



Behold, a Virgin shall
conceive and bear a son;
and his name will be called
Emmanuel.

Isaiah 7:14

Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 18, 2016

December 18, 2016 – Blessed are you....

The final Sunday of Advent draws us closer to the celebration of the Christmas mysteries. The gospel offers the story of the young pregnant woman, Mary, travelling in haste from her home town of Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, some 80 miles to the south, to be with an older woman who is also pregnant, her cousin Elizabeth. Mary enters “the house of Zechariah” who remains silent and in the background throughout. While Zechariah is the householder according to Jewish law, his earlier reluctance to believe renders him silent and powerless to offer hospitality. Elizabeth’s contrasting openness to recognize and affirm the living presence of God in their midst makes her the true householder and foreshadows the reversal that is to characterize the new order. The two women embrace and, in their loving embrace, the Spirit-filled life gestating within Mary encounters and physically affects the life that is coming to birth in Elizabeth. Elizabeth’s words resound throughout the ages in the prayer we know as the Hail Mary: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb....” These are the words of one woman prophet to another. Elizabeth recognizes that Mary is blessed by God because she believed that God’s promise to her would be fulfilled. As God’s prophet, Elizabeth gives expression to the faith that is to be embraced by all those who accept that Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Mary of Nazareth, is the Holy One of God (Luke 1:35). The lives of both women have been transformed through the power of God’s Spirit. The birth of their children will bring to birth an unprecedented event in human history. Elizabeth’s proclamation of the blessing of God on Mary is found daily on the lips of countless faith-filled Christians across the globe. It echoes the blessing prayer of Moses to the Israelites (Deut 28: 2-4): “May you be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. Blessed is the fruit of your womb, the produce of your soil and the offspring of your livestock....” In our times, God’s blessing on the whole Earth community can only become a reality when we work together. Advent is not a time of passive waiting. It is a time to ponder the various ways that God sustains life in its diverse forms and to become householders, like Elizabeth, who clear the paths and open our doors for the God of life to enter in.

Daily Masses and Mass Intentions

Sunday 12/18/2016

- 8:00 AM (R) Leroy Pierce by Sylvia Pierce Thompson & Judy Pierce Mackenzie
- 8:00 AM (R) All Souls in Purgatory by Mike & Grace Cao
- 10:00 AM (R) Matthew Lopez by Dale Carter
- 4:30 PM (R) Goldie & Sam Stein by Christine Stein

Monday 12/19/2016

- 7:00 AM (I) In Thanksgiving by Kathryn
- 8:30 AM (R) Jaya Reddy by Sandi Yerramilli

Tuesday 12/20/2016 *MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

- *7:00 AM (I) Shirley Jones-80th Birthday by Bill Jones
- *8:30 AM (I) Nicole Bannister by St. Mel Faculty & Staff

Wednesday 12/21/2016

- 7:00 AM (I) Michael C. D’Incecco
by Nick & Antonia Cammarota
- 8:30 AM (I) Renato Lasat, Jr. by Rene & Amy Lasat

Thursday 12/22/2016

- 7:00 AM (R) John Baker by Tom Baker
- 8:30 AM (R) Chuck Eilers by Eilers Family

Friday 12/23/2016

- 7:00 AM (R) Omer Ruiz by Don & Pat Schaefer
- 8:30 AM (I) Father Aldrin by Dave & Michelle Lehman

Saturday 12/24/2016

- 8:30 AM (I) Ashlock Family by D’Incecco Family
- 4:30 PM (I) Sarah Freeman by Marge Della Villa
- 7:00PM (I) Brian O’Neel by Matt & Sara Donnelly

Sunday 12/25/2016

- 12:00 MID (I) Brian O’Neel & Family
by Matt & Sara Donnelly
- 8:00 AM (R) Rafael Virrueta by Elena, Tina & Maria
- 8:00 AM (R) All Souls in Purgatory by Mike & Grace Cao
- 10:00 AM (I) Leanne Della Villa by Marge Della Villa
- 10:00 AM (I) John Garcia by St. Mel Faculty & Staff

Commentator & Music Leaders & Altar Servers for December 24 & 25, 2016

Mass Times	Commentator Altar Servers	Music Leader
SAT 4:30 PM	TBD Kate, Janelle, Josephine & Jason	Children’s Choir
SAT 7:00 PM	Mammano N / Mammano F Dominic, Andrew & Michael	Music Leader
SUN 12:00 MID	Allison Collin, Aaron, John Paul C. & Greta	Combined Choir
SUN 8:00 AM	Wagner P / Wagner Do Matthew & Sarah	Music Leader
SUN 10:00 AM	Juten C / Juten K Jeffrey, Jenna & Sean	Traditional Choir

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Perpetual Adoration
GREAT NEED FOR ADORERS:
Sunday 7 - 8am, 10 - 11am, 5 - 6pm, 6 - 7pm
Thursday 5 - 6pm
Friday 4 - 5pm
Saturday 3 - 4am, 9 - 10am,
11am - 12 Noon, 1 - 2pm, 3 - 4pm

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

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group’s Advent party is Sunday, Dec 18th. The theme is “Ugly Christmas Sweater” and we will be watching Home Alone. This is a good opportunity to try Youth Group for the first time. The party will be at 5:30 pm in the convent. Questions? Email: ymstmel@gmail.com or call/text, 936-2793.

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve: Children’s Mass ~ 4:30PM
Family Mass ~ 7:00PM
~ Mass at Midnight ~
Christmas Day ~ 8:00AM and 10:00AM

WEST COAST WALK FOR LIFE 2017

Mark your calendars for Saturday, January 21, 2017 for the 12th Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco. Join upwards of 50,000 pro-lifers 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 8:30AM that morning. We will celebrate Mass at 7:45AM before we get on the buses. 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Have you ever wanted to take a fresh look at your Marriage? With Christmas just two weeks away, consider this: making a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing your Sacrament of Matrimony. Weekends for 2017 are as follows: February 10-12, 2017 in Sacramento; March 31-April 2, 2017 in Reno, NV.; August 25-27, 2017 in Sacramento; October 6-8, 2017 in Reno, NV., and November 3-5, 2017 in Sacramento. It is not too early to register for a weekend that you will never forget. For more information visit our website, www.sacramentowwme.org or email Terry & Janet at applications@sacramentowwme.org or 489-3464.



Women’s Day of Faith Renewal
for
all women from 14 to 104!!!
Saturday, February 11th, 2017
\$40
A Perfect Christmas gift for your
wife, daughter, Mom or
all the women in your life!

See our booth at the Parish Christmas Celebration
or come by St. Mel Gifts in narthex!

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

Mary Friedrich
Florence Garcia

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.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

There will be no CFF classes on the following dates:

Monday, December 19th & Tuesday, December 20th
Monday, December 26th & Tuesday, December 27th
Monday, January 2nd & Tuesday, January 3rd

Classes resume:

Monday, January 9th & Tuesday, January 10th

Wishing you and your families a very Blessed Christmas and may 2017 be filled with an abundance of blessings and His grace.

SPONSOR A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

St. Vincent de Paul is looking for families or individuals who would like to sponsor a family for Christmas. We have small families and big families who could use some help in making this Christmas a little brighter. If you would like to be a sponsor, or know of a family that could use help, please call 967-1229. As always SVdP, would like to thank the Knights of Columbus and our generous parishioners for their contributions of food to help those who are hungry.

MORNING ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Everyone is welcome to join the Daily Rosary Morning Prayer Group that meets after Mass. One group meets after the 7:00AM Mass and another group meets after the 8:30AM Mass in the Baptismal room. For more information contact Karen Juten, 712-3706.

2017 RELIGIOUS CALENDARS

2017 Religious calendars are now available in the vestibule.

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 2016	Articles DUE Prior To FRIDAY
December 24 - 25 Dec. 31 - Jan. 1 January 7 - 8 January 14 - 15	December 16 December 22 December 30 January 6

AREA ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 19th, 7:00PM

St. John Vianney
10497 Coloma Rd, Rancho Cordova

Tuesday, December 20th, 7:00PM

St. Philomene
2428 Bell St., Sacramento

Wednesday, December 21st, 7:00pm

Our Lady of the Assumption
5057 Cottage Way, Carmichael



Benjamin Thomas Byrnes
son of
Brian & Katie Byrnes
December 9, 2016

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

On Wednesday, December 28th, the annual Feast of the Holy Innocents Candlelight Rosary Procession and Mass will meet at 5:00 p.m. on 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 concelebrated Mass at 6:00 p.m. 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, sing with St. Mary's choir, 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, please call Leticia, 519-0417.

**100th ANNIVERSARY DIOCESAN
PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA**

Join Bishop Myron J. Cotta and the Diocese of Sacramento September 15-24, 2017 for a once in a lifetime pilgrimage for the Centennial of Our Lady of Fatima! Pray in the Capelinha marking the spot where Our Lady appeared, see a Eucharistic miracle, visit the medieval town of Batalha, and take part in the 100th anniversary celebrations. Stops include Coimbra, where Sr. Lucia spent most of her life. Nazare on the Atlantic coast, Aljustrel, Obidos and explore the port city of Lisbon. To make a reservation, contact Canterbury Pilgrimages, 800-653-0017 or reservations@canterburypilgrimages.com.



Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He was obedient to them. -Lk 2:51

Reflection: Though He was conceived of a virgin, Jesus nevertheless lived as a son in a human family. The family is the sanctuary of life. The family, above all, is where life is to be welcomed, no matter how fragile or inconvenient it may be.

One of the many reasons why the Church sees abortion and euthanasia as pre-eminent issues is because these crimes are committed by one family member upon another

Prayer: O Holy Family, bless our families and lead us to a Culture of Life.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS CARDS

Keep Christ in Christmas with cards made available by the Knights of Columbus. The cards will be for sale after vigil and Sunday Masses. Other Christmas items are available by catalog order. New designs are being presented this year. Call Dave Murray for more information on this program, 716-5187.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

Al Volmer	Garvin Arnett	Katie Henson
Alan Cheuse	George Kim	Katie Spain
Alex Quiroz	Gianna Atilano	Keith Sprengle
Amanda Barron	Grace Barrios	King David Chico
Anthony Caillou	Gregory David	Latasha Rodriguez
Arthur Morton	Howard McCormack, Jr.	Linda Ramsey
Audrey Holden	James A. Martinez	Lita Dean Reid
Bob Ahern, Sr.	Jean Crupi	Lydia Melendez
Candy Barrios	Jeanette Barron	Margaret Anderson
Charles Joseph Ortner	Jerry Esparza	Margaret Valley
Cheryl Richardson	Jerry Smith	Mary Alyce Gisla
Chris Stabile	Jim Maher	Michael J. Martinez
Christian Dimitri	Joanne Kim	Michelle Atwood
Daniel Schwartz, III	Jody & Ron Martinez	Mollie Dear
Dave Kangas	Johanna Ross	Nellie Henson
Deana Landingham	John Forrest	Nick Tenaglia
Diane Castonguay	John Langland	P. J. Spain
Donald Wise	John Wise, Jr.	Patty Arcenequex- Conti
Dora V. Marczak	Jose Mascoro	Pilo DeLeon
Dora Palpallatoc	Joseph Dimitri	Ray Willey
Eduardo Murallon	Joseph Jacin	Rendtor Ramirez
Elizabeth McMahon	Joseph McCormick	Richard Robinson
Evelyn Dimitri	Judy Spinelli	Robert Atkinson
Fred H. Salter	Karen Petersen	Robin Dunton
	Katie Grant	Rodney Wise

St. Mel Parish Ministries & Social Groups (REV. January 10, 2016)

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 Ministry:	Dominick Romano	Call Parish Office
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION		
R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults):	Brenda McCollum	722-1965
Lighthouse Catholic Media	Mary Schaefer	988-3171
Marian Movement of Priests:	Claude Rashid	728-5739
Catholics Return Home:	Claude Rashid / Karen Fitts	728-5739 / 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		
Commentators:	Patrick Wagner	961-8652
Eucharistic Ministers:	Deacon Anthony Pescetti	704-0057
Ushers	Walt Schaff	961-4698
PRAYER ADVOCACY		
Charismatic Prayer Group	Karen Juten / Chris Juten	712-3706 / 715-1162
Fiat Rosary Group	Peggy Grass (Wed)/Marge Young (Tues)	962-9244 / 967-2540
Eucharistic Adoration Chapel:	Marge Della Villa / or Chris Guzman	967-0641 / 966-3266
"D. J. M." Disciples of Jesus and Mary	Mike Allison	834-6226
Divine Mercy:	Amy Lasat	342-2088
Legion of Mary (Day):	Joyce Savage	342-6179
SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE		
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:	Jim Carlson	801-9373
St. Mel "Sip & Sup" Fellowship Dinner Program	Janet Donahue	663-7653
St. Vincent de Paul Society:	Craig Shaw	967-1229
Sacramento Life Center: Pro-Life Pregnancy Support:	Joanne Hammett	451-4357
St. Mel Pro-Life Group:		
Gabriel Project (crisis pregnancy assistance):	Kathy Knutson	967-1229
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
M.O.M.	Jeanne Condon	349-6936
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 Committee:	Ana DeHam	967-1229
Wedding Coordinator:	Karen Fitts	966-0184
Parish Center Coordinators:	Yolanda & Jim Carlson	966-3803
For Any Changes to Ministry List	Parish Office	967-1229

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: _____		