

# Advent

PREPARING THE WAY

**St. Mel Catholic Church**

4745 Pennsylvania Avenue

P.O. Box 1180

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

916-967-1229

stmeloffice@yahoo.com

Parish Office: 4748 Pennsylvania Avenue

Monday - Thursday 9:00AM to 1:00PM

Closed Friday

Website: stmelchurch.org

In an emergency call 916-298-9324 for a priest

**PARISH STAFF**

Parochial Administrator:

..... Father Aldrin Basarte

Deacons:

..... David Lehman

..... Jack Roland

St. Mel School Principal:

..... Janet Nagel

Director of Business & Development:

..... Bob Mayer

Financial Director/Dir. of Religious Education:

..... Sara Donnelly

Director of Music:

..... Aaron Thompson

Parish Secretary:

..... Nancy Mammano

St. Vincent de Paul

..... 916-967-1229

**MASS SCHEDULE**

**Sunday 8:00AM** live streamed only followed by drive through Communion distribution from 9:15AM to 9:45AM.

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8:30AM** live streamed only followed by drive through Communion distribution from 9:00AM to 9:30AM

**CONFESSIONS**

Saturday from 9:00-10:00AM in the Parish Center or by appointment

**BAPTISMS**

Call the office to make appointment

**CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION (CFF)**

Phone ..... 916-966-4314

Email.....ccd@stmelschool.org

**ST MEL SCHOOL**

916-967-2814..... www.stmelschool.org

**MASS INFORMATION**

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday at 8:30AM** live streamed only with drive through Communion distribution from 9:00 to 9:30AM

**Sunday 8:00AM** livestreamed only with drive through Communion distribution from 9:15 - 9:45AM

All Masses will be lived streamed via the St. Mel Facebook page. Use the below link to connect to the Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Mel-Catholic-Church-104087984568676/videos/>

There is also a link on the St. Mel website, stmel-church.org. Simply click on the photo of the Blessed Mother to view the live-stream Masses.

**PLEASE NOTE!**

**NEW BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES**

Send typed articles, in MS Word - Times New Roman, font 10, via email to [stmeloffice@yahoo.com](mailto:stmeloffice@yahoo.com) no later than 8am on the day indicated below. Mass Intention requests are not subject to these deadlines.

Bulletin Weekend Dates	Articles DUE
December 12 - 13	December 2
December 19 - 20	December 8
December 26 - 27	December 14
January 2 - 3	December 21

Eucharistic



Adoration

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Church Monday - Saturday from 9:00AM to 12noon and Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00PM.**

**You must enter and exit through the back church door which is closest to the St. Jude Room. Only 10 people will be allowed in the church at one time.**

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

December 6, 2020

**Sunday:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
[8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8

**Monday:** Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14  
[Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday:** Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [1]/  
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

**Wednesday:** Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10  
[1]/Mt 11:28-30

**Thursday:** Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-  
13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday:** Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/  
Mt 11:16-19

**Saturday:** Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/  
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

**Next Sunday:** Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 51  
-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28



Aiden Hulse  
Albert Souza  
Amanda Barron  
Andrew Cobb  
Arlene Michaels  
Betty Cerato  
Bill Ehlers  
Bob & Dale Carter  
Bruce King  
Bryan Tanglao  
Carol Bronk  
Carol Ellen Leever  
Cecilia Dixon  
Corrie Young  
Curtis Cleary  
Dawna Jones  
Delia Comstock  
Della Harmon  
Delores Bousliman  
Donna Mae  
Elba Tompkins  
Eve Waggerman  
Fidela Gonzales  
Frank & Renee Weiss  
Frankie Mirabella  
Gene Fischer  
George Stevens  
Gerald Hoffarth  
Gerry & Paul Parker  
Greg O'Neill  
Harrison Morton  
Helen S. Worthington  
Helen Chilcott  
Jackie Lohmeier  
Jason Bucello

Jeffrey Viernes  
Jenna Barron  
Joan Gamble  
Joann Buckman  
Joanne Frances Miller  
Joanne & George Kim  
John English  
Jonathan Hayes  
Jonathan Rassmussen  
Joyce Martin  
June McKenderich  
Karen Juten  
Kathy Houser  
Kathryn Hesia  
Larry Williams  
Louella Mortensen  
Maggie Harrington  
Margaret Hesia  
Marvin Schluttenhofer  
Marylou Tavera  
Melanie & Sally Edwards  
Mike Browning  
Mike Tompkins  
Pat Woods  
Peggy Grass  
Rhonda Morgan  
Rod Tarrer  
Ron Barton  
Ron & Judy Martinez  
Rosemary Easter  
Rudy Rodoni  
Talon Bonanno  
Tracy Kent  
Victoria Hummer  
Walter Thompson

## TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

People knew over a year in advance that the Pope was coming for a visit to America and the preparations began. Security, space limitations and requirements, protocols, crowd management, itineraries, invitations, regulations, and so much more was necessary to pull this event off effectively. It's not every day that we get a visit from such a prominent dignitary. Thought, effort, meticulous attention to detail and vision all are necessary to make this thing work. After all, he can't just show up in the ordinary and normal daily routines of life and catch people unprepared! Tickets have to be purchased, buses rented, hotel rooms reserved, and travel arrangements made early because it will be impossible to see him if we wait too long!

We do this kind of preparing not only for prominent religious figures but for political dignitaries, notable sports figures, people of fame, and even actors. If an individual intrigues us, we are going to want to do all we have to do to get a "good seat" in the house. Does Jesus Christ captivate this much of our attention? We are asked to prepare the way of the Lord and to do so not with frantic frenzy but patient enthusiasm. We do not have to stand on a street corner making profound announcements about God's coming or become overly zealous in our embrace of the Good News. Our task is quieter, more interior, captivating, and consuming. We are asked to change. We have to conduct our lives with holy devotion.

Is the cost of that ticket too much for you? Don't you want the "best seat" in the house? You don't want to miss Our Lord's arrival when he comes, do you? After all, if he comes while you are going about your daily routines without you even knowing, he may catch you off guard. Or, he may come in disguise looking like a beggar, a prisoner, migrant, refugee, or someone who is lost. Would you be ready to recognize him then? Preparing for the coming of Christ requires a change of mind, heart, and behavior. It is not adequate to simply do the things we always do. We want our lives to speak of the exciting news of Christ's coming and the joy that the Gospel brings. It has to do with our demeanor, values, priorities, choices, and how we structure daily routines. Of course, it involves sacrifice. All anticipations do! Are you excited, captivated, enthusiastic, and sitting on the edge of your seat eager to celebrate his coming among us at Christmas, and waiting for him to come again? If not, why not?



### Sunday, December 6

- 8:00am (I) Mass for Parishioners  
 10:00am (I) Nicole Cowles by St. Mel School  
 10:00am (I) McHugh Family  
 by Chapman Family

### Monday, December 7

- 8:30am (R) Charles Erwin by Yit Kwai Erwin  
 8:30am (R) Ante Baricevic  
 by Grga & Isobel Baricevic

### Tuesday, December 8

#### Feast of the Immaculate Conception

- 8:30am (I) Maldonado-Johnson Families  
 by Tom & Maria Johnson  
 8:30am (I) Ria Chua

### Wednesday, December 9

- 8:30am (R) Isaac & Marietta Barron

### Thursday, December 10

- 8:30am (R) Bessie Curran by John Pippig, Jr.  
 8:30am (R) Katharina Harrity-Streng  
 by Leo & Brigette Harrity

### Friday, December 11

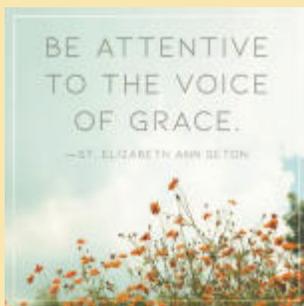
- 8:30am (I) Mary Nye McKelroy by Nye Family  
 8:30am (I) Alisia Ocon by St. Mel School

### Saturday, December 12

- 8:30am (R) Florence Garcia by Sean Dibble  
 8:30am (R) Isaac & Marietta Barron  
 4:30pm (R) Katharina Harrity-Streng  
 by Leo & Brigette Harrity  
 4:30pm (R) Guadalupe Atilano  
 by John & Rosalie Atilano

### Sunday, December 13

- 8:00am (R) Rosalinda & Claudio Guillermo  
 by Guillermo Family  
 8:00am (R) Billy Samcoff by Family  
 10:00am (R) Dawn Mehlhaff by Linda Dillman  
 10:00am (R) Betty & Al Johnson  
 by Marcia Moser & Joan Waldron



No one can tame the tongue.... With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. –Jas 3:8-9

**Reflection:** In the efforts to oppress various segments of humanity, dehumanizing language is always used. The unborn have been called “parasites,” “tissue,” and other non-personal names.

Such language not only degrades persons but dishonors the One who made them in His image. The Culture of Life demands language that ennobles and honors.

**Prayer:** Guard our tongues, Lord God, that what we say about human lives may always honor them and You.

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## PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS



Please join the **Legion of Mary** in praying daily the intentions of Pope Francis for December. **For a Life of Prayer**

*We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.*

Let us pray for those in our community who have passed away.

**James Green**  
**Joseph Battaglia**  
**Regina Rupert**  
**Fred Tulleners**  
**Joseph Carnaroli**

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## ST. MEL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT FUND

There will be a collection **THIS** weekend, December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, for the St. Mel Maintenance & Improvement Fund. These funds are used for taking care of our facilities. Thank you for your generosity. **For safe and secure online giving, please go to [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net). The St. Mel Parish code is CA731.**

## RECOGNITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding anniversaries for the month of December will be recognized at the 8:00AM Mass Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.



Help our elders. In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous next week, December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, to this important collection.

## LOAVES & FISHES CHRISTMAS MEAL

Your help is needed to set the table. **Main Dish:** Turkeys (uncooked - frozen/fresh); **Sides & Drinks:** Marshmallows (large or small); Apple Juice (gallon size); Cranberry Sauce (Large cans); Pepperidge Farms dry dressing mix; **Dessert:** Store bought pies (assorted); **Accessories:** Heavy Napkins, Sturdy plastic utensils.

Kathy Yanez will be collecting all Christmas donations in the Parish Center parking lot on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 to 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please call 916-849-6533. Thank you so much for your generosity.

## ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

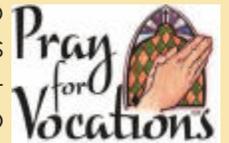
My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,  
Come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you as if you were already there  
And unite myself wholly to you.  
Never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.

## SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Vincent DePaul is looking for people who would like to sponsor a needy family for Christmas this year. We have small families and large families that just need a little help making this Christmas a blessed one. If you are interested in sponsoring a family, please call Melissa McLeod (916)699-6730 by Monday December 7<sup>th</sup>.

## PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord, you call us all by name to follow your path. You always bless your Church and guide your followers to become leaders who think of others before themselves.



Mold us in the image of your Son, to respond to your call as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay servants of the Gospel. Embolden us all to grow in knowing of you, and allow this knowledge to open our hearts, minds, and souls to your enduring call. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

## LOAVES & FISHES STOCKING DRIVE

Stuff a Stocking, Warm a Heart! Grab a Christmas stocking, about 14-16 inches long and 6-8 inches wide and stuff with the following items: Gift Cards (McDonald's, Target, Safeway, etc.); One set of stretch or knit & gloves; Disposable razors; Pair of shoelaces; Chapstick; Hand-sanitizer; Travel size toiletry items (lotions, shampoo/conditioner). Drop filled stockings off in the Parish Center parking lot on December 19<sup>th</sup>.



## ST. MEL SCHOOL AND CFF NEWS

### CFF Classes

Catholic Faith Formation will be a homeschool format this year. We hope this gives parents an opportunity to work with their children and perhaps refresh their memory at the same time. If you have registered your child, but have not picked up your child's course materials, please call the Parish Office to arrange a pick-up time. If you have not registered your child, or if you have questions, please email Sara Donnelly at [ccd@stmelschool.org](mailto:ccd@stmelschool.org).

## ST MEL SCHOOL SCRIP

Scrip sales are back! Now more than ever St. Mel School needs our help. You can purchase Scrip by calling or emailing Regina Edwards, Scrip Coordinator, at 916-752-3878 or [Edwardsfamily@Reagan.com](mailto:Edwardsfamily@Reagan.com). You can also order online at [ShopwithScrip.com](http://ShopwithScrip.com) by using the St. Mel enrollment code, 3DL76FEA2151L.

All Scrip orders will be sent directly to Regina who will then arrange delivery. Thank you for your support of St. Mel School!



## CHRIST THE KING PARISH RETREATS

The 2020-2021 Christ the King Parish Retreat theme is "**We Remember We Celebrate We Believe**" to gain deeper wisdom and awareness of God's presence in these troubled times. We invite all to come and probe the depth of God's Love for us in Christ as we gather in prayer, study, meditation, sacraments, and rest. The **WOMEN'S retreat** for St. Mel will be **JANUARY 22-24** and **Men's retreat will be April 9-11**. Please reserve your spot today by calling your Parish Coordinator Martha Styer at 916-962-3307 or the CTK at 916-725-4720 Ext 301. You can register online at <http://christthekingretreatcenter.org>.

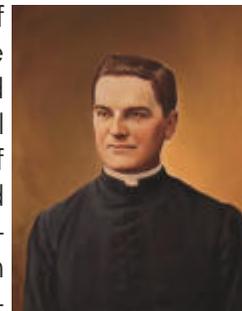
If you're unable to attend our parish date, visit the website for other dates. *Accept this invitation as a precious gift to yourself as you awaken and rejuvenate the spirit within you.* Please know, no one is refused because of inability to pay full amount.

## KNIGHTS CORNER

### Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Michael McGivney

#### Founder of the Knights of Columbus

God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Blessed Michael McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue, may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify Blessed Michael McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



#### **Please report all favors received:**

The Father McGivney Guild  
1 Columbus Plaza  
New Haven, CT 06510-3326 • USA  
[www.fathermcgivney.org](http://www.fathermcgivney.org)

## CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

If you or someone you know is considering returning to the Catholic Church, St. Mel can provide assistance. Contact St. Mel Parish Office, 916-967-1229 or Karen, 916-966-0184.

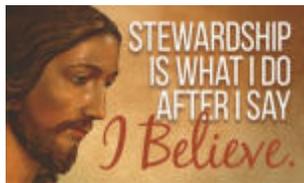
## BE AWARE!

Emails and text messages are being sent from people claiming to be Father Aldrin or a St. Mel parishioner. If you receive a text or an email asking you to buy gift cards DO NOT RESPOND. Father will never ask for help in this way. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Parish Office. 916-967-1229.

## EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

### Jubilation to Share

Sometimes you have something to share with people that causes you to well up inside with excitement to the point of going crazy. A pregnancy test, a pay raise, a college acceptance, a wedding or engagement are all examples of moments in life when we might be bursting at the seams to tell somebody the good news. When we finally get the chance to tell somebody, joy just seems to flow through us with ease. We literally want the entire world to share in our jubilation.



When was the last time you shared with a friend or loved one how much your faith in Jesus means to you? You don't feel the same motivation to share?

Are you not overwhelmed with a desire to spread the Good News?

Don't feel bad. You are not alone. As Christians, we often fail to grasp the powerful implications of being a disciple of Jesus Christ. We can become complacent and lose sight of what matters the most. That is when sharing with others about our faith seems uncomfortable.

Faith is a gift. As everyday stewards we are called to share with others what God has given us. Advent is a great time to grow in our faith and love of the Lord. The more we cultivate our faith and the closer we draw to Him, the more we will want to share about Him. We might not have the impact of John the Baptist in the course of human history, but our proclamation of the Gospel to another might be the gift that changes their history.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## DONATE YOUR CAR FOR CHARITY

The **Father Richard Doheny Religious Education Fund** partnered with Donate for Charity, Inc. to help donate your vehicle to support local religious education and vocations. It's easy, just go to <http://www.donateforcharity.com/car-donation-form/> OR call Donate For Charity directly at (866) 392-4483.



## Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity

For all who have contracted coronavirus,  
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,  
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,  
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety,  
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,  
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,  
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,  
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers,  
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.  
Grant peace.  
Grant comfort.  
Grant healing.  
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

## CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES AND FAITH DIRECT

If you have started making your donations to St. Mel through FaithDirect, please let the office know so that your name can be removed from the contribution envelope mailing list. Thank you. 916-967-1229 or [stmeloffice@yahoo.com](mailto:stmeloffice@yahoo.com).

## WHERE IS THE APOSTLES CREED FOUND IN THE BIBLE?

The Apostles Creed is divided into twelve statements which are founded entirely in scripture:

### The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, (*Mt 5 :45*)

Creator of heaven and earth, (*Gen 1: 1; Rom 1: 20*)

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, (*Mt 3: 17; Phil 2: 12*)

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, (*Lk 1: 35*)

born of the Virgin Mary, (*Lk 2: 7*)

suffered under Pontius Pilate, (*Jn 19: 16*)

was crucified, died, and was buried. (*Jn 19: 29 – 42*)

He descended into hell; (*1 Pet 3: 19 – 20*)

on the third day He rose again from the dead, (*Mt 28:1-10; Jn 20:11-18*)

He ascended in heaven, (*Lk 24: 51*)

and sits at the right hand of God, (*Heb 1: 3*)

the Father almighty; (*Mk 14: 36*)

from thence He shall come again (*Mt 16: 27; Acts 10: 39;*)

to judge the living and the dead. (*1 Cor 15: 51*)

I believe in the Holy Spirit, (*Jn 14: 15 – 20; Acts 1: 7 – 8*)

the Holy Catholic Church, (*Mt 16: 18 – 19; Eph 5: 26-27; Col 1: 24*)

the communion of Saints, (*Mt 28: 19 – 20; 2 Cor 11: 13; 1 Cor 15: 33*)

the forgiveness of sins, (*Jn 20: 22 – 23*)

the resurrection of the body, (*1 Cor 15: 51 – 54; 1 Thes 4: 13 – 18*)

and life everlasting. (*1 Jn 5: 20*)

Amen.

## LOAVES & FISHES VOLUNTEERS

Want a great way to fulfill Christ's call to feed the hungry? St. Mel Parish needs volunteers to help in the meal preparation area at Loaves & Fishes on the first Friday of each month. This is a rewarding and humbling experience to help those who are hungry and less fortunate. It usually is about a 3-5-hour commitment. You do not need to serve every month. Volunteers are welcome to help when it fits into your schedule. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Richard Phelps 916-807-0943 (phone or text). Email Richard at: [wetduck33@gmail.com](mailto:wetduck33@gmail.com)

Today we continue the "joyful expectation" of the birth of Christ in history, the present, and the future. Today we hear the words of John the Baptist calling people of his time to repentance. Now, this baptism that John was calling people to is not the same baptism that we Christians celebrate. However, John's baptism is at the root of our Christian baptism. John's baptism had its roots in the "oblation washing" of the Jewish people before undertaking anything of great importance.



Christian baptism is a sacrament to wash away original sin so as to enter sinless into the Christian community. It is the one sacrament that is celebrated by all Christians, even those Christians who are not in communion with Rome.

John enjoins us to "prepare the way of the Lord." His call is to be taken in the widest sense. This preparation is a personal preparation, and is also a communal preparation. We are called to make sure we are ready to meet the Lord, and this means that we need to make a difference in the world to make it better, to make it more peaceful, and to make it more just. We are called to protect each other's dignity and share of our abundance with others so that each may live a life that is centered on helping others.

Prepare the way!



## eGIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT

Faith Direct enables parishioners to make your Church contributions through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or through your credit/debit card. No more writing checks or searching for envelopes on the way out the door. Now you can apply the convenience of direct debit to your parish offerings in much the same way as you may now use it to make your mortgage, car or tuition payments. Visit [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) to enroll securely online. Our parish code is **CA731**.



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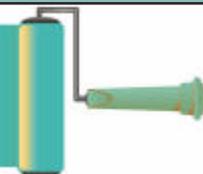
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