



This is My beloved Son, listen to Him.

Mark 9:7

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2018

February 25, 2018 – God’s mercy in time of trouble

In the First Reading, God tests Abraham’s faith in Him, not because He distrusts Abraham since He already knows the outcome, but for Abraham’s edification. God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son. The irony here is that God’s word is also being tested since God promised him a large descendance. How then, could God fulfill His promise? Abraham is heroic in placing all his trust in God and complying with God’s request. God’s response is great beneficence; protecting Isaac and renewing His promise of numerous descendants. This event taught Abraham that he could trust and love God even in the most rigorous of tests. The Responsorial Psalm celebrates God’s deliverance (intervention) in time of trial, making it a paradigm of trust in God when encountering great affliction and adversity. It is generic enough to be applicable to everyone. In the Second Reading, St Paul underscores God’s immense mercy. Despite our deserved condemnation for our sins, God chooses to shower His mercy upon us. His love is so great that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us. With God so much on our side, how can we fear? Today’s Gospel is the Transfiguration account. Whenever something important happens in the Gospel, it usually involves these three: Peter, James and John. In this event, Moses represents the *Law* received on Mt Sinai; and Elijah, the first of the *Prophets*. Since Jesus is the *fulfillment* of the Law and the Prophets, we find Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus when He is transfigured. They are also present because Moses had *foretold* the rising of one greater in Israel, and Elijah was *expected* to appear before the Day of the Lord. Today’s Gospel emphasizes the glorious nature of the Transfiguration, while showing the disciples’ all-so-human lack of understanding. So, we pray for the grace to, like Abraham, trust God even in the most trying and incomprehensible times.

Mass Intentions for the Week

- 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
- Monday 2/26/2018**
 8:30 AM (R) George Gaudet by Michele Carrothers
- Tuesday 2/27/2018 *MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA***
 *8:30 AM (R) Paul Baker by Susan & Tim Baker
- Wednesday 2/28/2018**
 8:30 AM (I) Jane Lumsargis by St. Mel Faculty & Staff
- Thursday 3/1/2018**
 8:30 AM (I) Ella Hawkins
- Friday 3/2/2018**
 8:30 AM (I) Patti Imerie by St. Mel Faculty & Staff
- Saturday 3/3/2018**
 8:30 AM (R) Father Doheny by Tom Baker
 4:30 PM (R) Johnathan Keen by Joshua Beigel
- Sunday 3/4/2018**
 8:00 AM (R) Teresa Baker by Tom Baker
 10:00 AM (R) Bill Mullin by John, Richard, Linda & Marilee
 4:30 PM (I) Cindy Maldonado by St. Mel Faculty & Staff

God’s mercy transforms human hearts; it enables us, through the experience of a faithful love, to become merciful in turn.

~ Pope Francis

Commentators & Altar Servers March 3 rd & 4 th		
Mass Times	Commentator	Altar Servers
SAT 4:30PM	Mammano F / Mammano N	Max, Alexandra & Jack
SUN 8:00AM	Phillips L / Phillips J	Lucas, Sebastian & John
SUN 10:00AM	Lehman / Juten C	Sean, Greta & John Paul
SUN 4:30 PM	Karelius / Styer L	Sam, Aedan & Michael

ST. MEL YOUTH MINISTRY

The St. Mel Youth Group meets twice a month after the Sunday 4:30PM Mass. The next meeting is February 25th and all high schoolers are invited for food, games and knowledge! The group meets in the Convent. Our next meeting dates are March 11th & 25th. If you have any questions, please contact Gigi at 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. For more information: stmelsya@gmail.com or 916-936-2793.


REMINDER

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

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.

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@ieec.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 11th, 2018. Please bring your donations to the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

CFF classes are in session this week, Sunday, February 18th.

THINKING ABOUT BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Are you or someone you know interested in finding out what the Catholic Church believes and how to be received into the church Jesus started? The RCIA ministry is year around. It is never too late to start your own spiritual journey of discovery! For more information call Michael Faber, 719-5565.

MERCY SAN JUAN HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER GUILD

The Mercy San Juan Hospital Volunteer Guild is looking for volunteers. Volunteers are asked to work two 4-hour shifts per month. They help the hospital by working in the gift shop, escorting patients and visitors, facilitating registration, and assisting in the NICU. Bake sales are held to fund adult scholarships and special projects for the hospital. If you are interested in helping, please call Carol Gallagher, 965-3479 or the Volunteer Office, 537-5298.

SEMINARIAN DINNER

Mark your calendar for the St. Mel Vocation Ministry Seminarian Dinner on Saturday, May 19th. Last year’s dinner was a huge success! The dinner provides a time of fellowship with our Sacramento Seminarians and a chance to hear about their formation and life in the seminary. Tickets will be on sale soon. For more information call Jeanne Condon, 916-349-6936 or Jenni Murray, 916-600-6808.

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.

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

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



Perpetual Adoration
GREAT NEED FOR ADORERS:
Sunday: 5 - 6pm, 6 - 7pm, 10 - 11pm
Wednesday: 4 - 5pm
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

Thank you to those who have already made a one-time or an ongoing donation to the 2018 Annual Catholic Appeal. Your gift will make a difference in someone's life. If you have not yet made a donation, it's not too late! Envelopes are still available in the church or in the parish office. Don't forget...25% of what you give is returned to our parish to assist people in our community who need help.

ST. MEL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT FUND

The second collection next weekend, March 3rd & 4th, 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.

RECOGNITION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wedding anniversaries for the month of March will be recognized at all Masses next weekend, March 3rd & 4th.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus will be holding their monthly food drive THIS weekend, February 24th & 25th. Your generosity is appreciated.

NEW ADULT SCRIPTURE STUDY

A new Adult Scripture Study, "Priest, Prophet and King", will begin on Tuesday, February 28th. 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.



The question "Where does one begin?" is easy to answer: "We must begin with a commitment never to intentionally kill, or collude in the killing, of any innocent human life. –US Bishops Pastoral Plan for Pro-life Activities, 2001

Reflection: There is a big difference between abortion on the one hand, and war and capital punishment on the other.

War and capital punishment, when justified, are in their essence carried out for the defense of life; abortion is in its essence the destruction of life.

Prayer: Lord, give wisdom to Your people, that they may properly exercise their responsibility to defend life in every circumstance.

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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 or call 448-3976.

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

6TH ANNUAL MEN'S DAY OF FAITH RENEWAL



The 6th Annual Men's Day of Faith Renewal will be Saturday, April 14th 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. For more information call, 635-7791.

SEMINARIAN BIRTHDAY CARD CAMPAIGN

We have 5 Seminarians from the Diocese of Sacramento celebrating their birthdays in March. Eric Pereira celebrates on March 9th and Joseph Malinis on March 17th. They are both studying at St. Patrick's Seminary, 320 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Dean Marshall celebrates on March 26th and Steven Wood on March 28th. Dean and Steven are studying at Mt. Angel Seminary, 1 Abbey Drive, St. Benedict, OR 97373. Arturo Dominguez-Carlos celebrates on March 10th and he is at St. Peter & All Hallows, 6210 McMahon Drive, Sacramento, CA 95824. The seminarians and the Vocations Ministry greatly appreciate your support.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER CELEBRATION

It's almost time for the wearing o' the green! The Knights of Columbus will be hosting their annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner on Saturday, March 17th after the 4:30 PM Mass. Come for the delicious corned beef and cabbage, live Celtic Music, Irish Dancers, raffle prizes, and help support this annual fundraiser of the Knights of Columbus. Tickets on sale after each Mass this weekend or in the Parish Office.



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 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. Information forms for parents of servers are available in the church vestibule or upon request via e-mail.

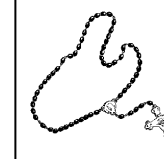
NOTICE FROM THE BISHOP

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.

YOUNG WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT RETREAT

There will be a Young Women's Discernment Retreat on March 10th, from 9:00AM to 7:00PM at the Newman Catholic Center Sacramento. The retreat is for young women ages 18-35 who have questions about religious life. The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, will share, guide, and help in furthering discern the call to serve God. Register now at www.catholic.formstack.com/forms/discernment Cost is \$40 and scholarships are available.

ST. MEL GIFTS



St. Mel Gifts is open after all weekend Masses. Stop in and browse our selection of rosaries, books, statues and much more.

Our store is a ministry for our Parish. Help is always needed. If you are interested in giving 15 -20 minutes of your time after Mass to assist parishioners with their purchases, contact Brenda, 722-1965.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Morning Stations

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

Soup and Evening 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.

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.

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: _____				