



ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 2022

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Epiphany of the Lord

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis references a thought from Pope Benedict XVI: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." Today we celebrate an encounter with the Person of Jesus Christ! This simple but holy event in time dramatically changes human life, pointing it toward a new horizon and giving it a decisive direction. This is a message and truth that is not meant to be shared with only a select few who qualify but with the entire world. Pope Francis continues saying, "Thanks solely to this encounter or renewed encounter with God's love, which blossoms into an enriching friendship, we are liberated from our narrowness and self-absorption. We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being."

Look around at people. Where is life heading for them? What gives them direction? Even we who are people of faith can get distracted and lose our focus. God, in all of His fullness, is revealed in Jesus Christ and we can encounter Him! God is tangible, real, vulnerable, poor, and full of wonders, surprises, and opportunities. For those who are struggling and lost, today is a day of great joy. All they have to do is reach out and touch the truth of Christ. This presence is revealed in the poor, exploited, and vulnerable ones who cry out for compassion and love. But it is also found in the faithful ones who see in the Epiphany of God a liberation from structures and systems that hurt us, a narrowness of

mind and heart that constricts us, and an absorption in our self-agenda that prevents us from seeing anything other than ourselves as important.

We have been given the charge of preaching this Good News. If only we could find a way to be more effective, it might stand a chance of doing what God intended it to do. There is always tomorrow and our memory of that bright new light that shone so brilliantly that Bethlehem night pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPi



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
Twitter: @SaintMelParish

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.

FAITH DIRECT®
inspiring secure giving®

Our Text-To-Give service allows you to securely make a gift to St. Mel with a simple text message.

Text a dollar amount to give today!
Text "Enroll" to keep giving!

(818) 214-7270

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 1

5:00 Jay Lariosa †

Sunday, January 2

8:00 Gilbert Francisco †

10:00 Victor Vargas †

Noon Sandra Scully †

5:00 Redemcion Camu †

Monday, January 3

8:15 Sandra Scully †

5:30 Bobby Shelven †

Tuesday, January 4

8:15 Joe Rock †

5:30 Norman Bone †

Wednesday, January 5

8:15 Esperanza Peterka †

5:30 Luis Valderrama †

Thursday, January 6

8:15 Serafina Lugo †

5:30 Barbara Buttcher †

Friday, January 7

8:15 Robert Carney †

5:30 Peter Boyd †

Saturday, January 8

8:15 Gretta Harrison †

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

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading

It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. (Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday 1 Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday: 1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday: 1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52

Thursday: 1 Jn 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/Lk 4:14-22a

Friday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/
Jn 3:22-30

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22



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.

January 2, 2022



The Epiphany of the Lord

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.



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.



Synod
2021
2023

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

... quotable ...

“

Each small task of everyday life is part of the harmony of the universe.
– St. Therese of Lisieux

”



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:

John Paul II Room (Upstairs in the parish center)

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

January 2, 2022



The Epiphany of the Lord

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 itemized 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.

SMALL COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

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!

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

HOME BLESSINGS

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

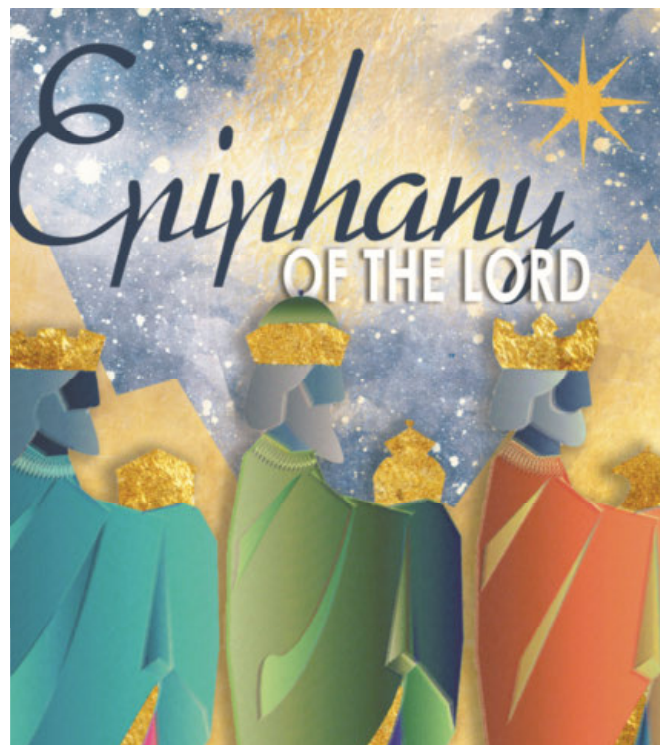
Whether you're single, a couple or any size family - in a house, an apartment or whatever dwelling you call "home," let us come to bless your sacred space.

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

LIVE THE LITURGY: INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Human beings easily get bored. Life's routines can become so predictable that there is often little time for excitement or freshness. Today is all about the new and the wonderful. In celebrating the beauty and simplicity of the Epiphany, we see in tangible ways God's creative, redemptive, and restorative power. This refreshment and revitalization is offered not only to a select few but to everyone throughout the world. There is nothing routine or static about God. Surprises, wonders, miracles, opportunities, healings, and joy without measure are available to those who believe. There are never any endings, just beginnings. And, when darkness, boredom, and gloom seem to be the order of the day, a bright new light now shines pointing us to truth and reminding us that we are loved.

©LPi



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?

How the ADLA can help victim-survivors heal

When the Vatican released the McCarrick Report late last year, many victim-survivors of sexual abuse may have been triggered by the revelations in the report and the repeated mention of it in the news and on social media. In the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry was created to provide a safe and compassionate environment for victim-survivors who need to report abuse to be able to do so, and to receive assistance for healing. For more information about these resources, visit <https://lacatholics.org/departments-ministries/protecting-children/>.

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.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY

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

(818) 261-0043
slichtel@stmel.org

January 2, 2022



The Epiphany of the Lord

January 2, 2022 ❖ The Epiphany of the Lord

Register today and connect with us!

OneLifeLA.org f @ILifeLA

Forward in Hope



CELEBRATING THE BEAUTY AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 2022

- 11 AM Youth and Young Adult Kick-Off Event - Olvera Street
- 12 PM Walk for Life
- 1-4 PM OneLife LA - LA Historic Park
- 5 PM Requiem Mass for the Unborn



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@Immsolutions.com
 Parish Swim Team: Andrea McIntyre stmelswim@gmail.com (310) 849-6928

CARING MINISTRIES

**To Become a Registered
 Parishioner at St. Mel**

call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012
 or register online via our website:
www.stmelparish.org

 **JOSEPH P SCIARRA**
 PEDIATRIC & FAMILY DENTIST
 PARISHIONER
 22554 Ventura Blvd., Ste. 102
 Woodland Hills, CA 91364
 818-224-2970
 WWW.JOSEPHOSCIARRADDS.COM



support our
ADVERTISERS

Jim's
Fallbrook Market

Meat • Groceries
 Produce • Ice • Keg Beer

FRESH FISH

COUNTER

5947 Fallbrook
 347-5525

WE'RE HIRING

AD SALES EXECUTIVES

**BE YOURSELF. BRING YOUR PASSION.
 WORK WITH PURPOSE.**

- Paid Training
- Some Travel
- Work-Life Balance
- Full-Time with Benefits
- Serve Your Community




 Contact us at careers@4lpi.com
www.4lpi.com/careers

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection
 From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



 Authorized Provider

SafeStreets

1-855-225-4251

We've Missed You!
 Welcome Back to Mass



Stay connected to our faith community no matter where you are
 by signing up to get our bulletin delivered straight to your email!

www.ParishesOnline.com

STAND OUT

with a PREMIUM DIGITAL AD
 on PARISHESONLINE.COM



CONTACT US AT 800-950-9952



FAIRWINDS

WEST HILLS

It's More Than Retirement. It's Five-Star Fun.

8138 Woodlake Ave • West Hills • (818) 206-9404
www.leisurecare.com • Assisted Living Services Available

 A LEISURE CARE PREMIER COMMUNITY



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Mel Catholic Church, Woodland Hills, CA

B 4C 05-1021



FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1952



818-347-6800

Long Time

St. Mel Parishioner

21936 Ventura Blvd
at Topanga Canyon

Woodland Hills, CA 91364

www.franklinshardware.com



BASTIAN & PERROTT OSWALD MORTUARY

Cremations • Advance Planning

Ed Perrott - FDR-1955 • (818) 886-8600

18728 Parthenia Street, Northridge

Se Habla Español

FD#1198

Aegis Living

GRANADA HILLS

Assisted Living | Memory Care

818-363-3373

RCFE# 197603894



LAW OFFICES OF
JASON J. SCHWARTZ

RELIABLE.
AFFORDABLE.
DEDICATED.

Probate
Wills & Trusts
Immigration
Accidents

20812 Ventura Blvd.,
Ste. 109

Woodland Hills

(Next to St. Mel's,
inside Law22)

818-851-1404

www.jjschwartzlaw.com

GROW YOUR BUSINESS WHILE
SUPPORTING YOUR LOCAL PARISH.



Purchase a bulletin ad today!

NEED AN ELECTRICIAN?



The Old House

Wiring Specialist!

818.533.1975

\$25 OFF

Local
Parishioner

Lic 600983



818-646-1771

aichc.org

AVAILABLE FOR
A LIMITED TIME!
ADVERTISE HERE NOW!

Contact **John Lascor**
to place an ad today!
jlascor@4LPi.com
or (800) 950-9952 x5878



BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HomeServices

California Properties

23925 Park Sorrento
Calabasas, CA 91302

Paul Ferreccio – Realtor® | (818) 469-4384 DRE# 01099719

Joanie Louis – Realtor® | (818) 425-8516 DRE# 01362422

Fluent in Spanish | M.A. International Business | St. Mel Parent Alumni & Parishioner | Louisville Alumni | Crespi, Chaminade Parent Alumni

joanielouis@bhhsca.com



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Mel Catholic Church, Woodland Hills, CA

A 4C 05-1021

FINANCIAL *Peace*
UNIVERSITY

IT'S TIME TO TAKE *Financial* PEACE!

Join the millions who never worry about money!

Dave Ramsey and his team of financial experts will teach you how to beat debt and build wealth with the most powerful tool there is . . . your income.

Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University

is coming to St. Mel for nine weeks
beginning Thursday, January 20!

You CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future.

Visit <https://www.fpu.com/1145041> to sign up.

If you're interested in learning more about the class, email parishioners Brian and Aimee Ostick at bostick30@gmail.com.

Classes begin: **January 20, 2020**