



*Prepare the way
of the Lord!*

Luke 3:4

Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2017

December 10, 2017 – Preparing the Way for the Lord

Today's First Reading, is a response to the destruction of Israel and the Babylonian exile. It's a response of consolation and reassurance that God will restore the Jews to the promised land. He will treat her with the same gentleness of a shepherd to his sheep. Israel paid the debt incurred by her sin, so God will grant her restoration. So too, Advent is a time of penance and conversion that leads to great joy; a time to do penance in order to be restored to God's grace. When we turn away from selfishness, we find true freedom; i.e., to love and be generous. This Reading also foreshadows the Gospel about the voice of the Baptist crying out in the desert, to convert and prepare the Lord's way. The Responsorial celebrates the Hebrew concept of peace (*Shalom*). This peace is much greater than the absence of war; it encompasses body and soul, transforming the world; even the divisions in nature would be healed (the lion will lie beside the lamb). The only way this peace can come to earth is with the practice of justice and righteousness. In the Second Reading, we again hear about the Lord's return at the end of time. His delay is not because He forgot His promises; rather God is giving us extra time for conversion. He wants to give us all possible opportunity to turn our lives around and dedicate ourselves to Him and His ways. Above all, He wants our salvation, not our destruction. Advent is a sample of that extra time to prepare, convert and rededicate ourselves to God. In today's Gospel, St John the Baptist prepares the way by preaching conversion, so that when Jesus arrives, their hearts will be open and ready for Him. St John's method of baptism was ceremonial ablutions to purify from sin, while pointing to a new Baptism that not only washed away our sins, but gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes us God's children, heirs to His kingdom, members of Jesus' family, truly Christian.

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Perpetual Adoration
GREAT NEED FOR ADORERS:

Sunday: 10 - 11am, 10 - 11pm

Tuesday: 10 - 11am

Thursday: 2 - 3pm

Friday: 2 - 3am, 6 - 7pm

Saturday: 3 - 4am, 9 - 10am 11 - 12noon,
1 - 2pm, 2 - 3pm, 3 - 4pm

If you would like to be in the Real Presence of Jesus and visit with Him for one or more of the above hours, or any Hour, or be a substitute, please call Marge, 967-0641 or Chris, 966-3266. God is "thirsting" for you to satiate "His thirst"

Talk given why Perpetual Adoration is so important to the world - Pope Benedict XVI, Feb.22, 2007. "In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent Adoration, of Jesus concealed in the "Host".

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sunday 12/10/2017

8:00 AM (I) Lennore Freeman by Marge Della Villa
10:00 AM (R) Giuseppe Pasquinelli
by Matt & Sara Donnelly
4:30 PM (I) In Thanksgiving for Sarah by Susan Gerardo

Monday 12/11/2017

8:30 AM (R) Ed Phelps by Richard Phelps
12:00PM (R) Robert Joseph Vopacke by Margie Reilly

Tuesday 12/12/2017 *MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

*8:30 AM (I) Tom & Maria Johnson Family
by Tom & Maria Johnson
*8:30 AM (I) Ken & Adriana Ramos Family
by Tom & Maria Johnson
12:00PM (R) Virginia Vopacke by Margie Reilly

Wednesday 12/13/2017

8:30 AM (R) Steve Tamburo by Rosa Tamburo
12:00 PM (I) Anonymous Donor for St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday 12/14/2017

8:30 AM (R) Harry Digesti by Matt & Sara Donnelly
12:00 PM (I) Peter Kowalski
by Christine & Tiffany Kowalski

Friday 12/15/2017

8:30 AM (R) Jennifer by Susan Gerardo
12:00PM (R) Henrietta (Queta) Correa
by Frank & Doreen Gastelum

Saturday 12/16/2017

8:30 AM (I) In Thanksgiving by Susan Gerardo
4:30 PM (R) Godfrey LeMay by George Goodwin, Sr.

Sunday 12/17/2017

8:00 AM (I) Steve & Denise Kramer by Rosemary Easter
10:00 AM (I) Sarah Freeman by Marge Della Villa
4:30 PM (I) Christine Stein by David Stein

Commentators & Altar Servers December 16th & 17th

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Mammano N / Mammano F	Michael, Max & Michael
SUN 8:00AM	Ward / Kreamer	Robbie, Will & John Paul
SUN 10:00AM	Fisher / Allison	Ryan, Sean & Michael
SUN 4:30 PM	Handy / Estipular	Gavin, Augustine & Kyle

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Help religious communities. "Your generous contribution helps us to care for our retired sisters and enables our younger sisters to continue in active ministry," writes a religious sister. Your gift to today's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for thousands of senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly food drive THIS weekend, December 9th & 10th. This is two weeks early to allow time to prepare Christmas food baskets for the needy.

WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE 2018

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 27th, 2018 and join upwards of 50,000 pro-lifers for the 14th Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco as we peacefully proclaim our message that abortion hurts women. Join the Knights of Columbus and fellow St. Mel parishioners on two buses leaving from the St. Mel parking lot at 8:30 AM. Before the buses load, please join us for Mass at 7:45AM. Reserve your bus seat now for \$28 per person or \$110 max for large families. Please make your check payable to the Knights of Columbus 6066. For more information, please contact Doug Crumley Jr. or Pauline Cole, 638-4600.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

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

FATHER DOHENY FUND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TAX DEDUCTION

In December, letters of acknowledgment will be sent to those who contributed to The Father Richard Doheny Religious Education Fund during 2017. There is still time to help the Fund continue the legacy of Fr. Doheny and to take advantage of a tax-deductible contribution for the year. Please make checks payable to The Fr. Richard Doheny Religious Education Fund. Contact Walter Schaff, 961-4698 if you have any questions about the Fund.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH RETREAT

The theme of the 2018 Christ the King Parish Retreat is "*May the Passion of Jesus Christ be Always in our Hearts.*" All parishioners are invited 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** will be **JANUARY 26th - 28th** and the **MEN'S retreat** will be **April 13th - 15th**. Reserve your spot today by calling your Parish Coordinator, Martha Styer, 962-3307; or Donna Greuel, 225-2456 or the retreat center, 725-472 Ext 301. Or register online, www.christthekingretreatcenter.org. If you're unable to attend our parish date, check the website for other retreat weekends. *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.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Students of all ages are invited to be a part of the Christmas pageant at the 4:30PM Mass on Christmas Eve. There are only two rehearsals. We will meet Sunday, December 10th after the 10:00AM Mass to assign parts and practice the pageant one time. The second rehearsal is December 17th after the 10:00AM Mass. We look forward to this each year when our children bring the Nativity to life. Questions? Call 966-2814.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

All 4th - 8th grade students are invited to sing in the Children's Choir during the 4:30PM Christmas Eve Mass. The rehearsal will be Monday, December 18th at 5:00PM. Questions? Contact Aaron at stmelmusic@outlook.com.



PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Please join us in the Parish Center for the Parish Christmas Celebration after all Masses this weekend. Come enjoy food and fellowship with other parishioners. You can do a little Christmas shopping too as St. Mel School will be selling See's candy and St. Vincent de Paul will be selling baked goods, crafts and gift baskets which are sure to make the perfect gift. We look forward to celebrating this joyous Christmas season as a Parish.

REMINDER

Please do not leave valuables in your cars when you are at Mass. There have been several break-ins in the parking lot.

GRIEF SHARE

There is a new Ministry beginning at St. Mel and it is called Grief Share. The leaders of this ministry are Diocesan Certified. Grief is a natural process when we lose someone we love. The deeper the love, the deeper the grief. Talking and sharing our feelings and where we are at inside can help us grow and heal. It lets us know we are not alone. If you or anyone you know is grieving the loss of a loved one and could use some help dealing with the grieving process please call Rita, (408) 903-6344 or email ritaecdad@gmail.com.

PLEASE NOTE!

*** SCHEDULE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES ***

Please send your typed articles, in MS Word - Times New Roman, font 10, via email to stmeloffice@yahoo.com, no later than **NOON ON FRIDAY** to be included in the next bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bulletin Weekend Dates 2017	Articles DUE Prior To FRIDAY
December 16 - 17 December 23 - 24 December 30 - 31 January 6 - 7	December 8 December 15 December 22 December 29

ST. VINCENT de PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Society needs a used freezer to help with their ever-growing Monday food delivery for the homeless program. Do you or someone you know have one in your garage collecting dust that you might be able to donate? Please call Bill, 944-1374 or Craig, 826-6423.

ST. VINCENT de PAUL CHRISTMAS SPONSORS

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is now accepting requests from anyone who would like to provide a needy family with gifts this Christmas. If you would like to sponsor a family, please call, 967-1229 and ask for the St. Vincent de Paul direct line. You can leave a message and we will call you back with more information.



ST. MEL GIFTS

St. Mel Gifts has many wonderful surprises to make your Advent & Christmas season special this year. Come by after any Mass every weekend in December!

Make your Christmas holy and sacred for your family!


*Ornaments / Cards / Decorations
Jewelry / Rosaries / Books / Stocking Stuffers*

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Are you or someone you know interested in finding out what the Catholic Church believes and how to be received into the church Jesus started? The RCIA ministry is year around. It is never too late to start your own spiritual journey of discovery! For more information call Michael Faber, 719-5565.

MERCY SAN JUAN HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER GUILD

The Mercy San Juan Hospital Volunteer Guild is looking for volunteers. Volunteers are asked to work two 4-hour shifts per month. They help the hospital by working in the gift shop, escorting patients and visitors, facilitating registration, and assisting in the NICU. Bake sales are held to fund adult scholarships and special projects for the hospital. If you are interested in helping, please call Carol Gallagher, 965-3479 or the Volunteer Office, 537-5298.



We have come to the point where even the most common, simple forms of care are being denied. – The Gospel of Life, 14

Reflection: Some do not believe that artificial means, like feeding tubes, need to be used to provide nutrition. But every meal we have is also artificially provided. Straws and cups are artificial. So are the numerous processes by which our food comes from the fields, through the food companies and supermarkets, through ovens and microwaves, and onto our tables.

Food and water are always normal, obligatory care, even when administered in artificial ways.


Prayer: Lord, protect all who need assistance for the most basic provisions of life.

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CATHOLIC PUBLICATIONS

Did you know that a variety of Catholic publications are available in the vestibule? The National Catholic Register, Liguorian Press and St. Anthony Messenger are just some of the publications to choose from. For a small donation you are welcome to take a copy to read at home.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS

 Please join the **Legion of Mary** in praying daily the intentions of Pope Francis for December. Please place special emphasis this month on...*The Elderly*

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

(Names will appear for 2 months unless a call is received by the Parish Office to extend the time or to remove the name.)

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Amanda Barron | Frank & Renee Weiss | Joyce Savage |
| Bob Ahern, Sr. | Gene Fischer | Jude Hoffmann |
| Dawna Jones | Helen S. Worthington | Martinez Family |
| Diana Fischer | Helen Chilcott | Rudy Worthington |
| Diane Castonguay | Jeannette Barron | Victoria Hummer |
| Elaine Ervin | Jim Alexander | Zaida Ackerson |
| Emma Moss | Joe Hoffmann | |

We welcome all new parishioners and ask that you complete this registration form and place it in the collection basket at Mass, or return it to the Parish Office.

Quick Registration St. Mel Catholic Church	Envelopes? Yes No
Last Name _____ First Name(s) _____	
Mailing Name (i.e. Mr. & Mrs. John Doe) _____	
Address: _____	
Street	City
Zip Code	
Phone # _____	
E-mail _____	CONTACT ME BY: <input type="checkbox"/> PHONE <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL
Do you have any special request: _____	

St. Mel Parish Ministries & Social Groups (REV. September 26, 2017)

PARISH COUNCILS		
Parish Pastoral Council	Bob Mayer	342-2139
Parish Finance Council	Jim Joyce	967-1229
PARISH SCHOOL		
St. Mel School:	Janet Nagel (Principal)	967-2814
St. Mel School Parents Club:	Contact the School Office	967-2814
St. Mel Youth Group	Giovanna Bellocci	Call the Parish Office
St. Mel Young Adults (ages 18-39)	Giovanna Bellocci	Call Parish Office
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):	Michael Faber	719-5565
CATHOLIC RETURN HOME		
Catholics Return Home:	Karen Fitts	966-0184
Catholic Faith Formation (CFF):	Sara Donnelly	966-4314
Scripture & Religious Study:	Cheryl Hoffmann / or Karen Fitts	966-1830 / 966-0184
Parish Library open after weekend Masses:	Joanne Wagner	967-0190
LITURGICAL SERVICES		
Altar Servers:	Dave Murray	338-5011
Music Ministry Director	Aaron Thompson	stmelmusic@outlook.com
Commentators:	Patrick Wagner	961-8652
Eucharistic Ministers:	Deacon Anthony Pescetti	704-0057
Ushers	Patrick Wagner	961-8652
PRAYER ADVOCACY		
Charismatic Prayer Group	Karen Juten / Chris Juten	712-3706 / 715-1162
Fiat Rosary Group	Peggy Grass	962-9244
Eucharistic Adoration Chapel:	Marge Della Villa / Chris Guzman	967-0641 / 966-3266
"D. J. M." Disciples of Jesus and Mary	Joanne Hammett	765-4007
LEGION OF MARY (DAY)		
Legion of Mary (Day):	Joyce Savage	342-6179
Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe:	Dolores Leon	337-1800
Prayer Chain:	Dolores Moniz	962-0571
Fraternity of Fatherhood:	Mike Allison	834-6226
Men's Cursillo Group:	Chuck Friedrich	635-7791
SOCIAL CONCERNS		
Annettes (St. Mel's funeral luncheon providers):	Parish Office	967-1229
Loaves and Fishes Volunteers:	Kathy Yanez	967-1229
Knights of Columbus #6066:	Patrick Wagner	961-8652
St. Mel "Sip & Sup" Fellowship Dinner Program	Roelof & Claire Van Ark	802-1089
St. Vincent de Paul Society:	Bill Savage	967-1229
Sacramento Life Center: Pro-Life Pregnancy Support:	Joanne Hammett	451-4357
FR. RICHARD DOHENY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND		
Fr. Richard Doheny Religious Education Fund:	Walt Schaff	961-4698
Bishop-Gallegos Maternity Home:	Mary Schaefer / or June Schott	988-3171 / 967-9158
PARISH ORGANIZATIONS		
Altar Society:	Parish Office	967-1229
Marriage Encounter:	John & Regina Ruport	987-5616
Boy Scouts #217:	Chris Herne / Bob Mayer	798-8493 / 342-2139
Cub Scouts	Chuck Brasfield	214-5730
Girl Scouts:	Jill Dutra	217-3990
KKIS:	Laura Lumenta	718-2718
OPUS DEI:	Deidra Chapman	944-1356 or 425-4904
Children's Liturgy	Sara Lebeck / Serena Carleton	967-1229
Clara's House	Martha Rusnak	448-3976
Religious Articles:	Brenda McCollum / Dorothy Wagner	967-1229
Vocations Ministry:	Jeanne Condon	349-6936
Wedding Coordinator:	Karen Fitts	966-0184
FOR ANY CHANGES TO MINISTRY LIST		
For Any Changes to Ministry List	Parish Office	967-1229