



Rejoice, O highly favored  
daughter!  
The Lord is with you.

Luke 1:28

### Fourth Sunday of Advent



December 24, 2017

#### December 24, 2017 – Ready for Jesus?

In the First Reading, we hear about another covenant God made. Many covenants are made in the Old Testament between God and His people: with Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua and here we find the one with David. David wants to build the Lord a temple to house the Arc of the Covenant. The Lord, however, seems to be more interested in fidelity to Him, than in a building. He promises David a dynasty wherein his sons will reign forever, if they remain faithful to the Lord. The Lord promises a father's closeness and love for his son. This promise or covenant, with David came to fruition in Jesus, a son of David. The Responsorial celebrates the Lord's fidelity to His covenants and promises, to David and Israel. His fidelity is rock solid, His love like a father's, and as Savior, He always rescues us from our enemies. Our only response can be praise. The Second Reading is a hymn of praise (*doxology*), as is often found at the end of St Paul's Letters. He celebrates the Lord's goodness and fidelity to His promises. As He fulfilled His promises of old, so now again, through the birth of the Savior in our midst. This miracle of Jesus' birth, of grace in our world, is proclaimed to all nations of the earth. Today's Gospel, is the Annunciation account, wherein Jesus becomes incarnate into the world via Our Lady. The dialogue between the angel Gabriel and Mary is given. She was already filled with grace prior to his arrival, hence his greeting, 'Hail, full of grace!' Our Lady is well disposed, by Her Immaculate Conception, to respond to God's invitation with great generosity, even though She doesn't fully understand. She has placed herself at God's disposal. Contrary to worldly logic, Her virginity will remain intact while She gives birth to God's son, Jesus. God gifting St Elizabeth with a child is a sign and precursor of His ability to overcome nature, for nothing is impossible to Him; so certainly the Virgin Mary can bear Jesus, the Eternal King, while remaining a virgin. We are overcome with awe. May we be ready to receive Him.

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

##### 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

##### Monday 12/25/2017 Christmas Day

8:00 AM (R) Milagos Legaspi by Myrna Carillo  
10:00 AM (I) Bob Laywell by Carol McNelly

##### Tuesday 12/26/2017 \*MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

\*8:30 AM (R) Frank Franzago by Franzago Family

##### Wednesday 12/27/2017

8:30 AM (R) Katherine Hansen by Tom & Maria Johnson

##### Thursday 12/28/2017

8:30 AM (I) Gail & Bob Johnson  
- 60th Wedding Anniversary  
8:30 AM (I) Kathleen De Santis Birthday  
by Michael DeSantis & Family

##### Friday 12/29/2017

8:30 AM (R) Mary Catherine Elkington  
by Tom & Maria Johnson

##### Saturday 12/30/2017

8:30 AM (R) John Ramos by Tom & Maria Johnson  
4:30 PM (I) Ashley & Andrea Adams by Rosemary Easter

##### Sunday 12/31/2017

8:00 AM (R) Suzanne Vierra by James Joyce Family  
10:00 AM (I) In Thanksgiving for Maximilian  
by Susan Gerard  
4:30 PM (R) Rosangela Pellegrini by Matt & Sara Donnelly

Happy New Year!

#### Commentators & Altar Servers December 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Laywell / Wagner G	TBD
SUN 8:00AM	Kreamer / Wagner P	TBD
SUN 10:00AM	Phillips L / Phillips J	TBD
SUN 4:30 PM	Allison / Karelius	TBD

#### ST. MEL YOUTH MINISTRY

St. Mel Youth Ministry would like to wish you a Merry Christmas. All high school age youth and young adults (18-39) are invited to join us at events throughout the year. Check future bulletins for dates and times. If you have any questions, please contact Gigi at [ymstmel@gmail.com](mailto:ymstmel@gmail.com) or 936-2793.

#### 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.

#### THE SOCIETY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Mass and Celebration. A special thank you to Fr. Aldrin and Deacon Dave for the beautiful Mass to honor Our Lady. Thanks to all the helping hands that donated their time, talent and energy, this includes everyone at the Parish Center for their full support. We couldn't do it without you. Last but not least, thank you to the St Mel students, teachers and staff, who added joyfulness to the day.

#### 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

#### 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 wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

#### 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.

#### 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).

#### 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 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 & 2018	Articles DUE Prior To <b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>December 30 - 31</b> <b>January 6 - 7</b> <b>January 13 - 14</b> <b>January 20 - 21</b>	<b>December 22</b> <b>December 29</b> <b>January 5</b> <b>January 12</b>

### MASS CHANGE

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

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2018 is the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God. This is **NOT** a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at 8:30AM.

### CHRIST THE KING RETREAT

All are invited to a presentation by Dr. Hai Tran, "LIFE as first envisioned", on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 8:30AM – 3:00PM, at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center. Cost is \$30 if registered by January 25<sup>th</sup>. The brochure is available at the Church entrance or saccatholic.com.

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>. Office hours Wednesday through Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>, will be 8:00AM to 12noon.

### 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*

### 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.*



There has been born to you a Savior, Who is Christ, the Lord. –Lk 2:11

**Reflection:** From the beginning of time, prophets announced that the Messiah of the Lord would come. "Messiah," or "Christ" means "Anointed One."

On Christmas, this prophecy was fulfilled in a surprising way, because the Angels did not simply announce that Jesus was the Messiah of the Lord. They said the newborn child was *Messiah AND Lord*.

**Prayer:** Fill us, Lord, with the wonder of God joining our human family and raising our dignity beyond our imagination.

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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.**

### 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.

### MORNING ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Everyone is welcome to attend a Daily Rosary Group that meets in the Baptismal Room inside the church. One group meets at 7:30 AM and the other group meets at 9AM, Monday through Saturday.

### 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.)

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

### 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
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
<b>LITURGICAL SERVICES</b>		
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
<b>PRAYER ADVOCACY</b>		
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):	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
<b>SOCIAL CONCERNS</b>		
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:	Walt Schaff	961-4698
Bishop-Gallegos Maternity Home:	Mary Schaefer / or June Schott	988-3171 / 967-9158
<b>PARISH ORGANIZATIONS</b>		
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	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.*

<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: _____			