



Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Reponsorial Psalm

### First Sunday of Advent



December 3, 2017

#### December 3, 2017 – Advent: God's grace is new life

In the First Reading, we find Isaiah emphasizing the need for conversion. Israel cannot hope to experience the promised restoration until it converts. Isaiah admits that conversion is impossible without God's intervention to give Israel the strength it needs to change its ways. On our own we will never find the strength and courage to choose the good and reject evil. In this Advent season of conversion, we desperately need God's grace to transform our lives. We trust God's grace will be there, like the Potter who carefully shapes our hearts to respond to His call. The Responsorial echoes this theme of conversion based on God's help. God is not only King of heaven and earth, but also the loving Shepherd who cares for His flock. For this we trust God will intervene for us; in a powerful way to teach us His ways. He will not abandon us to our self-made prison created by our sinful choices. Such is our Advent celebration: *God offers us new life through the birth of His Son in Bethlehem and continues that grace-filled offering and Presence through His Sacraments.* The Second Reading, speaks of Christ's Second Coming, whether it be at the end of the world or at the time of our own death. Christ must be the center of our love and our life, for He is the only one who makes our life and our heart whole. In today's Gospel, St Mark is trying to help us live our lives in proper perspective. We don't know when Jesus will return, and equally we don't know how long we have to live this life. We should strive to live each day as something precious, for there might not be another. To live today as if it were our first, last, and only day of life. Then we won't be so surprised by sister death, when she comes as the unexpected thief in the night. Advent reminds us to be and stay prepared in living life.

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

##### Sunday 12/3/2017

- 8:00 AM (I) Ursula O'Brien-Gispen Family  
by Matt & Sara Donnelly
- 10:00 AM (R) Sharlene Phelps by Richard Phelps
- 4:30 PM (I) Matthew Freeman by Marge Della Villa

##### Monday 12/4/2017

- 8:30 AM (R) Helen Clark by Emily Ward
- 12:00PM (I) My wife's 77th birthday

##### Tuesday 12/5/2017 \*MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

- \*8:30 AM (R) Giuseppe & Anita Pasquinelli  
by Matt & Sara Donnelly
- 12:00PM (R) Robert & Virginia Vopacke by Margie Reilly

##### Wednesday 12/6/2017

- 8:30 AM (I) In Thanksgiving for Bernardo  
by Susan Gerardo
- 12:00 PM (I) All our family

##### Thursday 12/7/2017

- 8:30 AM (R) Jim Fox by Fox Family
- 12:00 PM (R) Tom Petty by Sally Fisher

##### Friday 12/8/2017

- 8:30 AM (R) Mark O'Brien by Matt & Sara Donnelly
- 12:00PM (I) Vopacke & Rainey Families by Margie Reilly
- 7:00PM (R) Carmelito Viadnes by Claire & Marilyn

##### Saturday 12/9/2017

- 8:30 AM (R) Elisabeth "Liz" Skou by Kathryn Yanez
- 4:30 PM (I) Jaxe Kramer by Rosemary Easter

##### 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

#### Commentators & Altar Servers December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Roland / Laywell	Jason, Josephine & Janelle
SUN 8:00AM	Morrison / Wagner Do	Abby, Abbie & John
SUN 10:00AM	School Mass	School Mass
SUN 4:30 PM	Karelius / Styer	Kate, David & Vincent

#### ST. MEL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT FUND

The second collection this weekend, December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be for the St. Mel Maintenance and Improvement Fund. These funds are used for taking care of our facilities. Thank you for your generous support.

#### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

The second collection next weekend, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, will be for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation provides vital support for our Senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

#### HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be at 8:30AM, 12:00PM and 7:00PM.**

#### HOUR OF GRACE

Please join us after the 12:00PM Mass on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, as we recite Psalm 51 and pray the Rosary during an of Hour of Grace. We will also pray for the intentions of Pope Francis and all priests.

#### 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. Rehearsals will be Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM and Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM. Questions? Contact Aaron at [stmelmusic@outlook.com](mailto:stmelmusic@outlook.com).

#### 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.

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

*Thomas McNamara*

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

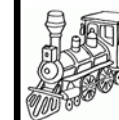
Classes are in session this weekend, Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.



#### PARISH CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The Parish Christmas Celebration will take place after all Masses next weekend, December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>. Several St. Mel ministries will be selling Christmas items including the St. Mel School See's candy fundraiser and St. Vincent de Paul sale of baked goods, crafts and gift baskets. We hope that everyone can join us as we celebrate as a Parish this joyous Christmas season.

St. Vincent de Paul is asking for donations of baked goods for their sale. Please drop your donations of homemade baked goods off at the Parish Center on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 and 10:30am.



Kids in grades TK-8 get your crayons and colored pencils ready for the Christmas Art Contest! The winning boy and girl from TK and Kindergarten could win a Razor scooter and the winning boy and girl from grades 1-8 could win a bike!

#### 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.

#### 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 9 - 10 December 16 - 17 December 23 - 24 December 30 - 31	December 1 December 8 December 15 December 22

#### CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Perpetual Adoration  
GREAT NEED FOR ADORERS:

Sunday: 10 - 11am, 10 - 11pm

Tuesday: 10 - 11am

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".

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.

**ST. MEL YOUTH GROUP**

The St. Mel Youth Group will be meeting in the convent on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The discussion topic is the Theology of the Body: how the Church and the World view the dignity of man and woman in regards to their bodies. Join us after the Sunday, 4:30PM Mass.

**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*

**Please Pray for the Chronically Ill of Our Parish**

(Names of those with long-term illnesses will appear on this list and be printed in the Church bulletin on the first Sunday of each month.)

- |                   |                      |                 |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Albert Gonzales   | Garrett Heisinger    | Louis Patterson |
| Auroa Deese       | George Snyder, Sr.   | Lynn Warner     |
| Betty Cerato      | Gerrie & Paul Parker | Manuel Ybarra   |
| Bill Jones        | Howie Hoel           | Maria Erickson  |
| Bruce King        | James English        | Marie Lofgren   |
| Cecelia Beviacqua | Jody Martinez        | Mary Hoel       |
| Charles J. Ortner | Kathy Houser         | Ralph Virgen    |
| Connie McKie      |                      | Veronica Saenz  |



No one can tame the tongue... With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. –Jas 3:8-9

**Reflection:** In the efforts to oppress various segments of humanity, dehumanizing language is always used. The unborn have been called “parasites,” “tissue,” and other non-personal names.

Such language not only degrades persons but dishonors the One who made them in His image. The Culture of Life demands language that ennobles and honors.

**Prayer:** Guard our tongues, Lord God, that what we say about human lives may always honor them and You.

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**RELEVANT RADIO 1620 AM**

Immaculate Heart Radio 1620 AM has merged with and is now known as Relevant Radio 1620AM. Volunteers are needed December 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> to help answer phone calls during the station Pledge Drive. The office and studios are located in Loomis, CA at the Penryn Road exit off I-80. Enjoy food, fun and fellowship and even win some great books, movies and CD’s. For more information or to volunteer, contact Nicole, 877-291-0123 or [volunteers@relevantradio.com](mailto:volunteers@relevantradio.com). Program and station information is available on the media rack in the vestibule.

**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.)

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

*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?</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>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>CATHOLIC RETURN HOME</b>		
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
<b>LEGION OF MARY (DAY)</b>		
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
<b>FR. RICHARD DOHENY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FUND</b>		
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