



Awake, O sleeper, and
arise from the dead, and
Christ will give you light.

Ephesians: 5:14

Fourth Sunday of Lent



March 26, 2017

March 26, 2017 – The blind will now see

As we did last week, we are reading today from the Gospel of John. In today's Gospel, the healing of the man born blind invites us to focus on the physical and spiritual aspects of sight and light. In the first part of today's Gospel, we hear Jesus' response to a prevalent belief of his time: that misfortune and disability were the result of sin. That belief is why Jesus is asked the question of whose sin caused the man's blindness—his own or his parents'. Jesus does not answer directly, but instead gives the question an entirely different dimension—through this man's disability, God's power will be made manifest. Jesus then heals the man.

The healing is controversial because Jesus heals on the Sabbath. The Pharisees, the religious authorities of Jesus' time, understood that the law of Moses forbade work (including healing) on the Sabbath. They also have trouble believing that Jesus performed a miracle. To determine whether the man was really born blind, the Pharisees question him and his parents. The man challenges the leaders of the synagogue about their assessment of the good that Jesus has done. In turn, they expel the man for questioning their judgment.

The final revelation and moment of enlightenment comes when the man born blind encounters Jesus again. Having heard the news of his expulsion, Jesus seeks out the man born blind and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man. In this moment, the man born blind shows himself to be a man of faith and worships Jesus. Jesus replies by identifying the irony of the experience of many who encounter Jesus: Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.

As in last week's Gospel about Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman, today's reading has many allusions to Baptism. The washing of the man in the pool of Siloam is a prototype for Christian Baptism. Through the man's encounter with Jesus, the man born blind is healed, his sight is restored, and his conversion to discipleship begins. The man born blind gradually comes to a greater understanding about who Jesus is and what it means to be his disciple, while the Pharisees (those who should see) are the ones who remain blind.

CHAPEL OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST



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

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 at 967-0641 or Chris at 966-3266. God is "thirsting" for you to satiate "His thirst"

Daily Masses and Mass Intentions

Sunday 3/26/2017

8:00 AM (I) Tom & Maria Johnson & Family
by Ramos Family
10:00 AM (R) Frank Franzago by Franzago Family
4:30 PM (I) Joe & Sandra Langdon
by Amber & Sara Donnelly

Monday 3/27/2017

7:00 AM (I) Nora Rodriques-Gonzalez
by St. Mel Faculty & Staff
8:30 AM (I) KKIS Family

Tuesday 3/28/2017 *MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP NOVENA

*7:00 AM (I) Father Cormac Lacre by Susan Myers
*8:30 AM (I) In Thanksgiving - Sarah's birthday
by Susan Gerardo

Wednesday 3/29/2017

7:00 AM (R) Noble Leo Morton by Harrison Morton
8:30 AM (R) Lee West by Michael & Nancy Elordury

Thursday 3/30/2017

7:00 AM (I) Sean Dibble by St. Mel Faculty & Staff
8:30 AM (R) George Chiala by Tim & Susan Baker

Friday 3/31/2017

7:00 AM (I) Lumenta Family
8:30 AM (I) Joy May by Amber & Sara Donnelly
8:30 AM (I) Julianna Honig by Matt & Sara Donnelly

Saturday 4/1/2017

8:30 AM (R) Babies that have been aborted
4:30 PM (R) Ruth Goodwin by George Goodwin, Sr.

Sunday 4/2/2017

8:00 AM (I) Mike & Grace Cao & Family by Ramos Family
8:00 AM (I) Michael Yanez by Mom & Dad
10:00 AM (R) Marcaria Cruz by Cynthia Gagnon
4:30 PM (I) Rosemary Easter by Amber & Sara Donnelly

**Commentator & Music Leaders & Altar Servers
April 1st & 2nd**

Mass Times	Commentator Altar Servers	Music Leader
SAT 4:30PM	Nagel / Sweeney Ralph, Ella & Kyle	Men's Choir
SUN 8:00AM	Welsh / Wagner P Abby, Wyatt & John	Music Leader
SUN 10:00AM	Phillips J / Phillips L Michael, Sarah & Matthew	Contemporary Choir
SUN 4:30 PM	Ricaforte / Estipular Andrew, Andrew & Vincent	Youth Choir

MEN'S DAY OF FAITH

All men are invited to attend the 5th Annual Men's Day of Faith on Saturday, April 29th. This one day retreat features Joe McClane, General Manager and show host of the Houston, TX Catholic Radio Station. Joe's topics include: "Call to Heroic Leadership", "Leave No Man Behind" and "Be a Man after God's Own Heart". The registration fee is \$40 and you can register online at smpevents.org, by telephone at 635-7791 or by visiting the Parish Office.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #6066
2017 SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Knights of Columbus Council #6066 has established two scholarships for graduating eighth grade students who will attend a Catholic high school. The first provides \$4,500 over four years and the second is \$1,000 for one year. The scholarships are available to eighth grade students whose families are registered members of St. Mel Parish or whose father is a member in good-standing of Council #6066. Interested students and families may pick up application forms, including more detailed information, from either the school or the Parish Office. Completed applications must be returned no later than May 1, 2017.

RCIA PRESENTS A PARISH SEDER

You are cordially invited to attend "A Seder" evening on April 9th (Palm Sunday) at our Parish Center. The evening begins at 5:30pm celebrating the tradition of the Passover and the Last Supper. **Tickets are by reservation only after the weekend Masses on March 25th & 26th and April 1st & 2nd.** Tickets are \$12 per person. Children under 4 are free. You may purchase individual tickets or a complete table for 9.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

JOURNEY INTO FAITH
RCIA is about to begin. Being part of the Church established through Jesus Christ, and entrusted to the leadership of the apostle Peter, is a gift. This gift might just be for you. Join us **any Sunday beginning May 7th in the St. Jude Room** (top of the back stairs) at **8:00AM** to discover how you might become Roman Catholic; and participate in the greatest adventure of your life. Please contact Michael Faber, 686-7020 or rcia-stmelfairoaks@gmail.com for more information.

CHRIST THE KING PARISH RETREAT

You are invited to the 2017 Christ the King Parish Retreat! The theme is "Gathered in the Name of Jesus" and we invite all 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 Men's retreat will be March 31- April 2. Reserve your spot by calling your Parish Coordinator, Martha Styer, 962-3307; Donna Greuel, 225-2456 or the retreat center, 725-472 Ext 301. Register online at www.christthekingretreatcenter.org. If you're unable to attend our parish date, visit the website for other dates. *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.

Joyce Schoonmaker

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

CFF classes are in session this week, Monday, March 27th and Tuesday, March 28th. **There will be no CFF classes on Monday, April 3rd and Tuesday, April 4th because of Confirmation on April 4th.** Classes will resume on April 11th and 12th.

**SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL
SOUP AND STATIONS**

St. Vincent de Paul will be coordinating "Soup and Stations" on all Fridays in Lent. Bring a crockpot of meatless soup and a ladle to the Small Hall at 5:30PM. Bowls, utensils and ice water will be provided. Stations of the Cross will begin at 7:00PM. Questions? Call Kathy, 704-1938.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SHRED DAY

St. Vincent de Paul's Annual Shred Day will be on Saturday, April 22nd from 8:30AM to 12noon in the lower parking lot. Start cleaning out all those old bills, receipts and tax returns to shred and help support the work of St. Vincent de Paul.

**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.


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 2017	Articles DUE Prior To FRIDAY
April 1 - 2 April 8 - 9 April 15 -16 April 22 - 23	March 24 March 31 April 7 April 14

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION

This week, we are taking up The Catholic Relief Services Collection to respond to **Jesus in Disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies provide relief and support to struggling communities and to work toward peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how much you can support the collection. Learn more at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. –Jer 1:5

Reflection: These verses show us that God not only recognizes the unborn child but also enters into a relationship with that child, bestowing on him or her a unique vocation.

This affirms the personhood of unborn children and motivates us to work for their protection.

Prayer: Lord, give all the children in the womb the opportunity to fulfill the vocation You have given to each one of them.

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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
The Knights of Columbus are holding their Monthly Food Collection for the needy THIS weekend, March 25th & 26th.

ST. MEL MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENT FUND

There will be a second collection NEXT weekend, April 1st & 2nd, for the St. Mel Maintenance and Improvement Fund. These funds are used for taking care of our facility. Thank you for your generous support.

RECOGNITION ANNOUNCEMENTS
ALL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL WILL BE RECOGNIZED AT MASS NEXT WEEKEND, APRIL 1ST & 2ND.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The St. Mel Youth Group will be meeting Sunday, March 26th in the Convent right after the 4:30PM Mass. Hope to see you there!

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS



Please join the **Legion of Mary** in praying daily the intentions of Pope Francis for March. Please place special emphasis this month on...**support for persecuted Christians.**

Let us pray...that all persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the whole Church. Amen.

MAGNIFICAT SUBSCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE

Please stop by **St. Mel Gifts**, at their new location in the vestibule, to subscribe to the Magnificat by the month or the year. This is the most widely used book for daily devotion by Catholic men and women. The number of subscriptions available is limited, so don't wait! Subscription rate is \$3.75 per issue.

Please Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

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

ADORATION CHAPEL SECURITY

A new keypad has been installed on the outside door leading into the Adoration Chapel building. The code on this keypad is the same as the Adoration Chapel door but you must press the # key at the end. For safety reasons, please do not open the door for anyone that does not know the code. The code can be obtained from the Parish Office.

ADORATION CHAPEL

The Chapel of the Holy Eucharist will be CLOSED at 7PM on Holy Thursday, April 13th. It will reopen Easter Sunday, April 16th after the 10AM Mass.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Palm Sunday, April 9th**
4:30PM Vigil, 8:00 & 10:00AM, 4:30PM
- Monday, April 10th thru Wednesday, April 12th**
9:00AM Confessions
- Holy Thursday, April 13th**
7:00PM Mass of the Lord's Supper
- Good Friday, April 14th**
12:30PM Communion & Veneration of the Cross
2:00PM Stations of the Cross
by St. Mel School 7th Grade Students
7:00PM Communion, Veneration of the Cross
and Stations of the Cross
- Holy Saturday, April 15th**
Easter Vigil Mass 8:15PM
- Easter Sunday, April 16th**
8:00 & 10:00AM Masses

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

You are invited to the St. Mel Charismatic Prayer Group. We meet Tuesdays in the baptismal room at 6:30PM for prayer, praise and worship, and healing prayer. Enter the church through the west door on the upper parking lot side. Contact Chris, 715-1162, or Karen Juten, 712-3706.

FAIR OAKS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 6066 & HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD FOR UNITY PROJECT

The Fair Oaks Knights of Columbus Council is assisting with the Habitat for Humanity, Build for Unity project and are seeking interested parishioners from St. Mel who would like to join our council volunteers to help. Our council needs 5 crew members to assist in building homes for two disadvantaged families, one Christian and one Muslim, to live peacefully as neighbors. Parishioners, Knights, and any family member over 16 years old can volunteer. If interested please contact Warden Michael Ochoa, 730-3178 or email, mkochoa@pacbell.net. To stay up to date on more Build for Unity project news, consider signing up for the Build for Unity Newsletter or visit the website www.HabitatGreaterSac.org/BuildforUnity and check out updates on Twitter at #BuildforUnity!

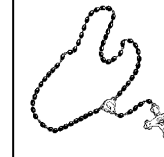
CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME

If you or someone you know is considering returning to the Catholic Church, St. Mel can provide assistance. Help is available throughout the year. Contact St. Mel Parish Office, 967-1229 or Karen, 966-0184.

REMINDER

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

ST. MEL GIFTS



Please stop by St. Mel Gifts at their new expanded location in the vestibule. Come see the wonderful selection of Rosaries, books, medals and much more!

If you are interested in giving 15-20 minutes of your time after Mass to assist parishioners with their purchases, please Contact Brenda, 722-1965.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Have you ever wanted to take a fresh look at your Marriage? Have you considered attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend? It is a unique approach aimed at revitalizing your Sacrament of Matrimony. Weekends for 2017 are as follows: March 31-April 2, in Reno, NV.; August 25-27, in Sacramento; October 6-8, in Reno, NV., and November 3-5, 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.

ST. MEL SIP AND SUPPER CLUB

The St. Mel Sip and Supper Club meets in groups of 8 four times a year to share dinner and fellowship. All are welcome and it is a fun way to get to know others in our church family. If interested, send an email to familyvanark@gmail.com or call Claire and Roelof at 802-1089.

MORNING ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

Everyone is welcome to join the Daily Rosary Morning Prayer Group. There are two groups that meet in the Baptism Room after each of the weekday morning Masses. For more information contact Karen Juten, 712-3706.

ST. MEL SUMMER ADVENTURE PROGRAM 2017

St. Mel School is pleased to offer a top-quality summer program for students who will be entering grades TK-6 in August 2017. The goal of the program is to provide an exciting, stimulating, and enriching environment for students. The morning Reading and Math Enrichment Classes will be Common Core based, and the afternoon camp will include creative, fun activities and field trips! St. Mel Summer Adventure will run for seven consecutive weeks beginning on Monday, June 5th and ending on Friday, July 21st. Contact St. Mel School for a registration packet. 967-2814.

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: _____				