. Everything human can be found in family stories. Those stories speak of wonderful life-giving successes as well as painful spirit-robbing abuses. Our greatest joys and our greatest wounds are usually connected with the experience of family. Our needs, experiences, and unresolved baggage often color what we bring to our familiar relationships. They contribute to our level of defensiveness, how guarded and protected we become, and what prejudices we believe.

In order to break the cycle of dysfunction we have to remember that it is not only by human effort that we negotiate the difficult and challenging events of our lives. There is a Divine Effort at work as well. For sure, the human effort can create quite a mess and easily destroy lives. This is true of any family with which we are associated. Today's Feast of the Holy Family serves to help us understand that there is a Divine Story being told as well. It is a story of perseverance in the face of hardship, determination in the face of despair, healing when we see nothing but wounds, and light where there is darkness.

Do we believe that God is always working, guiding, restoring, and leading? Unless we do, we will never be free from the imperfections and wounds that bind us and never be able to understand what it really means

to forgive. Pope Francis tells us that the "light which comes from the Holy Family encourages us to offer human warmth to other families." While this is most certainly true, we can only really begin to do this when we realize that we are still works in progress, not anchored to the wounds and sins of our past, and still a leading star in God's continually unfolding story of love. The Holy Family persevered and radiated warmth because they knew they were not alone. We can too.

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Pastor: Rev. Steve Davoren
Senior Priest: Rev. Vivian Ben Lima
Associate Pastor: Rev. Francis Kim
Deacon: Dn. Brian Conroy



St. Mel on Social Media
Instagram: StMel_WoodlandHills
Facebook: SaintMelParish
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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil
5:00 p.m.

Sunday
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 noon
5:00 p.m.

Weekdays
8:15 a.m.
5:30 p.m.

Or view online on **Facebook**
or www.bit.ly/StMelTV

RECONCILIATION

Monday — Friday
4:45 — 5:15 p.m.

Saturday
9:00 — 9:30 a.m.
and
3:45 — 4:45 p.m.

Parish Center Hours:
Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please call us at
(818) 340-6020.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, December 26

8:00	Bonifacio Nakpil, Jr.	✝
10:00	Edmundo Azarraga	✝
Noon	Bright Omoruyi	✝
5:00	Giordano M. Bruno	✝

Monday, December 27

8:15	Adrian Urias
5:30	Joanne Roth

Tuesday, December 28

8:15	Candelaria Casero	✝
5:30	Miriam Aquino	✝

Wednesday, December 29

8:15	Mary Jhane Esguerra	✝
5:30	Lourdes Rivilla	

Thursday, December 30

8:15	Jonathan Gross	✝
5:30	Elaine Wolf	✝

Friday, December 31

8:15	Louise Barche	✝
5:30	Honorio Lacson	✝

Saturday, January 1

9:00	The People of St. Mel Parish
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Pray for Our Beloved Deceased

In your Masses and prayers during the week please remember the repose of the souls of our deceased parishioners and loved ones.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Every Tuesday evening at 7:00
in the school faculty lounge.

All are welcome.

For more information,

contact Will Ross:

wilfordrossiii@gmail.com.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading

"I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD." (1 Sm 1:27-28)

Psalm

Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord. (Ps 84)

Second Reading

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. And so we are. (1 Jn 3:1)

Gospel

After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. (Lk 2:46)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40

Friday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/Jn 1:1-18

Saturday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



Happy new year.

Under the gaze of our Lord Jesus, may 2022 usher in a new era of kindness, understanding, cooperation and love. May God's grace flow upon you and bestow upon each of you a peaceful, safe and healthy new year.

December 26, 2021



Feast of the Holy Family



ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you a practicing Catholic adult who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Are you simply interested in learning more about the Catholic faith? You are welcome to join us!

For information please contact Monica Matthews, our Director of Evangelization, by phone at (818) 340-6020 ext. 1026, or email: MMatthews@stmel.org

This weekly program will begin in February and will meet on Tuesday nights in the Parish Center.

If you want to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, a copy of your Baptismal Certificate and First Communion certificate are required.

CELEBRATE A HOME MASS

BUILDING THE FAMILY AROUND THE ALTAR OF GOD IN THE INTIMACY OF YOUR HOME

Sign up to be a host and invite family and friends to your home to ring in the new year by celebrating the mystery and power of the Mass.

The evening (or late morning) includes a volunteer pot-luck meal for continued fellowship.

If you are unable to host, we would be happy to assign you a celebration close to you.

Scan the QR code below for more information, instructions and guidelines for hosting a the Mass in your own home.



INFANT BAPTISMS

St. Mel Parish prayerfully welcomes and supports young families as they bring their infants and young children to the sacrament of Baptism. Parents must be registered members of the parish, and attend one parent/godparent baptism preparation class. Our next class is on Monday, January 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. You must call ahead to register for a class.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact **Genevieve LaVoie** in the Baptism Ministry Office at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1022, or at GLaVoie@stmel.org for further information or to set up an appointment.



... quotable ...



Go to the Lord very simply - with the surrender of a small child.
- St. Peter Julian Eymard





WHAT IS THIS SYNOD IN OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH?

WHAT DOES THE SYNOD HOLD FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Please join the GLO Ministry at St. Mel for an evening of education and learning about the synodal process. Learn how we can continue to share in the joy of knowing Jesus as we participate in the Synod.

January 23, 2022 following the 5:00 Mass.

Our meeting will be held in the Auditorium. Light refreshments will be served.



St Mel's GLO Ministry is a fellowship ministry for the LGBTQ community and its allies where we share a vision of diversity and offer support on a spiritual faith journey.

For more information contact Tom Keep 310-403-0804

Tax-Wise Year End Giving Options

Gifts from an IRA

If you are 70 ½ or older, you can make a tax-free gift directly from your IRA account to the parish. This law allows you to transfer any amount up to \$100,000 annually directly to a qualified charitable organization without paying income tax on the distribution. The transfer does not generate taxable income or a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions. Your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

Gifts of Stock

Gifts of appreciated assets such as stock are an excellent way for you to make a charitable gift.

Stocks may be transferred directly to the Archdiocese for the benefit of parish, school or favorite Catholic ministry. These gifts will not affect your cash flow, and they provide the following tax benefits:

- A possible charitable deduction to help you save on taxes
- Bypass of federal and state capital gains taxes
- Avoidance of the tax on net investment income

From a tax perspective, a gift of appreciated assets makes good sense. You can make the capital gains taxes optional, achieve significant tax savings and support our programs.

Have you remembered your parish, school or ministry in your will or trust? Our legal title is The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, A Corporation Sole, for the Benefit of (parish, school, ministry). For more information, please call the parish office at (818) 340-6020.



For your family, a new year can present fresh opportunities, but it may also bring new challenges. The same is true for the parish. Why not help your parish prepare for whatever the new year may bring by signing up with Faith Direct? By supporting St. Mel Church both you and our parish can save some time and peace of mind this holiday season.

Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: CA942, or text the word ENROLL to (818) 214-7270.

Already using Faith Direct? Log in to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account, or text a dollar amount to (818) 214-7270 to make a one-time gift today!

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

With love,

Rev. Steve Davoren

December 26, 2021



Feast of the Holy Family

SMALL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

HOME BLESSINGS

St. Mel has several small communities of adults that meet once a month to reflect, share, and grow closer to Christ together. This is a great way to connect with others on the journey of faith. We have groups meeting Monday through Saturday, in person and on Zoom for Dads, Moms, Young Adults, Seniors, and more!

Sign-up to have your home blessed at: bit.ly/StMelHomeBlessing

Whether you're single, a couple or any size family - in a house, an apartment or whatever dwelling you call "home," let us come to bless your sacred space.

For more info, watch St. Mel Moment #141: <https://vimeo.com/455978010>

To sign up or start your own group, contact **Monica Matthews** at MMatthews@stmel.org or 818-340-6020 ext 1026.

All in the Family

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi



LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

It was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Our families can bring out the best and the worst in us. This is true of our families of origin, the current family of which we are a part, the family of our church, our society, and the like. In all of our family experiences, what stands out as our most challenging memory? Everything human can be found on the pages of family life. But there is also a Divine story to be discovered as well. When life gets difficult and perplexing, today's Feast of the Holy Family stands to remind us that it is not just by human effort that we tread treacherous waters. We have to remember and learn from the Divine effort too. We need this perspective if our love lessons are going to be learned completely and well. We are all works in progress and we all come from homes that are broken by imperfection. In whatever life brings us and in whatever family we find ourselves, may the promptings we feel toward faith and hope lead us to greater love.

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SILENT ADORATION

Our church is open every weekday afternoon from **4:00 to 5:00** for silent adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

We invite you to spend some quiet time with Jesus every day — whether it's just for a few minutes or the full hour.

All are welcome.

ST. MEL MOMENTS

Be sure to check out our **St. Mel Moments** – a brief daily opportunity to step away from the stress and the fear – to step back, breathe and ground ourselves in faith.

St. Mel Moments can be found at www.vimeo.com/stmel as well as our **Instagram** and **Facebook** feeds.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Every Sunday at the **10:00 a.m. Mass**, all kids from grades 1 through 3 are invited to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word.

Our wonderful Children's Liturgy leaders escort the group to the Parish Center to take a look at that week's scripture message in a way that is especially meaningful for young children.



PLEASE JOIN US!

DID YOU KNOW?

Check Christmas presents for button batteries

Many parents will be spending the next few days and weeks assembling (and reassembling) their children's gifts, and it's important to be on the lookout for potential hazards, including button batteries. Button batteries are small, round discs used in anything from toys to key fobs to watches. If these batteries end up being swallowed or placed in a child's nose or ears, they can cause serious damage — from electrical currents to tissue burns. Keep an eye on the power sources for the toys your children get this Christmas, and consider taking extra safety measures for anything with a button battery.

For more information, visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/button-batteries>.

BAGS IN THE BASKET

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

Please take a paper bag from the baskets near the entrances and return it with your donation of *nonperishable* food for the Guadalupe Center. We require donations of only nonperishable items as the food is only picked up once a week and it's a shame to see some of it go bad before we can get it to those it is intended to feed.

This is an important and ongoing opportunity for all of us to help the needy of our community. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.

Guadalupe Community Center

21600 Hart Street, Canoga Park, 91303.
(213) 251-3549



Please join us in the Auditorium after the morning Masses for "Friendship Sunday" — donuts, coffee, juice and, of course, friendly conversation with your St. Mel family.

If you and your family, friends or organization would like an opportunity to host some Sunday morning, please contact **Susann Lichel**:

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

(818) 261-0043
slichtel@stmel.org

December 26, 2021



Feast of the Holy Family

A GRACIOUS "THANK YOU" TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. MEL



December 8, 2021

ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
20370 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

<stmelparish.org>

Dear Friends,

This letter is sent to acknowledge your Food Drive *contribution on November 22nd of food (est. 3,000 lbs.)* for distribution to clients of the West Valley Food Pantry. Your consideration for the needs of others is heartwarming, exemplary, and most appreciated. Thank you.

Founded in 1985, the West Valley Food Pantry, is a member of an interfaith, community-supported coalition, that provides aid to the indigent in an area encompassing twelve Zip codes in the West San Fernando Valley. Included among the recipients are the unemployed, the homeless, the working poor, those living on a fixed income, and many of the victims devastated by the natural disasters in this region, as well as those adversely affected by the COVID pandemic. It is the dedicated mission of the WVFP to be a ready resource during these ever-increasing times of stress and hardship.

Good deeds done in the here and now bring hope for a better tomorrow. It is with the ongoing support of caring people, who underwrite the West Valley Food Pantry with contributions of food, goods and/or monetary donations that the WVFP is enabled to provide much-needed assistance to those less fortunate. Your participation is gratifying, and enables the WVFP to remain a beacon of hope, as it strives to fulfill this worthy purpose. It is when we share our blessings that our lives are further enriched.

In behalf of the West Valley Food Pantry Staff, volunteers and clients, we extend warm wishes to you for an especially meaningful holiday season, abundantly blessed throughout the New Year.

Sincerely,

WEST VALLEY FOOD PANTRY

Tedi Mae Tortolano, Volunteer

West Valley Food Pantry is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization (Tax ID. #95-3349988). As no goods or services were exchanged for your donation, the entire amount may be tax-deductible.

St. Mel Parish
20870 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

PARISH SERVICE

Pastoral Council: Sheryl Alzona (818) 340-6020, x3022
 Finance Council: James Hallissy (818) 621-5799

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Servers: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
 Altar Society: Catherine Ghaffari (Linens) (818) 398-7403
 Church Environment: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
 Eucharistic Ministers: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
 Lectors: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
 Hospitality: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
 MultiMedia Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1028
 Music Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1028
 Sacristans: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025

PERSONAL GROWTH/SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT/SACRAMENTS FOR ADULTS

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults & Adult Confirmation: Monica Matthews (818) 340-6020, x1026
 Saints Among Us — Special Needs Ministry: Jenni Porter (818) 518-6973
 Knights of Columbus: Tito Montero (310) 923-6399
 Men's Group: Joe Sukitch (818) 225-1546
 Heart Filled Toastmasters: Christopher Hogan Toastmasters@stmel.org (818) 212-1508
 Partners in Prayer: Susie Screbant (818) 348-8386
 Legion of Mary: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
 Young Adult Legion of Mary: Lourdes Curley (310) 367-7320
 Rosary Ministry & Eucharist Adoration Coordinator: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
 Theresians: Maty Goodman (818) 591-3035
 Contemplative Prayer: Michelle Waters (310) 489-0253
 Women of Grace: Monica Matthews (818) 340-6020
 GLO LGBT Outreach & Ministry: Tom Keep TomKeep@sbcglobal.net (310) 403-0804

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Baptism Preparation: Genevieve LaVoie GLaVoie@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1020
 Teen Confirmation: Bryan Villegas bvillegas@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1043
 Children's Faith Formation and Sacrament Prep., PreK-8
 Sunday Preschool/Ages 3-5 during 10:00 a.m. Mass
 Vacation Bible School: Lisa Feliciano lfeliciano@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1022
 Ministry of Moms Sharing (M.O.M.S. Group) : Yazmin Pace Yazmin@lmmsolutions.com
 Parish Swim Team: Andrea McIntyre stmelsswim@gmail.com (310) 849-6928

CARING MINISTRIES



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 Parishioner at St. Mel**

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www.stmelparish.org

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St. Mel Catholic Church, Woodland Hills, CA

A 4C 05-1021



Beginner's Christian Meditation Class

Who:

Anyone interested in knowing and practicing meditation as found in the Christian tradition.

What:

Introductory course on Christian Meditation led by Fr. Francis Kim.

Where:

St. Mel School Library

When:

Saturdays, January 8 — February 12, 2022.
9:45 — 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided.

Why:

Because you're interested!

And ... science has begun to discover the many neurological and physical benefits of the ancient practice of meditation found in various religious traditions. These discoveries, however, are not fully realized if it limits itself to just the mental and physical dimensions of meditation. Over the course of six weeks, we'll learn more about a form of meditation found in Christianity and practice it together.

Cost:

\$30 (Two for \$50, so bring your spouse or friend!)
Includes Meditation Guide book.

To register, contact Genevieve Lane: vievelane@gmail.com