



John came...  
to testify to the light.

John 1:6

### Third Sunday of Advent



December 17, 2017

#### December 17, 2017 – Conversion brings joy!

In the First Reading, Isaiah continues the theme of hope; hope of fulfillment of God's promise of Israel's restoration. This will happen when God's Spirit is upon the Messiah. It will be a year of favor from the Lord (alluding to the Jubilee Year tradition, when all debts are forgiven and those in distress will be consoled). The Responsorial Psalm is actually the Magnificat (Our Lady's Canticle), from St Luke. This hymn celebrates the time of favor from the Lord, when He will raise up the lowly and topple the mighty. Jesus' birth brings about this time of peace and restoration, to the earth and in our hearts. We had lost our way by sin. God reaches out to us, lost and confused. He brings mercy and salvation through His Son, Jesus. Mary's joy pours forth in proclaiming this coming event which began in Her. The Second Reading, like the ending of most of St Paul's letters, is a collection of last minute instructions. Two of the themes found throughout this Letter are joy and prayer. Joy is the sense of peace we find doing God's will, and prayer is the means of discerning His will. It is prudent to test all things, being open to God speaking in our hearts while recognizing that at the same time we must also listen to the Spirit speaking to us through the Church's Magisterium. In today's Gospel, St John helps us understand what John the Baptist's role really is. St John the Baptist is the one who calls us to convert in order to be ready for the Messiah when He comes. By his own admission, he is not the Messiah, but rather the one who points to Jesus, the true Messiah. He considers his role to be that of preparing hearts through conversion to justice and righteousness.

#### CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Perpetual Adoration  
GREAT NEED FOR ADORERS:  
Sunday: 10 - 11am, 10 - 11pm  
Tuesday: 10 - 11am  
Thursday: 8 - 9 am, 2 - 3pm  
Friday: 2 - 3am, 6 - 7pm  
Saturday: 3 - 4am, 9 - 10am 11 - 12noon,  
1 - 2pm, 2 - 3pm

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".

Please remember to call if you can't make your assigned hour out of respect to those who are in the Adoration Chapel waiting for you to arrive.

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

##### 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

##### Monday 12/18/2017

8:30 AM (R) Evelyn Hart by Tom & Maria Johnson

##### Tuesday 12/19/2017 \*MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

\*8:30 AM (R) Jaya Reddy by Sandie Yerramilli

##### Wednesday 12/20/2017

8:30 AM (R) Shirley Jones by Nathan & Betty Zanoni  
8:30 AM (R) Silvana Digesti by Matt & Sara Donnelly

##### Thursday 12/21/2017

8:30 AM (I) In Thanksgiving for Sean by Susan Gerardo  
8:30 AM (I) John & Rosalie Atilano

##### Friday 12/22/2017

8:30 AM (R) Mark O'Brien by Matt & Sara Donnelly  
8:30 AM (R) Chuck Eilers by Marcy Eilers

##### Saturday 12/23/2017

8:30 AM (R) William Bushman by Family  
4:30 PM (I) John & Rosalie Atilano  
49th Wedding Anniversary

##### Sunday 12/24/2017

8:00 AM (I) Phelps Family by Richard Phelps  
10:00 AM (I) Syd Correa by Frank & Doreen Gastelum

##### Sunday 12/24/2017 Christmas Eve

4:30 PM (R) George Gaudet by Michele Carrothers  
7:00 PM (R) Mila Rose by Mike & Grace Cao  
12:00AM (I) Hanh, Katie & Hanneil by Mike & Grace Cao



#### Commentators & Altar Servers December 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Sweeney / Faber	TBA
SUN 8:00AM	Ward / Wagner Da	TBA
SUN 10:00AM	Abi Nader / Grass	Greta, CJ & Collin
SUN 4:30 PM	Ricaforte / Wagner M	Michael, Sophia & Michael

#### WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE 2018

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, 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.

#### FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION AND MASS

On Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Jaime Soto will lead the annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Candlelight Rosary Procession and Mass. Meet at 6:00PM at the steps of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament (11th & K) and pray for the sanctity of life as we walk to Our Lady of Guadalupe (7th & T) for Mass at 7:00PM. This March for Life commemorates those male infants of Bethlehem who were killed by decree of King Herod, as well as those innocent unborn babies lost by abortion today. Bring your family and walk to Mass praying the rosary. Candles will be provided. Carpools will shuttle people back to their cars. Dress warmly and bring umbrellas if needed. For more information, call Leticia at 519-0417.

#### CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

##### The following Masses fulfil your Sunday Mass Obligation:

December 23rd ~ 4:30PM

December 24th ~ 8:00AM & 10:00am

##### The following Masses fulfil your Christmas Mass Obligation:

December 24th ~ 4:30PM & 7:00PM

December 25th ~ 12:00 Midnight, 8:00AM & 10:00AM

#### AREA ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Our Lady of Assumption – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

Our Lady of Lourdes – December 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

St. Philomene – December 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

St. John the Evangelist – December 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM

#### 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 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> and the MEN'S retreat will be April 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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.

#### CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

There will be no CFF classes on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>. Classes will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>. We hope that everyone has a blessed Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord.

#### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The next rehearsal for the Christmas pageant is December 17<sup>th</sup> after the 10:00AM Mass. We look forward to the pageant each year when our children bring the Nativity to life. Questions? Call 966-4314.

#### CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

All 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to sing in the Children's Choir during the 4:30PM Christmas Eve Mass. The rehearsal will be Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Questions? Contact Aaron at [stmelmusic@outlook.com](mailto:stmelmusic@outlook.com).

#### 2018 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

2018 Religious calendars are now available in the vestibule.

#### 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.

#### 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 [ritaecdao@gmail.com](mailto:ritaecdao@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](mailto: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 23 - 24 December 30 - 31 January 6 - 7 January 13 - 14	December 15 December 22 December 29 January 5

**MASS CHANGE**

Until further notice, the 12:00PM Mass will not be offered.

**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.

**CLARA'S HOUSE**

Clara's House is seeking volunteers for non-profit Primary Care Clinic. Needed are NP, RN, LVN, marketer, grant writer, case manager, chart clerk, receptionist, data processor and loyal contributors. Visit [www.clarashouse.org](http://www.clarashouse.org) or call 448-3976.

**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.

**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*

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING**

Altar Server Training is never out of season. Orientation and training for new servers is available as needed after school and on weekends. *Refresher and update sessions are also available.* Interested students and parents may contact Dave Murray, 716-5187 or e-mail [dddmurray@comcast.net](mailto:dddmurray@comcast.net). Information forms for parents of servers are available in the church vestibule or upon request via e-mail.



God greatly increased the numbers of His people and made them too strong for their foes. -Ps 105:24

**Reflection:** Dr. Joseph Chamie, Director of the Population Division at the United Nations, has said, "A growing number of countries view their low birth rates with the resulting population decline and ageing to be a serious crisis, jeopardizing the basic foundations of the nation and threatening its survival."

Keep this in mind the next time someone talks to you about over-population.

**Prayer:** Lord, continue to make Your people fruitful. Bless all nations with the gift of life and the joy of welcoming it.

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**REMINDER**

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

**USHER MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP!**

Have you ever considered helping usher at Mass? The Parish Usher Ministry could use your help. We are calling men, women, and young adults to consider joining this weekly service. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Pat Wagner at [patrick.wagner@iecc.org](mailto:patrick.wagner@iecc.org) or 961-8652.

**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.**

<b>Quick Registration St. Mel Catholic Church</b>		<b>Envelopes? Yes No</b>	
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)**

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