



ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022

2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." - Jn 2:1-3

GOSPEL REFLECTION

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

God delights in you.

How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

©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.

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 15

5:00 Imelda Denoga

Sunday, January 16

8:00 John Campbell †

10:00 Marge Driscoll †

Noon Michael Bifulco †

5:00 The People of St. Mel

Monday, January 17

8:15 Daniel Penney

5:30 Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. †

Tuesday, January 18

8:15 Ita Hamill †

5:30 Dmitry Shulzhenko

Wednesday, January 19

8:15 Jim Nell †

5:30 Joyce Evelyn Rogers †

Thursday, January 20

8:15 Thomas Crosson †

5:30 Dr. Ray Rivera

Friday, January 21

8:15 Kathleen McGuffin †

5:30 Oscar & Leonard Barrios †

Saturday, January 22

8:15 Rosenda Begazo †

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

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

Psalm

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

Second Reading

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:11)

Gospel

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

READINGS for the WEEK

Monday 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/ Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

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. 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.

Now offered **EVERY Monday Evening** of Each Month.

Facemasks are **REQUIRED** until further notice.

Monday, January 17

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

St. Mel Convent Chapel

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

January 16, 2022



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Due to an unfortunate mistake by our bulletin editor, last week's edition included an incomplete version of Kerry Edwards's "Thank You" note.

The following is Kerry's original message, in its entirety.

We apologize for the error.

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:

- **Sacristans and eucharistic ministers** (including some who served several mass times) for your love of ministry.
- **Ushers, greeters, and collection ministers** (some of our captains moved to different Mass times to cover all the extended holiday schedule.)
- **Lectors** - for your dedication to this ministry and the preparation it takes to proclaim his word.
- **Altar Society** for the many trips back and forth keeping us fresh!
- **Pastoral Council** - for jumping in where needed at a moment's notice!
- **Altar Servers**- for your joyful faces and willing hearts to serve at His altar (and for keeping me smiling.)
- **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



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.



... *quotable* ...

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

— Georg C. Lichtenberg



NOVENA, ROSARY, AND MASS CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF THE

Holy Infant Jesus of Prague

*"Have pity on me, and I will have pity on you,
Give me my hands, and I will give you peace.
The more you honor me, the more I will bless you."*

FROM JANUARY 13, 2022 (Thursday) THROUGH JANUARY 21, 2022 (Friday)

*Join us in Zoom Video for the Virtual Novena Prayer and the Recitation of the Holy Rosary
in Honor of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague.*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82876560722?pwd=>

Meeting ID: 828 7656 0722

Passcode: rosary

1st Day - St. Mel, Legion of Mary
Thursday, January 13, 2022 7:00 PM

2nd Day - Knights of Columbus
St. Mel Council 17376
Friday, January 14, 2022 7:00 PM

3rd Day - St. Bernardine Legion of Mary
Saturday, January 15, 2022 7:00 PM

4th Day - St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Sunday, January 16, 2022 7:00 PM

5th Day - Our Lady of Grace
Monday, January 17, 2022 7:00 PM



6th Day- St. Catherine of Siena
Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:00 PM

7th day - St. Mel Parish
Wednesday, January 19, 2022 7:00 PM

8th Day - St. Peter Claver
Thursday, January 20, 2022 7:00 PM

**9th Day - Filipino American Community
of St. Mel**
Friday, January 21, 2022 7:00 PM

JANUARY 22, 2022 (Saturday) 11:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

JOIN US IN THE SPECIAL CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST HONORING

THE HOLY INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

20870 Ventura Blvd., Woodland Hills, CA 91364

CELEBRANT: REVEREND FATHER VIVIAN BEN LIMA

ASSISTED BY DEACON BRIAN CONROY

*After Mass, there will be a Special Blessing of the Children
Bring your personal statue or icon of the Holy Infant of Prague to be blessed.*

*A Replica of the Original Image of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague flown straight from Prague will be
present at the Altar.*



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Contact Persons: Millete Cruz 818-571-1813 and Jazz Gaité 818-645-0796

St. Mel Live Stream Link: www.bit.ly/StMelTV



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.

Nest Sunday: 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



St. Mel Preschool's Fall 2022-2023 Registration is in progress.

We would love the opportunity to show you the wonderful program that awaits your child! If you are considering enrolling your child in our preschool, please email the school office (**Kara Nelson** - knelson@stmel.org) and make an appointment for a Parent Orientation Tour.

Spaces are available for children aged 2.5-to-5 years old for the 2022-'23 school year.

Our Purpose

St. Mel Preschool has an emphasis on the social, cognitive, physical and spiritual growth of all its children. This growth occurs naturally through many different & developmentally appropriate experiences. The preschool embodies a community of respect for all religious and cultural backgrounds. We are a wonderfully exciting

and fulfilling place to learn. St. Mel Preschool is grateful to be a ministry to our larger St. Mel Parish community and school. Families that choose to continue on to our K-8 School enjoy a seamless transition to kindergarten.

What We Offer

- Our quality program includes ages 2.5 to 5 years
- Small class size
- Child to teacher ratio of 1:8
- Hours of operation, 5 days a week, 7:30am-5:00pm
- Traditional school calendar year, plus summer camp



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.

WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD

Join us for
The Gospel According to Luke

Are you ready to take a leap of faith?

Follow in Luke's footsteps as St. Mel jumps into the Gospel. We will explore the Gospel that Luke heard from eye witnesses and then made it his mission to make sure it was not forgotten. The message is just as real today as it was at Luke's time. Join us as we hear from dynamic presenters with unique insights and be challenged to grow in faith.

**13 Wednesdays.
We kick off in February**

February 2 - *Introduction of Luke's Gospel* led by **Amir Dinkha** - (author of *Restored, Rescued, and Redeemed by Jesus: Seven Minor-Character Vignettes from the Fourfold Gospel*)

**St. Patrick Auditorium
7:00 — 8:15 p.m.**

Childcare provided upon request.

For more details please call Monica Matthews at 818-340-6020 ext. 1026 or MMatthews@stmel.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Building a strong parent-teen relationship

As pandemic lockdowns continue, parents and teenage children are spending more and more time together. It is not always easy to connect with teens, because they often feel their parents do not understand them and prefer to confide in their friends instead. Nevertheless, the time at home offers an opportunity for parent-teen relationships to evolve and for trust to grow in developmentally appropriate ways. Teens need the guidance and support of a parent as an important balance to the permissive understanding of a "friendship" relationship. As children become teenagers, parental authority does not diminish but may be better served by involving the teens in a dialogue about rules and limits. For more information on building relationships with your teenagers, visit <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.



THANK YOU

During 2021, the St. Mel chapter of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul assisted 67 poor or unhoused people with such needs as bus tokens, food scrip, gas vouchers, hotel stays, prescriptions, car repairs, utility bills and rental assistance. Additionally, St. Vincent DePaul collected \$19,210 for our Adopt-A-Family program from 94 donors and 293 toys were collected for the Giving Tree. These monies and toys were donated to the Guadalupe Center for distribution along with 914 bags of food collected throughout the year. Finally, 260 hygiene kits were created and donated to various homeless centers in the San Fernando Valley, along with 110 blankets and ponchos during last February's drive.

Of course, our St. Vincent DePaul conference here at St. Mel owes all of its success to the generous donations of money, food, toys, blankets and hygiene items from our wonderful parishioners. Our partnership with the parish enables all of us to assist those in need as Jesus asks us to do.

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>

January 16, 2022



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



SAINT MEL SCHOOL

ACTIVE CATHOLICS

- Catholic beliefs and values are taught at grade-appropriate levels
- Christian Service is emphasized
- Classes attend Mass weekly

CREATIVE & CRITICAL THINKERS

- Computer coding, robotics, and web development (K-8)
- Concepts of algebra, geometry, and statistics are interwoven throughout the curriculum beginning in kindergarten
- Small, skill-based math groups for 3rd-8th grade
- Advanced math taught in 7th (Pre-Algebra) and 8th (Algebra) grades. Advanced 8th grade students are given the opportunity to study Geometry.
- Creative writing classes offered 5th - 8th grades
- Schoolwide one-to-one mobile devices (iPad)

SELF-AWARE INDIVIDUALS

- John Wooden Pyramid of Success Character Program
- Visual and Performing Arts
- We celebrate being an American and appreciate cultural diversity

HOW TO APPLY

- Go to www.stmel.org
- Click on APPLY NOW
- Complete the online application and submit all requested documents

IMPORTANT DATES

- Applications due February 4, 2022
- Student evaluation testing during the third and fourth week of February
- Acceptance and waitlist letters mailed March 11, 2022

CONTACT

Questions, contact Katie Romey
kromey@stmel.org
(818) 340-1924

St. Mel Elementary School recognizes that parents have the primary responsibility to educate their children. In partnership with them and the larger St. Mel community, the faculty and staff endeavor to develop all students' spiritual, academic, social, emotional, and physical potential. Students emerge from St. Mel well prepared for their next step as active Catholics and contributing members of their community.

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
 Rosary Ministry & Eucharist Adoration Coordinator: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
 Theresians: Maty Goodman (818) 224-3221
 Women of Grace: Monica Matthews (818) 340-6020
 Contemplative Prayer: Michelle Waters (310) 489-0253
 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: Jennifer Lemmon *jlemmon@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 *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

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St. Mel Catholic Church, Woodland Hills, CA

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**Cross Catholic
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor

Food Packing Event Here at St. Mel

Join the movement to feed the hungry through the love of Christ!

Saturday, February 19

Nearly one billion people go to bed hungry each night. In the poorest countries, families sometimes go days without food. Nearly 16,000 children die from hunger related causes each day; **that's one child every five seconds.**

Food packing events organized by **Cross Catholic Outreach** allow parishes and schools to engage in a revolution against world hunger. These events bring communities and parishes together to pack Vitafood packets and raise the funds necessary to ship this life-saving food to the poorest of the poor around the world.

Fr. Steve is excited to announce a Cross Catholic Outreach food packing event here at St. Mel on the morning of **Saturday, February 19.**

We are going to need a lot of volunteers: families can come together, kids, moms, dads and grandparents; couples and single people; from students and young adults to retirees; small groups and ministries ... **EVERYONE** can help as we come together as a community to package **50 THOUSAND** meals for the poor.



Sign up to volunteer:
www.bit.ly/StMelCCO

Save the date and spread the word!

Scan with your phone camera to watch an informative video:



Cross Catholic Outreach

Our mission is **to mobilize the global Catholic Church to transform the poor and their communities materially and spiritually for the glory of Jesus Christ.** Your gift empowers us to serve the poorest of the poor by channeling life-changing aid through an international network of dioceses, parishes and Catholic missionaries. This cost-effective approach helps break the cycle of poverty and advance Catholic evangelization.