

January 10th 2021 • The Baptism of the Lord

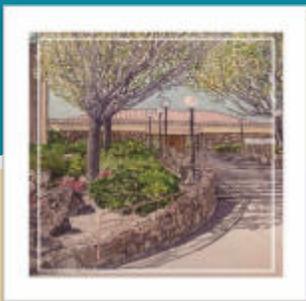


THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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ST MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

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**

PLEASE NOTE!

NEW BULLETIN SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Send typed articles, in MS Word - Times New Roman, font 10, via email to **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
January 16 - 17	January 6
January 23 - 24	January 13
January 30 - 31	January 20
February 6 - 7	January 27

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 St. Jude Room 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.

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

January 10, 2021

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/ Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3]/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 [cf. 7c]/Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 7]/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 [8a]/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 [cf. 7b]/Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [cf. Jn 6:63c]/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42



Aiden Hulse	Joan Gamble
Albert Souza	Joann Buckman
Amanda Barron	Joanne Frances Miller
Andrew Cobb	Joanne & George Kim
Arlene Michaels	John English
Betty Cerato	Jonathan Hayes
Bill Ehlers	Jonathan Rassmussen
Bruce King	Joyce Martin
Bryan Tanglao	June McKenderich
Carol Bronk	Karen Juten
Carol Ellen Leever	Kathy Houser
Cecilia Dixon	Kathryn Hesia
Corrie Young	Larry Williams
Dawna Jones	Louella Mortensen
Delia Comstock	Maggie Harrington
Della Harmon	Margaret Hesia
Delores Bousliman	Marvin Schluttenhofer
Donna Mae	Marylou Tavera
Elba Tompkins	Melanie & Sally Edwards
Eve Waggenerman	Mike Browning
Fidela Gonzales	Mike Tompkins
Frank & Renee Weiss	Nick Oakes
Gene Fischer	Pat Woods
George Stevens	Peggy Grass
Gerald Hoffarth	Rhonda Morgan
Gerry & Paul Parker	Rod Tarrer
Greg O'Neill	Ron Barton
Harrison Morton	Ron & Judy Martinez
Helen S. Worthington	Rosemary Easter
Helen Chilcott	Rudy Rodoni
Jackie Lohmeier	Susan Arthur
Jason Bucello	Talon Bonanno
Jeffrey Viernes	Tracy Kent
Jenna Barron	Victoria Hummer
	Walter Thompson

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

We need history. We need it in order to understand ourselves, personally and collectively. The pieces of our histories may not have always been the most positive, honest, exemplary, dignified, proud and best moments of our lives, but they are ours. We have to acknowledge, remember, accept, and often heal them. We cannot forget them or pretend that they never existed. As horrible as the atrocities of events like Auschwitz, brutal injustices committed throughout the human journey, or personal painful experiences in our own stories, we need to remember. These times when humanity in general or people in particular have lost their way are times that need to be reconciled and redeemed.

If we lose the memories, we will make the same mistakes again. The human soul needs a strong sense of affirmation, direction, and clear purpose. Without these essentials, we will easily run amuck and repeat the sins of our past. God's voice throughout history has spoken precisely about this! We are reminded through the voices and example of many prophets and witnesses not to make the same mistakes again, come back to center, discover the purpose given to us by God, maintain a sense of proper direction, seek healing for wounds and be reconciled to our Creator.

Baptism is so incredibly important for the salvation of humankind, not only eternally but here and now. Our existence depends upon it. It gives us the affirmation we need from God by gifting us with the same intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father. We are blessed with the direction and clear purpose we need in order to be productive stewards and faithful Christians. Baptism calls us to remember, accept, and deal with the sins and inequities of our past regardless of how hurtful and serious. We consciously choose to turn away from them and put on the new life of Christ. To do this well, we must look hard and long at our sins and failings, listen to what they are saying and learn from them. If we ignore the past, collectively or personally, or pretend that it never happened, we will never grow. We will surely die.

People need to hear the message, lived and spoken, delivered by the baptized members of the Body of Christ. It is an essential message of hope that is layered with visions of justice, peace, reconciliation, redemption, blessing, and healing. It is a message that helps us remember what has gone before, the graces and the sins, and bring ourselves by God's help where we need to be. We are called to do much more than sit home behind our closed doors. We have a message to deliver. Are we ready to do so?



Sunday, January 10

8:00am (I) Jessica Stephenson
by St. Mel School

8:00am (I) Stella Floyd
by Ron & Marylou Tavera

Monday, January 11

8:30am (R) CJ Tousey by Johnson Family

8:30am (R) Isaac & Marietta Barron

Tuesday, January 12

8:30am (R) CJ Tousey by Ramos Family

8:30am (R) Deceased Members of the
Williams Family

Wednesday, January 13

8:30am (I) Paul & Gerrie Parker
72nd Wedding Anniversary

8:30am (I) Patty Hill by St. Mel School

Thursday, January 14

8:30am (I) Jacqueline Goveas

8:30am (I) Glenn Williams & Family
by Goveas Family

Friday, January 15

8:30am (I) Arif Makmuri
by Yahja & Amiputri Family

8:30am (I) Gloria Williams by Goveas Family

Saturday, January 16

4:30pm (I) Alvin Fonseca by Bill & Joyce

4:30pm (I) April & Steve Murphy & Family
by Goveas Family

Sunday, January 17

8:00am (R) Isaac & Marietta Barron

8:00am (R) Susan Vasquez by Julie Blanford

10:00am (I) Sarah & Russ Crain & Family
by Goveas Family



They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and their daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan, polluting the land with their blood. -Ps 106:38

Reflection: The killing of children is especially condemned by God through the Prophets. In the land God gave His people to occupy, foreign nations had the custom of sacrificing some of their children in fire.

God told His people that they were not to share in this sin. Sadly, however, they did so.

Prayer: Have mercy on us, Lord, and save us from the idolatry of death.

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PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS



Please join the **Legion of Mary** in praying daily the intentions of Pope Francis for January - **Human Fraternity**

May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

PRAYER AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS

God our Father, we come to you in our need to ask your protection against the Coronavirus that has claimed lives and affected many. We pray for your grace for the people tasked with studying the nature and cause of this virus and stemming the tide of its transmission. Guide the hands and minds of medical experts that they may minister to the sick with competence and compassion, and of those governments and private agencies that are working to find a cure and solution to this pandemic. We pray that those affected may be restored to health soon. Grant us the grace to work for the good of all and to help those in need. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

THANK YOU!

FROM THE SOCIETY OF St. VINCENT DePAUL

The need for assistance this year due to the pandemic was greater than in years past, but by God's Grace, so was the outpouring of generosity from this parish.

Thanksgiving Baskets: Every Thanksgiving for the past 10 years we have given meals of turkey and all the trimmings to families suffering from food insecurity. This year we distributed 50 food baskets.

Christmas gifts program: In a typical year we would expect to help around 15 families purchase Christmas gifts so their children wouldn't miss out on the season's spirit of joy. This year we were able to help 33 families. That represents over 100 children that might otherwise have gotten nothing under the tree.

Christmas Baskets: Food for a Christmas dinner of ham or turkey and the usual side dishes was given to 54 families this year. The gratitude and joy expressed by these needy families was something we wish you could have seen as they collected the meals they would otherwise have struggled to provide.

We want you to know that your contribution made a difference in so many lives. Thank you for helping us bring God's love and care into the world as we serve the poor.

God Bless you all

RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

2021 Religious Calendars are available in the Parish Office. Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM and 1:00PM. It is suggested that you call the office to ensure that someone is there before you stop by.

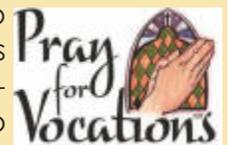
 Attention Parents and Godparents. The next scheduled Baptism Preparation class is Wednesday, February 3rd at 7:00PM. It will be determined by February 1st if it will be in person or Zoom meeting. Please call the Parish office to register to attend. 916-967-1229

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.

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.



eGIVING WITH FAITH DIRECT

Faith Direct enables parishioners to make Church contributions through either direct debit from your checking/savings account or your credit/debit card. No more writing checks or searching for envelopes on the way out the door. Visit www.faithdirect.net to enroll securely online. Our parish code is **CA731**.

Check out the new St. Mel app! Go to the App Store and search for WeConnect Parish app. There is also a link to the app on the St. Mel website: www.stmelchurch.org. Download and set your church as St. Mel.



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.

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. You can also order online at 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

With the Feast of The Epiphany on the 3rd of January, the celebration of Christmas has drawn to a close. Let us now begin with earnest to engage positively in this new year of 2021. After the challenge of 2020 let us take what we have learned and put it to good use as we remake ourselves and our lives in 2021. Let us keep the times of solitude and contemplation on the meaning of the life that God has given us. Bring the gifts that God has given us during that time of prayer and let us share that with those we are sure to gather together with in the months to come. Thanks to all of you that have given of your time and your treasure to the Saint Mel Parish and those less fortunate. Some of the local organizations that you supported were Loaves and Fishes, Saint Vincent de Paul, Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home, ... and The Sacramento Life Center.

As we put a bow on and file away the year 2020, please take the time to fill out the Annual Survey of Fraternal Activities and return it to our Worthy Financial Secretary. This survey can be completed on your computer and emailed back or it can be completed by hand and mailed back. Let's go *Boldly as Catholics* into the New Year, being examples to our fellow man. With Saint Francis as our guide, let us be the physical instruments in words and deeds of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Jesus, We Trust In You!

Danny

D. Styer, GK Council 6066



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.

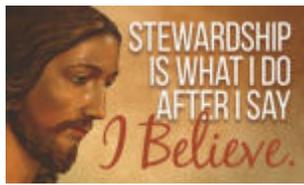


EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When God Whispers

"You don't need to shout. My hearing works just fine."

Are you a parent that has used that one on your kids? I'm not sure at what age they realize that the volume of their voice doesn't correlate to the likelihood of receiving a favorable reply — it might be sometime in the teenage years, when the talking slows down altogether.



But I've got to admit, it would be nice if God always gave us a loud and dramatic sign when He wanted something — the booming voice and the

torn-open heavens ("This is my beloved Son!") really get the message across. Sometimes I find myself envious of the Apostles, who were able to witness such things in person.

The fact of the matter is, in the year 2021, God is more likely to speak in a whisper than in a shout. The prophet Isaiah forewarns that Christ himself will not be a noisemaker — for all his preaching, he will not cry out or shout to bring forth justice to the nations. His way is altogether different than that.

We are not the Apostles, and we do not have the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit descend on Christ like a dove. But here's the good news: God doesn't need to shout. Our spiritual hearing works just fine. We just have to be listening.

Let's wake up each morning ready to hear God's whispers throughout the day. Let's make a conscious effort to invite those whispers into our hearts, where they can become a catalyst for grace in this world.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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.

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.

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Go to stmelchurch.org and click on the "We've Purchased Formed for You" link. Click on "Register Now" and follow the directions. If you need help call the office, 916-967-1229.

PENITENTIAL ACT

When we say the Penitential Act at Mass, why do we strike our chest three times?

Our rituals and liturgical celebrations are filled with a variety of symbols, some of which also relate to our gestures and physical postures (e.g. kneeling, sitting, processing, making the Sign of the Cross). The custom of striking our breast three times during the "I Confess" of the Penitential Act of the Mass is one of those gestures that is loaded with symbolism.

The tradition of Christian's striking the breast (above the heart) is rooted in the image of Sacred Scripture, especially texts like Psalm 51 which speak of a "humbled contrite heart" or how God heals broken hearts, binding up our wounds (see Psalm 147:3). Early Christian writers like Saint Augustine of Hippo and Saint Jerome also refer to this custom in their writings.

Ultimately, this practice is an expression of our sorrow for those times when we have been guilty of faults and a sign that we are willing to take responsibility for our sins and failings. That we all perform this gesture together is also an act of solidarity, recognizing that none of us, regardless of where we are on our journey of faith, is without fault and the need for grace and forgiveness.

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

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.

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER AT MY PARISH?

If you have been attending the same parish for a time and don't see yourself moving or attending elsewhere, you should absolutely register at your parish. Here's why:

- 1. Connectedness.** Once you register, you feel more at home in church. You become part of your church family in a tangible way. It gives you a sense of belonging and allows your priest to get to know you as well.
- 2. Accountability.** We are all responsible for helping the greater Church grow in strength and numbers. As a registered parishioner, it adds weight to that role. As an "official" member of the parish who is open to the voice of the Holy Spirit, you will feel led to contribute to the needs of the church.
- 3. Commitment.** Becoming a member of your parish is a promise to be active in your faith.
- 4. Access to parish information.** This gives your parish the ability to reach out to you and let you know about events, prayer and study opportunities and ways you can give back.

Bottom line – register at your parish. Declare your commitment to your faith proudly and officially join your church family!

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3 EASY STEPS

TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



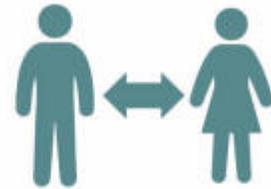
WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



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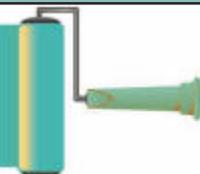
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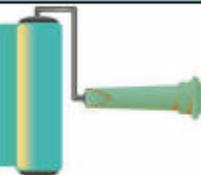
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