



Your ways, O Lord, are  
love and truth to those who  
keep your covenant.

Psalm 25:4-5

## First Sunday in Lent

February 18, 2018

### February 18, 2018 – Baptism floods our soul with grace

Today's First Reading recounts the end of the Noah's Ark story. The flood was God's punishment for humanity's sins. The flood destroyed every living thing, except Noah, his family and pairs of animals Noah had taken with him into the ark. Once the flood receded, the first thing Noah and his family did was offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. This greatly pleased the Lord, so He made a covenant with Noah and all creatures that He would never again destroy the world by flood. God promised the rainbow as the sign of this pact and to remind Him of this covenant. This was done not because man was so good, for God had just admitted that man's heart is corrupt from birth, but as an act of His mercy. The Responsorial Psalm emphasizes God's invariable fidelity to man, while reminding us of *our dependence* on Him in order to be faithful, for alone we are unable. When we sin, we betray God's love for us. This is why we reach out to Him. We depend on God to show us the right path; to give us the courage to do what is right. The greatest sign of His mercy is His promise to guide and instruct us. Our Lenten journey of conversion is a *surrender* to His guidance, for alone we cannot change ourselves. In the Second Reading, the theme is Baptism, seen as a washing to remove sin's contagion. As the ark saved Noah from the flood, so in Baptism are we saved from the drowning flood of sin. Baptism is an appeal to God for a clear conscience, supported by the pledge of Heaven's power to protect us. This is why the Sacraments are so important, because they are backed by Divine power. Baptism is the first building block, the foundation for all the other Sacraments. Today's Gospel shows Jesus going out into the desert to pray and fast for forty days. **Prayer and fasting are His protective shield against Satan's temptation.** Lent is our time to spiritually fortify ourselves against temptation. The Church allots us this time to share in Christ's 40 days of prayer and fasting. The time is exact: beginning Ash Wednesday, concluding Holy Saturday and excluding the seven Sundays of Lent equal the 40 days. By prayer and self-discipline, we learn to stay more focused on God and are strengthened to resist temptation. These habits of virtue turn our hearts to God and manifest His reign in the world.

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Sunday 2/18/2018

8:00 AM (R) Shirley Jones by Nathan & Betty Zanoni  
10:00 AM (R) Bill Mullin by John, Richard, Linda & Marilee  
4:30 PM (R) Natividad Gimalay by Myrna Carillo

#### Monday 2/19/2018

8:30 AM (I) David Kruzek  
by Michael & Elizabeth Hummer

#### Tuesday 2/20/2018 \*MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

\*8:30 AM (R) Theresa Baker by Susan & Tim Baker

#### Wednesday 2/21/2018

8:30 AM (I) Nicholaus Lumenta

#### Thursday 2/22/2018

8:30 AM (R) Lois M. Piette by Peggy Grass

#### Friday 2/23/2018

8:30 AM (I) Patty Hill by St. Mel Faculty & Staff

#### Saturday 2/24/2018

8:30 AM (R) Alex Lizarraga & Family by Mike Allison  
4:30 PM (R) Mark O'Brien by Matt & Sara Donnelly

#### Sunday 2/25/2018

8:00 AM (R) Souls in Purgatory  
10:00 AM (R) Bill Mullin by John, Richard, Linda & Marilee  
4:30 PM (I) Andrea Alcovendaz by St. Mel Faculty & Staff

We must pray without tiring, for the salvation of mankind does not depend upon material success...but on Jesus alone.

~ St. Francis Xavier Cabrini

### Commentators & Altar Servers February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>

Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Laywell / Sweeney	Max, John & Andrew
SUN 8:00AM	Morrison / Wagner Do	John Paul, Matthew & Trinity
SUN 10:00AM	Fisher / Allison	Katriel, Wyatt & Vincent
SUN 4:30 PM	Estipular / Styer M	Dylan, Victor & Grace

### ST. MEL YOUTH MINISTRY

The St. Mel Youth Group meets twice a month after the Sunday 4:30PM Mass. All high schoolers are invited to come enjoy food, fun and fellowship. The next meeting is February 25<sup>th</sup> in the Convent and we hope to see you there! Our next meeting dates are March 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Gigi at [ymstmel@gmail.com](mailto:ymstmel@gmail.com) or 936-2793.

### ST. MEL YOUNG ADULTS

St. Mel Young Adults will be meeting every Wednesday during Lent for fellowship and Bible Study. Join us any or all Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the Convent. Bibles will be available. If you can't make Wednesday nights, please check the calendar for other dates at [www.catholicveritas.com](http://www.catholicveritas.com). For more information: [stmelsya@gmail.com](mailto:stmelsya@gmail.com) or 916-936-2793.

### PARISH OFFICE CLOSURE

In honor of President's Day, the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. The office will reopen on Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00AM.

### SOUP AND STATIONS

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul will be sponsoring "Soup and Stations" on all Fridays in Lent except for Good Friday. Bring a crock pot of soup or some bread and join us in the Small Hall at 5:30PM for dinner and fellowship before the Stations of the Cross at 7:00PM. St. Vincent de Paul will provide bowls and spoons. On Friday, March 23rd, dinner will begin at 5:00PM with Stations of the Cross at 6:30PM followed by the Penance Service at 7:00PM.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS



Please join the **Legion of Mary** in praying daily the intentions of Pope Francis for February. Please place special emphasis this month on...*those with power.*

*That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.*

### 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@icee.org](mailto:patrick.wagner@icee.org) or 961-8652.

### A WORD OF THANKS

Chris and Karen Juten, along with our deployed American soldiers, thank those parishioners who have made very generous donations to our military. Chris and Karen received a letter from a chaplain in Iraq who says, "Thank you so very much for the many, many packages that you have sent to our soldiers here in Iraq. Your packages lately have gone to a chapel at our base that supports Navy, Marines, Army, French, and Danish. God bless you, Chaplain Luke Basler". Donations will continue to be accepted for our great American soldiers until September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office.

### CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

Due to the President's Day holiday, there will be no CFF classes this Sunday, February 18th.

### BEST LENT EVER

The Dynamic Catholic Institute invites all parishioners to join a 40-day journey to a life-changing Lent. Best Lent Ever is a free email program that will give you daily short inspirational videos, practical tips to incorporate into your everyday lives, and encouraging stories from Dynamic Catholic team members. This program will provide a powerful opportunity and inspiration to live out your faith on a deeper level. Sign up at [BestLentEver.com/ParishSignUp](http://BestLentEver.com/ParishSignUp) and be prepared to have your best Lent ever.

### RELEVANT RADIO 1620AM

Relevant Radio needs your help during their pledge drive the week of February 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. A few hours of your time answering phones and accepting pledges would be greatly appreciated. Enjoy food, fun and fellowship, meet on-air personnel and even win some great books, movies and CD's. Contact Nicole at [volunteers@relevantradio.com](mailto:volunteers@relevantradio.com) or 1-877-291-0123 or Frank Abinader, St. Mel Parish Ambassador for Relevant Radio, 916- 337-9171. Program and station information is available on the media rack in the entrance of the church.

### MASS CHANGE

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

### 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 2018	Articles DUE Prior To FRIDAY
February 24 - 25 March 3 - 4 March 10 - 11 March 17 - 18	February 16 February 23 March 2 March 9

### CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



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

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"

### ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

The 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal is our annual tradition that connects us to thousands of people who need our help every day. Our generous gifts to the Appeal help children find safety and hope, families break through desperate situations, marginalized individuals find the strength to rebuild lives of dignity, students in economically challenged communities remain in Catholic school, and seminarians prepare for priestly service in our parishes. We may not be social workers, yet we are at the heart of mercy when we put out resources in the hands of social service programs and parish ministries that help lift people out of poverty. Please be as generous as you can. Every gift makes a difference.

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly food drive NEXT weekend, February 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Your generosity is appreciated.

### NEW ADULT SCRIPTURE STUDY

A new Adult Scripture Study, "Priest, Prophet and King", will begin on Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. Presented by Bishop Robert Barron, this is the perfect study for Lent as we discover Jesus as the Anointed One – the ultimate priest, prophet and king as foreshadowed throughout the Hebrew Scriptures. We hope you will join us for this short 6-week presentation. To register call Karen, 916-202-0606 or Cheryl, 916-342-1336.

### ADORATION CHAPEL BOOKS

The books that are in the Adoration Chapel are for use in the Adoration Chapel only. Please leave them in the chapel so that everyone can use them. Thank you.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



A unique part of RCIA is being a SPONSOR to a Candidate. Together, you journey through our Catholic faith sharing special moments and beautiful Rites. If you are interested in being part of this journey with a man or woman who desires to become

Catholic, please contact Michael Faber, 719-5565 or [rcia-stmfairoaks@gmail.com](mailto:rcia-stmfairoaks@gmail.com) for further information. This is one of the most rewarding ways to say "Yes, Lord, use me to further your kingdom!"



Whoever addresses his brother in an insulting way will answer for it before the Sanhedrin, and whoever calls his brother a fool will be liable to the fires of Gehenna. –Mt 5:22

**Reflection:** Jesus says that using dehumanizing language is sinful.

Throughout history, groups that have been oppressed – like slaves and Holocaust victims – have first been called names. It also happens to the unborn, who have been called "parasites," "tissue," and "medical waste."

**Prayer:** Lord, may we affirm one another, including the unborn, with language that inspires respect and love.

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### DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

On Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, St. Rose of Lima in Roseville will host Dynamic Catholic speaker, Dr. Allen Hunt, who will discuss how four life-changing habits can point you towards incredible possibilities for your life. The presentation is based on Matthew Kelly's book, "The Four Signs of a Dynamic Catholic", and you will leave with a personal plan to help you become the best version of yourself. Tickets are \$25 and available at [DynamicCatholic.com](http://DynamicCatholic.com) or call 859-980-7900.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SEWING GROUP

St. Mel's St. Vincent de Paul Society started a sewing group 2 years ago. The purpose of this group is to make little girls dresses using pillow cases. The sewing group has been tremendously successful, sending over 2,000 dresses to those in need in the Philippines. The sewing group is looking for a new leader, as well as more members to help sew dresses. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please call 967-1229.

### 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	Diana Fischer	Jeannette Barron
Albert Souza	Diane Castonguay	Joe Hoffmann
Allene Blessing	Elaine Ervin	John English
Amanda Barron	Emma Moss	Jude Hoffmann
Bob Ahern, Sr.	Frank & Renee Weiss	Martinez Family
Carol Ellen Leevers	Gene Fischer	Rudy Worthington
Danielle Hannon	Gerald A. Hoffarth	Victoria Hummer
Dawna Jones	Helen S. Worthington	Zaida Ackerson
Delores Bousliman	Helen Chilcott	

### 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEN'S DAY OF FAITH RENEWAL



The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Men's Day of Faith Renewal will be Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> from 8:00AM to 3:15PM in the St. Mel Parish Center. Former mega church pastor, Allen Hunt, will share his journey into the Catholic Church, speaking on "The Eternal Treasures of the Catholic Faith: Have You Found Them?" Tickets are \$40 and

includes a continental breakfast and a catered BBQ lunch. Register today at [smpcevents.org](http://smpcevents.org). For more information call, 635-7791.

### FAIR OAK KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6066 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 2017 CORNERSTONE AWARD

Our council joined over 60 other faith-based organizations at the Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento Hammy Awards on January 29<sup>th</sup> to receive the 2017 Cornerstone Award for our volunteer hours and donations to the Build for Unity Project.

Thank you to all the brother Knights, friends and families that donated your time and talents to this worthy community service ministry!

Al Gomez	Walt Schaff
David Lehan	Bruce Fairchild
Greg Moore	Jamie Martin
John Petzold	Leilani Sweeney
Michael Kashuba	Michael Kareluis
Terry Andrade	Carlos Lopez
Ben Pelka	Donald Purdy
David Nye	John Atilano
James Nye	Manny Duenas
Diane Nye	Rolundia Mitchell
Karen Ochoa	David Fox
Michael Ochoa	Donna Gomez
John Kristof	Michael Faber
Spencer Stone	

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fair Oaks Knights of Columbus Council 6066 is looking for a group of 4 to 5 volunteers to work regular shifts at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore facility. The work is mainly warehouse type work, working the cash register and customer service (similar to working at a Lowe's or Home Depot). Volunteers will need to attend a ReStore orientation before being assigned a shift. Contact Deputy Grand Knight Michael Ochoa at 916-740-3178 or [mnkochoa@pacbell.net](mailto:mnkochoa@pacbell.net) for help to arrange for your orientation and schedule. Hours are flexible, and this is a great way to give back to the community. Learn more about the ReStore by visiting <http://habitatgreatersac.org/restore/sacrestore>.

### 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 [dddrmmurray@comcast.net](mailto:dddrmmurray@comcast.net). Information forms for parents of servers are available in the church vestibule or upon request via e-mail.

### WORLD MARRIAGE DAY-RENEWAL OF VOWS

On Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup> Bishop Myron Cotta will preside at a special 11:00AM Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in which married couples may renew their marital commitments. An informal reception for couples and their families will follow the Mass. Special certificates will be given to couples celebrating milestone anniversaries (10, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 50+). If you are interested in attending this free event, please register (names and anniversary year) at [www.SacWMD.com](http://www.SacWMD.com). For more information call the Dept. of Evangelization & Catechesis, 733-0123.

### NOTICE FROM THE BISHOP

Because of the prevalence of flu and flu-like illnesses, Bishop Soto has made the following directives regarding receiving Holy Communion during Masses. The use of the Communion cup is suspended temporarily, and parishioners are encouraged to receive the Holy Eucharist in the hand. The Bishop also recommends not shaking hands during the sign of Peace and instead acknowledging those around you with a simple nod, saying "peace be with you". Do not hold hands during the Our Father. We hope that these measures will ensure the health and well-being of the faithful.

### SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAY CARD CAMPAIGN

One Seminarian from the Diocese of Sacramento is celebrating a birthday in February. Victor Goronov will celebrate on February 28<sup>th</sup>. He is studying at Mt. Angel Seminary, 1 Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, OR 97373. The Vocations Committee thanks you for supporting our seminarians.

### A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Did you know? Ash Wednesday was also Valentine's Day! Consider giving from the heart this month by donating blood components to the Blood Source's Partners Program. A donation of components (plasma, platelets) raises funds for charities supported by Knights of Columbus Council 6066. Simply credit organization #7390 for your contribution. Double your impact by donating blood components with someone you love.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday during Lent, St. Mel School students will lead the Stations of the Cross at 11:00AM in the church. All are welcome.

### FAIR OAKS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6066 SMARTPHONE APP AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Stay connected with Council 6066 events, pictures, news, prayer requests and more with our smartphone app and social media accounts! Download the free "Knights of Columbus California App" at your iOS or Android app store. Once the app is loaded on your phone search for, "6066" "Fair Oaks" or "St. Mel" in the search field to get to our app. To download use the QR Code or visit <https://connectumedia.com/knights-of-columbus-ads/>. You can also follow our council on Twitter (@KofCCouncil6066) or Facebook (@KofC6066).

*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: _____		