



ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. - Lk 3:21-22a

GOSPEL REFLECTION

The Baptism of the Lord

"We are called to live our baptism every day, as new creatures, clothed in Christ." — Pope Francis

What reference point do you use when making decisions? Many times, impulse takes control and decisions are made based solely on emotion and desire. We all know that these types of decisions can often get us into trouble. When a person has a confident sense of who they are and a real understanding of what is important and of value, the likelihood of kneejerk impulsive choices diminishes. Baptism gives us what we need to make well informed and purposeful decisions. By this simple gesture, God claims us as His own and provides us with the identity and purpose we need to properly live life.

It is tremendously reassuring, when we truly embrace this revelation and realize that we no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. The answer of who we are in God has been given to us. We no longer have to fumble around, trip over ourselves or walk aimlessly about. Issues surrounding the sacredness of life, the meaning of death, the protection of those most vulnerable, care for the weak and the poor, offering hospitality to those in search of a home, the purpose and proper place of work, how to create a just social order, caring for creation, and understanding our roles as heralds and stewards are just a few of the wonderful gifts baptism brings. When we make decisions based on things such as these core Gospel truths we really act as Christ himself, revealing to others the new creations that we are. This is how we live our baptism.

It is difficult to walk against the tide. Yet, that is precisely what baptism calls us to do. Although we are sinners, in need of mercy and far from perfection we are called to order our life and make decisions based upon the wisdom and guidance of Almighty God. He alone is the one who can claim us as His sons and daughters. Standing up for our principles will not make us popular. But who ever said Christianity is a popularity contest? Baptism calls us to stand up for that which goes against the grain of secularism. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor to steady us in the tempests of life and God is very pleased. Forge ahead. There is nothing to fear.

©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
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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

Saturday, January 8

5:00 Vicente Denoga †

Sunday, January 9

8:00 Trinidad Gomez †

10:00 Fr. Steve Davoren

Noon Milagros Veronica Pozo Delgado †

5:00 Bienvenido Gomez †

Monday, January 10

8:15 Margaret Boyd †

5:30 Patrocinia Mendiola †

Tuesday, January 11

8:15 Carmelia Fitzpatrick

5:30 Priscila Reyes †

Wednesday, January 12

8:15 Armando Tarrosa

5:30 Kerry Ann Caswell

Thursday, January 13

8:15 Jim Mole †

5:30 Marvelito Unite †

Friday, January 14

8:15 Carmel Prendergast †

5:30 Norman Franzen †

Saturday, January 15

8:15 Alice Veszelszky †

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

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. (40:5)

Psalm

O bless the Lord, my soul. (Ps 104)

Second Reading

He saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. (Ti 3:5)

Gospel

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. (Lk 3:22)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday 1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 2:13-17

Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 [3]/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11



January 9, 2022



The Baptism of the Lord



A Christmas Thank You to Liturgical Ministers

Our parish is so very blessed by hearts and hands that serve in so many different ministries (not only at Christmas, but all year long.) We pray that you all enjoyed a joyful and meaningful Christmas season with your families and we thank you for another year of dedication and service to the St. Mel community.

It takes a village to bring "Christmas" to our community, and particularly we thank all of our Christmas Sacristans and eucharistic ministers (including some who served several mass times) for your love of ministry.

Thanks as well to our shepherds, drummer guys, angels, Marys, and Josephs — all Christmas Eve — for bringing the joy and love of His birth to the Mass (and, of course, to Santa for dropping by with candy canes.)

To our Environment team: for hours-upon-hours of planning, creating, setting up and taking down. St. Mel has never looked so beautiful and peaceful. After the Baptism of the Lord, the creche returns to safe storage, the choir angels return to the basement and all the trees, greenery, swags, and wreaths return to their boxes for another year. Your dedication to this ministry is inspiring all year long.

From our hearts, thank you!

— *Kerry Edwards*
St. Mel Liturgy Coordinator



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* ...

When you try, God is there and you get the grace you need to get you through.
— Sr. Helen Prejean



VIRTUAL NOVENA, ROSARY PRAYER
and
SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST
AT ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
in honor of the
HOLY INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE



*A Veneration of Our
Lord's Sacred Infancy.*

January 9, 2022



The Baptism of the Lord

Sponsored by:
The Filipino American Community of St. Mel Parish
Contact: Millete Cruz at (818) 571-1813 or Jazz Gaite at (818) 645-0796

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 potluck 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.



CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

For most of us, our lives have become increasingly busy and oftentimes, overwhelming. Striking a balance feels illusive. Contemplative prayer, the oldest expression of prayer, is a path towards the order, balance and harmony God intended. All we need to do is show up empty handed and open hearted. If this is a practice you would like to attend, we would love you to join us for two 20 minute periods of silent prayer in the intimate St. Mel Convent Chapel. At the end of the hour, we will close with "Our Father" and you will receive reflection questions for your own personal "at home" meditation.

The Second and Fourth Monday Evening of Each Month.

Facemasks are REQUIRED until further notice.

Monday, January 10
7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
St. Mel Convent Chapel

For further information, please call **Michelle Waters** at (310) 489-0253.



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.

I HOPE I AM LIKE HIM

"Who is this Christ? Is he like you?"

Perhaps you've heard this story, often attributed to the life of St. Teresa of Calcutta. A sick man asked her this question, as he marveled at her tireless service to himself and others in the name of someone named Jesus Christ.

"He is nothing like me," the saint is said to have answered. "But I hope I am like him."

Though the authenticity of this exchange cannot be verified, its message rings perfectly true: all the value of our stewardship lies in its relativity to the one in whose name we perform it.

Consider the figure of John the Baptist — a magnificent, towering character even purely from a literary or historical perspective. A martyr who fed on wild locusts and boldly spoke truth to power — a man so great some mistook him for the Messiah.

But why is he great? Because he prepared the way. All his accomplishments and escapades mean nothing if they are taken out of the context of salvation history. He only makes sense relative to Christ — and this is exactly as he wanted it. "One worthier than I is coming," he insists. And because of that humility and that total embrace of God's will, he is given one of the greatest honors in the New Testament — he baptizes the Son of God.

Let's examine our lives in the light of their relativity to Christ. How do we prepare the way? When Christ comes to us, what do we do? How do we leave ourselves open to be actors in God's plan?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi

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.

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.

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>

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Why it is so important to tell the truth

As parents, we teach our children that the truth is important. In fact, the truth is a critical part of the healing process for victim-survivors of abuse. When a victim-survivor tells the truth about abuse that has happened to him or her, it robs the secret of its power and begins to break down any fear surrounding it. This helps a victim-survivor on the path to being free from the effects of abuse and enables the church and other institutions to take appropriate action to keep others safe. For more information about the importance of truth-telling, visit <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

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 Lichtel**:

(818) 261-0043
slichtel@stmel.org

January 9, 2022



The Baptism of the Lord

January 9, 2022 ❖ The Baptism 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: Anselm Varni (818) 346-8874
 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) 224-3221
 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

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

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

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St. Mel Catholic Church, Woodland Hills, CA

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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**