

January 9, 2022 • The Baptism of the Lord



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

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

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ST. MEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Mission of St. Mel Parish

We joyfully live our Catholic faith for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. We welcome and celebrate the gifts God gives His sons and daughters to build up the body of Christ and serve Him in the needs of one another.

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 and Holidays
 Website: stmelchurch.org

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

PARISH STAFF

Parochial Administrator:
 **Father Aldrin Basarte**

Priest in Residence:
 **Father Alfredo Tamayo**

Deacons:
 **David Lehman**
 **Jack Roland**

St. Mel School Principal:
 **Megan French**

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

Saturday Vigil 4:30PM
Sunday 8:00AM and 10:30AM

The Sunday 8:00AM is the only live streamed weekend Mass.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30AM

All weekday Masses will be live streamed

Please go to the St. Mel Facebook page to view the live stream.

CONFESSIONS

Saturday from 9:00-10:00AM in the Baptismal Room and "Cry" room inside the church or by appointment.

BAPTISMS

Call the office to make appointment

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION (CFF)

Email.....ccd@stmelschool.org

ST MEL SCHOOL

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

Visit Jesus!



The Eucharistic Adoration Chapel has several openings. Visit <https://stmel.weadorehim.com> to see the full schedule. All are welcome!

Contact Scott Crow at 916-204-0949 or stmeladoration@yahoo.com for more information.

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 15 - 16	January 5
January 22 - 23	January 12
January 29 - 30	January 19
February 5 - 6	January 26

**Commentators & Altar Servers
 January 15th & 16th**

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Heskett	CJ & Henry
SUN 8:00AM	O'Brien	Andrew & Michael
SUN 10:30AM	Swetland / Allison	Aaron & Joseph

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

January 9, 2022

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

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

Next 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

Aiden Hulse
Albert Souza
Amanda Barron
Andrew Cobb
Anne Chillemi
Arie Cornelis
Arlene Michaels
Betty Cerato
Beverly Slattery
Bill Ehlers
Bruce King
Bryan Tanglao
Carol Bronk
Carol Ellen Leever
Cecilia Dixon
Cheryl Hoffmann
Corrie Young
Dawna Jones
Delia Comstock
Della Harmon
Delores Bousliman
Dolores Leon
Donna Mae
Eberado Madueno
Elizabeth Witt
Eve Waggerman
Frank & Renee Weiss
Gene Fischer
George Stevens
Gerald Hoffarth
Gerry & Paul Parker
Gretchen Cahill
Harrison Morton
Helen S. Worthington
Helen Chilcott
Jack Callaghan
Jackie Lohmeier
Jason Bucello
Jeffrey Viernes
Jenna Barron
Jim Carroll
Jo Morrison
Joan Gamble



Joann Buckman
Joanne Frances Miller
Joanne & George Kim
John Atilano
John Lubecki
Jonathan Hayes
Jonathan Rassmussen
Jorges Gonzales
June McKenderich
Kaitlyn Doyle
Kathy Houser
Kathryn Hesia
Larry Williams
Linda Lambrite
Louella Mortensen
Maggie Harrington
Margaret Hesia
Marvin Schluttenhofer
Mary Jane Rocha
Marylou Tavera
Melanie & Sally Edwards
Mike Browning
Mike Tompkins
Nick Oakes
Norma Kaufman
Pat Woods
Patti Stevens
Paul & Marti Gohring
Rhonda Morgan
Rita Vicory
Ron Barbour
Ron Barton
Ron & Judy Martinez
Ronnie Denton
Rosemary Easter
Rudy Rodoni
Sara Donnelly
Susan Arthur
Talon Bonanno
Teresa Lee
Tracy Kent
Victoria Hummer
Walter Thompson

TODAY'S GOSPEL MEDITATION ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

"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.



Sunday, January 9

- 8:00am (R) Carl Bjorn by Audrey Swiderek
- 8:00am (R) Deceased Members of the Williams Family
- 10:30am (I) Mass for Parishioners

Monday, January 10

- 8:30am (R) Kathleen Gohring by Paul Gohring
- 8:30am (I) Connor Pugno by Liz Luckasen & Pugno Family

Tuesday, January 11

- 8:30am (R) Kathleen Gohring by Paul Gohring
- 8:30am (I) Sister Lynne Tiernan by John & Mary Alyce Gisla

Wednesday, January 12

No Mass

Thursday, January 13

- 8:30am (I) Paul & Gerrie Parker 73rd Wedding Anniversary
- 8:30am (I) Patty Hill by St. Mel School
- 8:30am (I) Jessica Stephenson by St. Mel School

Friday, January 14

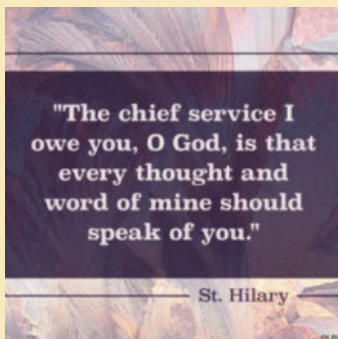
- 8:30am (R) Gene Perkins by Johnson Family
- 8:30am (R) JK Wagner by Steve & Gloria Wagner
- 8:30am (R) CJ Tousey by Kelley Tousey

Saturday, January 15

- 4:30pm (R) Christine Zinkula by Ellen Smith
- 4:30pm (R) Pat Schaefer by Don Schaefer

Sunday, January 16

- 8:00am (I) Thanksgiving by Komorniczak Family
- 8:00am (I) Faith Russell by Goveas Family
- 10:30am (R) Kathleen Gohring by Paul Gohring
- 10:30am (R) Sean Michael Linehan by Linda, Danielle & Katie Linehan



People brought children to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked them, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them."

Matthew 19:13-14

Reflection: The Apostles mistakenly thought that Jesus didn't have time for the children, that they were not important enough for His attention, that they were a distraction from His mission.

Instead, Jesus indicates that they are at the heart of His mission.

Prayer: *Lord, the kingdom belongs to children. Grant that we may treat them accordingly.*

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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-**For true human fraternity**

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

MASK WHILE AT MASS

We kindly ask that everyone respects Bishop Soto's request to wear a mask while attending Mass. Many of us do wear a mask. **Thank you!**

Your fellow parishioners will appreciate your compliance to this minor inconvenience. Consider it a small act of kindness to others.



The Parish Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 9:00AM to 1:00PM. **The office is closed on Friday and holidays.**

Deacon Patrick Henning

Rest in Peace 1946 –2021

Deacon Patrick Henning, who was ordained to the permanent diaconate in 1992 and served the Diocese of Sacramento for more than 18 years, died on Dec. 10. He was 75. Deacon Henning served in various ministries at St. Mel Parish from 1992 to 2009, and retired on April 5, 2011.



Born and raised in San Francisco, Deacon Henning had struggled in his brief but very difficult fight with cancer and was surrounded by his family, who cared for him with love throughout his illness and his final days.

In an interview with *The Catholic Herald* in March 2005, Henning reflected on his tireless dedication to securing just wages and working conditions for laborers for more than 30 years. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger had appointed the longtime labor leader to direct the state's Employment Development Department in November 2004. He served in that role until 2009 and was appointed to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board of Directors in June 2013.

Among his priorities as EDD director, Henning told *The Catholic Herald*, were job training, a bipartisan approach to making California more creative among the workforce and employers, talking with growers and farmworkers about working conditions and fair wages, and "attacking the vast underground economy" with the help of state and local law enforcement agencies.

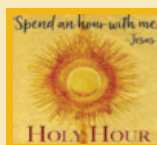
All of these goals meshed well with his ministry as a permanent deacon, he said, because he was fulfilling one of the deacon's primary missions – that of reaching out to all people who need assistance.

He is survived by his loving wife, Gina, of more than 50 years. They raised four children: Patrick, Robert (deceased), Erin and Michael. He also leaves behind four grandchildren: Chloe, Joseph, Nora and Jack. He was the devoted brother of John, Brian (deceased), Nancy, Daniel, Thomas and Mary. He is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, and many other family and friends.

St. Mel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 6:30PM in the church. **New voices are always welcome!** Looking forward to gathering, singing, and praying with you again. Please arrive 5 or 10 mins early so that we can start on time. Questions? Contact Aaron Thompson, Director of Music, at stmelmusic@outlook.com.



The Usher Ministry is looking for men and women to help during all weekend Masses. If you would like to find out more about this important ministry, contact Jack Valle at jvalle@sbcglobal.net 916-397-9920 or Bruce Kuban at bkuban123@aol.com 916-390-9836.



Join Deacon Jack and Deacon Dave for Holy Hour with the Blessed Sacrament- Exposition, Adoration and Benediction the First Friday of each month. The next Holy Hour will be February 5th from 6:30 to 7:30PM in the Church. Just before the Holy Hour, from 6:00 to 6:30PM, the Rosary for an increase in Vocations is said. Please join us.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

The Charismatic Prayer group is now meeting on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM in the Church. Please enter from the upper parking lot. Join us for praise, worship, and healing prayer. For information please call Chris 916-715-1162 or Karen Juten 916-712-3706.



Attention Parents and Godparents. The next scheduled Baptism Preparation class is Wednesday, February 2nd at 7:00PM in the Parish Center. Please call the Parish office to register to attend. 916-967-1229

ST. MEL SCHOOL AND CFF NEWS

CFF Classes

CFF will be a homeschool format for at least the first 6 months of the 2021-22 School Year. Registration is open now. The registration form is available on stmelchurch.org under Faith Formation - Religious Education for Children. If you have any questions please email Sara Donnelly, ccd@stmelschool.org.

ST MEL SCHOOL SCRIP

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!



Special Event for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on January 18, 2022

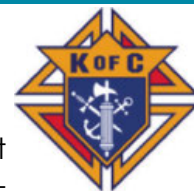
You are invited to a Special Event on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 from 3:00-8:00 p.m. during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The theme is: *We have seen his star in the East and have come to pay homage to him* (cf. Matthew 2:2). This Special Event is sponsored by the North State Ecumenical Conference, which was established in 1968 and is comprised of Christian faiths in the Greater Sacramento Area.

This Special Event will be held at Westminster Presbyterian Church (1300 N Street, Sacramento), and also will be available through Livestream (link information will be announced soon). There is no charge for this event. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Deacon Dennis Gorsuch, NSEC Chair, at (916) 984-8550, or E-mail: dennisgorsuch@comcast.net.

More information coming in next week's bulletin!

KNIGHTS CORNER

Knights Choose Life



The Knights of Columbus support the right for life through many programs locally, nationally, and around the world. Besides the annual March for Life later this month, the Knights have donated over 1000 ultrasound units to pregnancy centers since 2009. We recently began scheduling baby supplies donation drives to help Sacramento Life Center. We raise money for the intellectually disabled for educational assistance and support for Camp ReCreation. We have plans to hold a Novena for Life within our Parish.

Although the Knights are behind all of these programs, each of them could not be successful without your generous support. Working together, we are making a difference in the lives of many people. If you would like to be involved in any of these activities, please let me know. United, we can do so much more than we can accomplish individually.

Are you a Catholic gentleman, 18 years of age or older, and interested in becoming a Knight of Columbus? Visit our website: www.KofC.org and click on "Join" at the top. The Knights of Columbus is a family-oriented organization, helping bring communities together.



Please contact me if you have any questions. John Brennan - 916-548-4962, JPBrennan7262@gmail.com

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.

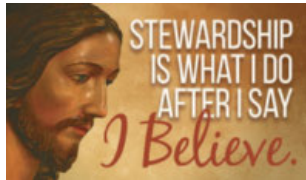


EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

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

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.



It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to hand out blessed chalk at the Masses for Epiphany, and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows: Use the blessed chalk to write: 20+C+M+B+22 above the doorways: 2022 for the year; C, M, B for the 3 Magi – Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar – and for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat**, Latin for “May Christ Bless this House.” As you are writing, pray the following prayer: Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Action Item: Get your blessed chalk in the vestibule after Mass and gather your family as you pray together to bless your home.

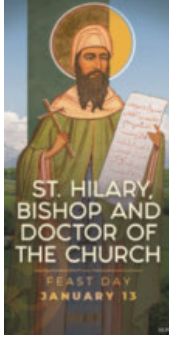
CHRIST THE KING PARISH RETREATS

The 2021-2022 Christ the King Parish Retreat theme is **"God's Dream for Our World"** to ponder God's dream for our world, through the lens of sacred scripture and storytelling. 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 **MARCH 4-6** (but also available: March 25-27, April 1-10 and 22-24) and the men have several options (Feb 4-6, 11-13, 25-27 and April 1-3). 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 also register online at <http://christthekingretreatcenter.org>. If you're unable to attend our parish date, sign up for other date. *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.

ST. HILARY OF POITIERS BISHOP AND DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Feast Day January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary (c. 315 – c. 367) studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.



Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

Dale Barngrover Memorial Book Fund Collection

SEE DISPLAY IN THE VESTIBULE



Dale converted to the Catholic Faith in June, 2020. He was a proud member of the Knights of Columbus. He passed to his eternal reward on Oct. 16, 2021.



Dale's family would like to share his religious collection with you.

Please help yourself to a book for a suggested minimum \$5 donation (or what you are able from your generosity.)

All collected donations will go to the Knights of Columbus to assist St. Mel in new technology and security improvements at the parish.

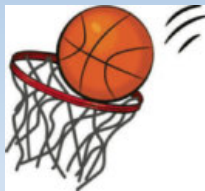
Please place your donation in the collection box labeled "DALE BARNGROVER MEMORIAL BOOK FUND COLLECTION"

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6066 PRESENTS

The Annual Free Throw Contest and Pancake Breakfast!
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9TH

FREE THROW CONTEST

DOHENY HALL
9:00AM to 12:00 Noon



For Boys and Girls, Ages 9-14
Show off your Skills!

All Participants receive a Participation Certificate!

PreRegister at wardchrisj@hotmail.com
Or on the day of the event!

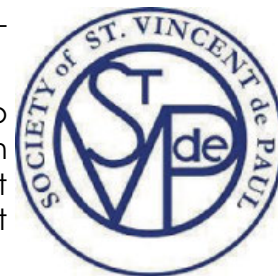
PANCAKE BREAKFAST

In the Small Hall after the 8:00AM and 10:30AM Masses

Join us for a delicious breakfast of Eggs, Bacon, Sausage and Pancakes! \$5 donation requested.



This is a huge thank you to all the people who donated to our St. Mel Conference of the Society of St. Vincent DePaul this past year.



This holiday season we were able to provide 60 turkeys and bags of food to families at Thanksgiving, another 50 at Christmas time, gift cards for 27 families with children to buy Christmas gifts with were handed out, and the shoe box project gave 75 teens attending San Juan High School in foster care or without permanent homes a wrapped shoe box full of small gifts and personal care items.

Our ministry to the homeless in the area restarted in May, and we are currently delivering 35-45 bagged lunches twice a week along with socks, toiletries and clothes.

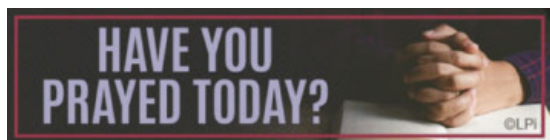
SVDP's sewing and knitting group has produced many dresses and shorts for children in the local community, at our southern border and in the Philippines. They have made lap robes and shawls for nursing home residents, caps and drain aprons for cancer patients and hats and scarves for the shoe box project and for the homeless.

We received a lot of first aid supplies in 2021; the largest portion we sent to a rural community in the Philippines, but we also donated to Mercy McMahan Nursing Home.

The food you donate to our pantry we give to many of the families that call us for help every week. Calls for assistance with rent and utilities are the most frequent, but we have also had the opportunity to do things like help people get beds for their children, a license renewal required by their employer, bus passes for medical appointments and even clothes for a job interview.

Your generosity reaches out into our community and beyond, bringing God's mercy and kindness to the poor. May His light and love continue to shine on you this year and always.

In gratitude and love,
 Melissa McLeod
 President
 SVDP, St. Mel Conference



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.

SCOUTS BSA TROOP 217
 announces their annual

COUNTRY BREAKFAST

February 6, 2022 9am-12:30pm
 St. Mel Parish Center
 4745 Pennsylvania Ave. Fair Oaks, CA

\$15 PER ADULT
 \$8 PER CHILD (UNDER 12)
 5 YRS OLD & UNDER, FREE
 \$45 IMMEDIATE FAMILY MAXIMUM

WE OFFER AN AMAZING SELECTION!
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 PLEASE COME JOIN US!

Event Contact:
 Don Jones (916) 606-1659 jonesgang7@comcast.net

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