

St. Mel Parish

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009

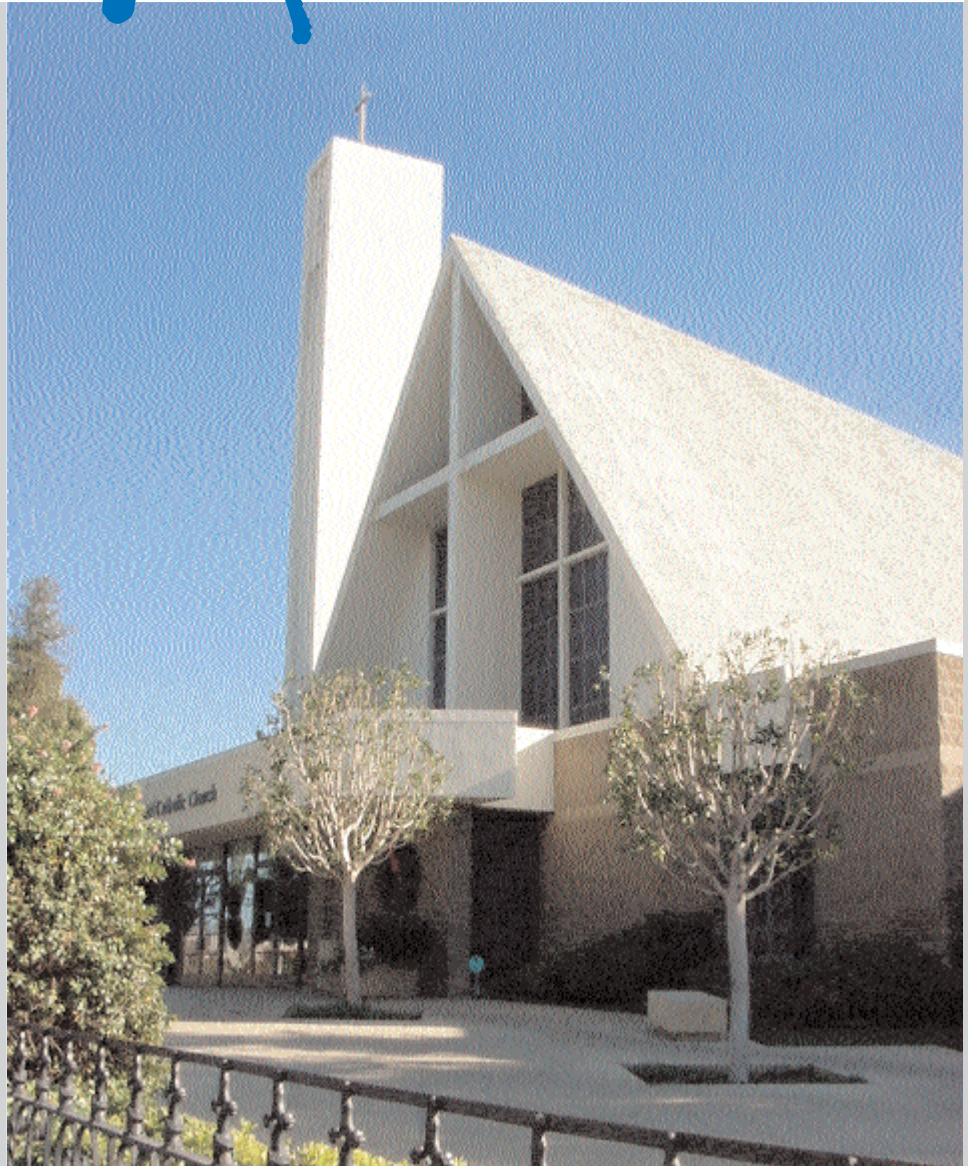
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*"The Lord has
done great
things for us;
we are filled
with joy."*

Psalm 126

Msgr. Helmut A. Hefner
Pastor
Fr. Benedict Anthony
Associate
Fr. Larry Neumeier
Associate

Saint Mel Parish
20870 Ventura Blvd.
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
TEL (818) 340-6020
FAX (818) 340-0261
www.stmelparish.org



THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Friday 6:30 & 8:10 am

Saturday 8 am & 5 pm Vigil
Sunday 7:15, 9, 11 am & 5 pm

Communal
Penance Service
Tuesday
December 15
7 pm



Pastor's Corner

Dear Parish Community of St. Mell

St. John the Baptist is one of the key Advent figures. In last Sunday's Gospel, quoting from the Prophet Isaiah, he challenged us to "prepare the way of the Lord." In today's Gospel (Luke 3:10-18) St. John the Baptist gets down to specifics. He talks about sharing food and clothing, and about being just and fair in one's dealings with others. In other words, charity and justice must permeate our lives, especially during this time of the year.

Christmas is a time for sharing! We share Christmas cards and gifts with one another. We share our love and our homes with family and friends. And our preparation for Christmas must include giving to those who have less. Here at St. Mel we have some beautiful traditions that reflect this spirit of giving: the weekly collections of food, the "Adopt-A-Family" program, the "Giving Tree," all benefitting the needy that come for help to the Guadalupe Community Center. And our charitable giving spans the entire year. During Lent we are very generous with "Operation Rice Bowl," a worldwide charitable program of Catholic Relief Services. And more recently, we are supporting some of the "Fair-Trade" products, also under the auspices of Catholic Relief Services. Our donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Society help support the needy in our midst. We support "Angels Way," a local home for pregnant women. Our elementary school has many charitable projects too numerous to mention here. There are many special collections for charitable causes, local, national, and international, throughout the year. And of course, there is the main Archdiocesan Appeal "Together in Mission," that supports so many of the needy Archdiocesan schools and parishes. And lest we forget, so many of you are very generous with your own parish, which as I mentioned in my special message last week, is in need of even greater support on your part. Finally, there are the many charities supported privately by so many of our parishioners. Adding all this up, it's obvious that the spirit of giving is alive and well here at St. Mell!

So how do we respond to the invitation to give in today's Gospel? If we are among the fortunate ones who can give, we should do so with gratitude for the blessings we have. We must also resist the temptation to become cynical or discouraged. The need is always greater than our ability to respond. Yet, in our willingness to respond, we are the recipients of an even greater gift than what we give. If we are willing to share with a generous heart, then we unite ourselves with the greatest Gift of all, the Gift of Divine Love who took flesh and was born into our midst! And that's at the core of all Christian giving, at Christmas and throughout the year.

With our liturgical texts, we proclaim today: "Gaudete" from the Latin "Rejoice!" The Lord is near. Let us always remember that through our love and giving, we can help make the Lord present to one another!

Msgr. Helmut Hefner

A Message From Sr. Marie Paul

In Through Seasons of the Heart, John Powell writes, "There's an old Christian tradition that God sends each person into this world with a special message to deliver, a special song to sing for others, a special act of love to bestow. No one else can speak my message, can sing my song, or offer my act of love. This is my responsibility; this is entrusted to me."

This could be a bit frightening! Especially if I have to answer for how I carried out my mission.... God sent His only Son into the world to redeem each of us; and He sends each of us to do something special for others as well. What is my "special something"?

How will I use the remaining days of Advent to share the special gift, the special message, song, act of love God has given me?

May these days of preparation be days filled with wonder, joy and anticipation as we await the greatest of all God's gifts, the birth of Jesus in our hearts and lives!

Retirement Fund For Religious

Religious face rising costs. Data submitted to the National Religious Retirement Office reveals that the average annual cost of care for women and men religious age 70 and over has more than doubled since 1989. Current statistics put this figure at \$35,077 per person annually, with skilled care reaching nearly \$55,000. Your donation to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides critical support to religious institutions in meeting the escalating costs of elder care. Please pray for all religious and give generously to today's collection.
www.retiredreligious.org



American
Red Cross

St. Mel
Blood Drive

Monday, December 21 from 1:30 until 7:30 pm at the Parish Center, second floor. To schedule your appointment: sign up after Mass or call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012.

Together In Community



Give Christmas
Joy & Dignity
To Children
"In The Midst"
Of Poverty

Jesus in the Gospels continues to ask us to share our time, talent and treasure. We are given that opportunity right here in our community--at **Guadalupe Community Center!**

Friday, December 18: Kids' Christmas Party

The Christmas Party (3:30-5:30 pm) gives the children the chance to enjoy themselves and experience the miracle of Christmas. Many activities are planned for them-including games and crafts. 20+ volunteers needed from 1:30 pm for:

Set-Up	Gate Monitors
Arts & Crafts Table	Line Monitors
Candy Table	Door Monitors
Coloring Table	Santa's Elves
Face Painting Table	Runners
Juice & Cookies Table	Clean-Up

In this event, the children are lifted up in their spirit as they see themselves as a part of a community who loves and cares for them.

Come and see Christmas through the eyes of a child and be renewed. Parishioners willing to donate their time for either or both of those Christmas events, call (818) 340-2050 Margaret Pontius or Skip Wrightson.

Guadalupe needs **150 new gift bags**, mostly medium size, and **tissue paper and gift tags**.

Pastoral Council Corner

On November 30, the Pastoral Council held its final meeting of 2009 and discussed the following topics:

Discernment of Pastoral Council Candidates. During the recruitment period, five candidates submitted applications and were interviewed for two Council vacancies. On November 30, Pastoral Council members participated in the discernment of candidates, calling upon the Holy Spirit to assist us in weighing the desirable qualities of a Pastoral Council member and evaluating the gifts of each candidate. After a lengthy discussion, the Pastoral Council recommended to Monsignor Hefner that Kerry Edwards and Frank Minitello serve on the Council beginning January 2010. Monsignor Hefner, who was present for the discernment process, approved the Council's recommendation. We thank each of the candidates for their interest in serving St. Mel and congratulate Kerry and Frank. We look forward to working with you.

Welcome Committee Update. Since the Welcome Table was launched in March, 111 new families have joined the St. Mel community. Anticipating the opportunity to reach new parishioners at our seven Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses, Frank Minitello volunteered to coordinate the Welcome Table staffing schedule. Finance and School Council Chairpersons Dick DeBlois and Bernie Crowley, respectively, will invite their Council members to assist the Pastoral Council at the Welcome Table on December 24-25. The Welcome Brochure, recently completed by the printer, was distributed to the Pastoral Council. This brochure was a collaborative effort this year by many (if not all) Pastoral Council members and parishioner Jim Dearing, whose artwork and design brought the brochure to life. Thank you, Jim!

Stewardship Committee Update. At the November 23 Stewardship Committee meeting, Committee members reported a positive response to the November 22 Stewardship Sunday presentations by Monsignor Hefner and lay speakers who shared their stewardship journeys. The first Stewardship in Action article will be featured in the December 6 Bulletin; future Bulletin articles will be included each month on the first and third Sundays. The first mini-ministry fair will be conducted on January 31. The St. Mel website will include a link to Stewardship activities and the weekly Prayers of the Faithful will now include a prayer intention for Stewardship.

Wrapping up 2009. As the year comes to a close, the Pastoral Council thanks retiring Council members Kathleen Driscoll and Dorothy Peisner for their faithful service to the Pastoral Council. Kathleen will continue her ministry playing piano at Sunday 9 a.m. Mass and Dorothy will continue her ministries as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister and as Vice-Chairperson of the Justice and Peace Council. Thank you, Kathleen and Dorothy. The Pastoral Council will participate with other St. Mel Leadership Councils in an all day retreat on January 9; however, the Pastoral Council will not meet again until late January. As a result, the next Pastoral Council Corner article will be published in early February. Should you have any comments or suggestions during this time, please contact me via the Suggestion Box (at the back of the church,) via email or by telephone.

On behalf of the entire Pastoral Council, I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy 2010.

Suzanne Harman
Pastoral Council Chairperson

Together In Faith



12/13-No Confirmation Class/No Life Night.

Teen Ice Skating Night-To Be Determined
VOTE ONLINE for what day you'd like to attend at www.stmelyouth.org.

12/20- Christmas Life Night after 5pm Mass.

12/24-Christmas Eve Life Teen Mass at 4pm in the Activity Center. Bring your families and join us for a wonderful Christmas Celebration!

*If you are interested in joining us for the Christmas Eve Mass as a singer please let us know at cvasquez@stmel.org ASAP.

Cheyenne Vasquez
Director of Youth Ministry and Confirmation
cvasquez@stmel.org
Phone: 818-340-6020 x 1015
Fax: 818-340-0261

St. Vincent de Paul

The SVDP food collection for the month of November yielded 481 bags. Thank you so much to all those who so generously donated to the needy families at Guadalupe Center.

Welcome Into Our Faith Community

- Janette Aguero
- Mark, Deborah & Sofia Blohm
- Patrick Bolger
- Thomas Carroll
- Vince Cortese
- Alizier, Angela & Andrei David
- Greg, Kat, Francesca & Sophia Derrig/Palumbo
- Jason, Kathy, Elliot & Lilly Dopp
- Helen Durso
- Jon, Andrea, Jack, James & Joseph Genchi
- Joel, Martha & Sophia Goldsmith
- Leilanie Gomez
- Crystal Heldt, Cole & Reagan Hutchinson
- Carey & Isabella Hill
- Julian, Jill, Nicholas & Cassandra Hartz
- Stephen & Sandra Jackson
- Kim & Nolen Johnson
- Chris, Jody & Michael Larkin
- Gustavo, Claudia, Alexander, Lucas & Daniella Lopez
- Darryl, Amy, Eloisa & Alda Lutz
- Sandra & Bronson Panattoni & Stephen Jackson
- Jaques & Silvana Renau
- Anna Santiago, Aaron, Alberto, Monica & Daniel Juarez & Stephen Cervantes
- Stephani, Jonathan, Maya & Nina Sharp
- Joaquin, Michele & Simone Varela
- Bruce, Sandy, Dorothy & Elizabeth Vasantachant
- Jaclyn & Brenden Younkin

St. Mel Parish Library Topic Of The Week - "Proud to be Catholic"

The actual experience of an ICU nurse and a dying infant, the article is taken from a recent issue of the periodical, St. Anthony Messenger. Handouts are available at the library after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. The library is reached by exiting the front left door of the church, and turning right in the alleyway, east of the Church.

Virtus Recertification For St. Mel Adult Volunteers

Time is running out to re-certify those adult volunteers who took the "Protecting God's Children" Virtus workshop in 2004 and 2005. Your certification is about to expire on December 31, 2009. Our last recertification session for this year at St. Mel's will be held on Thursday evening, December 17th from 7-8:30pm. For location of session and to reserve a space, please call Pat Andre in the Religious Education Office, 818 340-6020, ext. 1022.

Safeguarding The Children Ensuring Your Child's School Is Safe

Every teacher, coach, and volunteer who works with children in the Los Angeles Archdiocese's parishes and schools must have a background check before he or she is permitted to work in any school- or parish-related job or activity that involves contact with children. But many of our children attend non-Catholic private or public schools. What steps do these schools take? Talk with school administrators and find out what steps they take to protect children from harm. Suggest that they review other abuse prevention programs to ensure that their policies and practices are up to date. And demand that all employees and volunteers who work in the school be properly screened, including background checks, before they are allowed to be near your children. For more information, please call the Archdiocesan Safeguard the Children office: 213 637 7227. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650.

Annual Archdiocesan Respect Life Mass

Mark the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision with a special liturgy that affirms the sanctity of all human life. Saturday, January 23, 2010 at 6 pm. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, 555 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles.

Together In Prayer

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 12		
5:00	Felicitas Escarte	✠
Sunday, December 13		
7:15	Gavin McConnellogue	✠
9:00	Felino Fernando, Jr.	
11:00	Mass for the People	
5:00	Lee Maat	✠
Monday, December 14		
6:30	Dativa Juan Yutro	✠
8:10	Joe Giarmo	✠
Tuesday, December 15		
6:30	Telesora Legaspi	
8:10	Ronald Denis	✠
Wednesday, December 16		
6:30	William Guinhawa	✠
8:10	Chris Hernandez	✠
Thursday, December 17		
6:30	Sr. Christina Keogh	
8:10	Eileen O'Neill	
Friday, December 18		
6:30	Duane Pollei	✠
8:10	Dick Sullivan	✠
Saturday, December 19		
8:00	Joseph Allread	

Christmas Mass Schedule And Music

December 24, Christmas Eve

Church Music

4 pm	Children's Choir/Bell Choir
6 pm	Cantor/Organ
11 pm	11 am Sunday Choir/Bells

(Carols begin at 10:30 pm)

December 24, Christmas Eve Activity Center

4 pm	5 pm Life Teen Band
------	------------------------

December 25, Christmas Day

8 am	7:15 am Cantor/Organ
10 am	9 am Sunday Choir
12 noon	11 am Sunday Choir/Bells

Today's Readings

First Reading - Shout for joy! Sing joyfully! Be glad and exult! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior. (Zephaniah 3:14-18a).

Psalm - Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 12).

Second Reading - Rejoice! The Lord is near. Make your requests known to God. (Philippians 4:4-7).

Gospel - John tells his hearers to share their possessions with the needy; be honest; do not threaten or accuse others falsely. (Luke 3:10-18).

Readings For The Week

Monday:	Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Wednesday:	Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
Thursday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Friday:	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Saturday:	Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Sunday:	Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2009

With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. - Isaiah 12:3

Simbang Gabi Celebration

Come and join us for the Filipino advent tradition, "Simbang Gabi". The third of the novena of Masses will be at St. Mel Church on Thursday December 17, at 7 pm. Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Helmut Hefner. Help us celebrate the coming of our Lord.

Pray For Our Beloved Sick

In your prayers please remember the sick and infirm of our parish especially: Mary Schaaf, Dick McMullen, Elsa Marin, Joan Wolf, Joe Micklus, Wendy Cavanaugh (wife of John Cavanaugh), Verne Lippert, Ann Victoria Zeitlin, Zachary Zeitlin, Barbara Adams, David Schmidt, Olga Hopkins, Donny Franks, Kelly Luanne D'Angelo, Marijka Dekkers, Joe Cornejo, Lynn & Harvey Olson, Erin Cantwell, Edi Hamblet, Theresa Kelly (daughter of Geraldine Stoner), Donald White, Kevin Cordasco, Sally Totten (sister of Alvina Tichenor), Helen Prusas, Marian Surdo, Bart Kearns, Jeanette Sasaki (mother of Raymond, grandmother of Matthew and Mark), Nancy Oedy, Douglas Forer, Bill Gordon (father of Cindi Malone), David Ahumada (brother of Cindi Malone), Don MacMaster, Diane Kerdell, Wendy Jackson, Kathy Hanson, Gene Kishok (brother of Ron Kishok), Bob Petlin and Monsignor John Naughton.

Pray For Our Beloved Deceased

In your Masses and prayers during the week please remember the repose of the souls of our deceased parishioners especially: Raymond Hice.

Prayers For Priests

Please keep the following priests in your prayers:

12/13	Rev. John Evans
12/14	Rev. Joseph Velinkar
12/15	Rev. James Melley
12/16	Rev. Paul Kottackal
12/17	Rev. Gerald McSorley
12/18	Rev. Richard Albarano
12/19	Rev. Msgr. Padraic Loftus

PARISH STAFF

PASTOR
Msgr. Helmut A. Hefner
340-6020 ext. 1014

ASSOCIATE
Fr. Benedict Anthony
340-6020 ext. 1016

ASSOCIATE
Fr. Larry Neumeier
340-6020 ext. 1044

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
Rosemary McLarty
340-6020 ext. 1019

PASTORAL CARE/FAITH FORMATION
Sr. Marie Paul Grech, SND
340-6020 ext. 1018

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
Mary Beth Giordano
340-1924

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR
Phyllis Schneider
340-3180

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
COORDINATOR Pre-K-8
Pat Andre
340-6020 ext. 1022

COORDINATOR OF TEEN MINISTRY
& CONFIRMATION
Cheyenne Vasquez
340-6020 ext. 1015

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY
Francesco Alleruzzo
340-6020 ext. 1028

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
Joy Holland
340-6020 ext. 1017

SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER
Arlene Connors
340-6020 ext. 1012

PARISH PATRON

St. Mel, nephew of St. Patrick,
Bishop of Ardagh; died 489.
Feast day February 6

St. Mel Mission Statement

We the Eucharistic Community of St. Mel Parish are committed to:

- *Develop a deeper understanding of the Gospel message of Jesus through prayer, reflection and education*
- *Recognize and call forth the gifts of each parishioner*
- *Affirm the dignity of all persons by responding to their spiritual and material needs*
- *Celebrate our life together in worship as a faith community*

TO BECOME A REGISTERED PARISHIONER at St. Mel call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012 or stop by the Parish Center and complete a registration card.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK
In the event of serious illness or medical emergency, anointing of the sick and Eucharist may be arranged by contacting the Parish Office. Call (818) 340-6020 for a medical emergency at any time of the day or night.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
Baptismal Preparation Classes are required of all parents and godparents prior to the celebration of the sacrament of baptism. Registered parishioners must make an appointment at least 2 months in advance. Please call (818) 340-6020, x1022.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 9:00 - 10:00 am and 3:45 to 4:45 pm. Eve of First Friday: 4:00-5:00 pm.

COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC.
We are interested in what you have to say. If you have comments, suggestions, praise, or constructive criticism, you may contact the appropriate council chairs listed in the bulletin or drop them a note in the comment box located inside the church near the vestibule.

LOST AND FOUND
Stop by the Parish Center, we have wallets, rosaries, etc.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE
Parishioners must make an appointment with a priest at least six months prior to desired marriage date. Call (818) 340-6020.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
On the first Friday of each month we gather in prayer and praise before the Blessed Sacrament from 9 am until 9 pm. Please sign up monthly at the back of the church to help cover the hours.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED. . . your parish in your will or trust? For further information, please contact Joy Holland (818) 340-6020, x1017. Our correct legal title is: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, A Corporation Sole for the Benefit of: St. Mel Parish.

ELECTRONIC GIVING via credit card or checking account is available. Forms can be found at the Parish Center or on our website: www.stmelparish.org. For questions call Rosemary (818) 340-6020, x1019.

DID YOU KNOW when you donate a vehicle, 100% of the net proceeds go directly to St. Mel? For more information call Joy Holland at: (818) 340-6020, x1017.

SCRIP IS AVAILABLE Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm; Saturday 12 pm until 7 pm in the Parish Center.

PARISH CENTER HOURS
Monday-Thursday 8 am-8 pm; Friday 8 am-7 pm; Saturday and Sunday 9 am-7 pm.

Ministry Contacts

PASTORAL COUNCIL Suzanne Harman 881-2810 suzanneharman@sbcglobal.net	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS/LECTORS (DAILY) Brian Conroy 887-5302	RCIY (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF YOUTH) Pat Andre 340-6020, x1022
FINANCE COUNCIL Dick DeBlois 340-6020	FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS Sr. Marie Paul Grech, SND 340-6020 x1018	RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PREK-8 Pat Andre 340-6020, x1022
JUSTICE & PEACE COUNCIL Barbara Gentile-Crary 348-0653	GREETERS FOR SUNDAY LITURGIES Margherita Aufmuth 222-1303	RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY 340-6020
SCHOOL COUNCIL Bernard Crowley 349-1715	GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER Frank & Martha Hules 222-6107	ROSARY MINISTRY Mitos Bitong 710-9888
MINISTRY FACILITATOR Dorothy Peisner 222-8347	JUSTFAITH Anselm & Pia Varni 346-8874 Jim & Barbara Hurt 340-7057 Irene McIsaac 307-6101	SACRISTANS Virginia Clark 222-8157
PARISH LIBRARY Tony Funari 992-5176 Ben Hogan 224-4801 Library 712-9851	LECTORS Cindy Pardi 346-6257	SANCTUS ENSEMBLE Kathy King 346-2247
ALTAR SERVERS Kerry Edwards 674-1110 100acrescrapper@charter.net	LITURGY COMMITTEE Cindy Pardi 346-6257	SCOUTING Bob Oedy 882-4364
ALTAR SOCIETY Rita Webb 343-2036 (Linens)	MEN'S CLUB John O'Sullivan 710-9030	SCRIP Joy Holland 340-6020 x1017
ANNULMENT MINISTRY Monica McGarva 706-1824	MINISTRY OF MOMS SHARING (M.O.M.S.) Michele Killmond 887-0021	ADULT CLUB Rudy C'Dealva 225-0221
ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN Marge Austin 347-1003 Betty Klein 707-9606	MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND 340-6020	SEPARATED/DIVORCED SUPPORT GROUP 340-6020
BAPTISM PREPARATION Pat Andre 340-6020, x1022	MISSION CIRCLE Ruth Sullivan 347-4659	ST. MEL FAITH COMMUNITIES 340-6020
BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP 340-6020, 3012	MOTION PICTURE HOSPITAL MINISTRY Barbara Hurt 340-7057	ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY Kent Gairdner 884-2291 340-6020, x3001
BOOK CLUB MaryLucy McGrath 817-7553	MULTIMEDIA MINISTRY 340-6020, x3010 multimediaministry@stmel.org	SVDP Large Item Pickup 800-974-3571
CHURCH ENVIRONMENT Natalie Coultrip bncoultrip@sbcglobal.net	MUSIC MINISTRY Francesco Alleruzzo 340-6020, x1028	SUNDAY PRESCHOOL Pat Andre 340-6020, x1022
COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS 340-6020	OLDER ADULT SERVICES AND INTERVENTION (OASIS) Adele Funari 992-5176 Sunny McMullen 347-5434	TEEN MINISTRY/LIFE TEEN Cheyenne Vasquez 340-6020, x1015
CONFIRMATION Cheyenne Vasquez 340-6020, x1015	PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION Beverly Hartmann 340-1924	THERESIANS Joann Matus 884-0321
DETENTION MINISTRY Robert Gerrity 888-1066	RAINBOWS FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN Joy Holland 340-6020, x1017	USHERS Bob Aufmuth 222-1303
DIVINE MERCY CHARISMATIC GROUP Claudia Blache 342-6626	RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) Fr. Larry Neumeier 340-6020, x1044	WEDDINGS 340-6020
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (SUNDAY) Henreik Tan 888-5719 Kerry Edwards 674-1110 100acrescrapper@charter.net		WIDOWS CIRCLE Rose Zeolla 881-4732
		WOMEN AT THE WELL Lynn Findling 348-4756
		WORLD WIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER Russ and Jeanine Walker 805-648-4244

Together In Community

Tax-Free IRA Giving

If you are like many, a large portion of your assets may be held in the form of individual retirement accounts (IRAs) and similar retirement plans. Did you know that such funds may actually represent a convenient "pocket" from which to make a charitable gift?

Special Opportunity

If you are 70 1/2 or older and have a traditional or Roth IRA, you may be pleased to learn of a special opportunity. This year, you are allowed to make gifts directly to your parish or parish school from these accounts on a totally tax-free basis. Amounts up to \$100,000 may be given in this way. Taking advantage of this opportunity can be especially attractive if withdrawals in past years have caused your social security income to be taxed at higher rates, if you have reached the limit of charitable gifts you can deduct. Check with your plan administrator or other advisors for more information.

Job Announcement

Conrad N. Hilton Fund for Sisters seeks a full-time Program Associate who is a team player, multi-tasker, detail-oriented and who has superior time management skills. Primary skills: ability to absorb extensive information about foundation's grantees from developing countries; analytical judgment regarding applications & budgets; administrative expertise; excellent oral & written communication; advanced in Microsoft Word, Access and Excel. Send resume to (Fax)310-785-0166 or info@hiltonfundforsisters.org or 10100 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 1000, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

Bulletin Submissions

Due to the Christmas Season articles for the December 27th bulletin are due at the Parish Center no later than December 16th. Bulletin articles for the January 3rd bulletin are due no later than December 21st. Sorry for the inconvenience.



Adopt A Family

St. Vincent de Paul is again sponsoring the Adopt A Family program which benefits over 120 families at the Guadalupe Center in Canoga Park. Participants in this year's program can make a suggested donation amount by signing up with St. Vincent de Paul members before and after each Mass through December 13th. The amount donated will be used to purchase food and gift scrip for the needy families in our area. Please open your hearts and adopt one of these deserving families.

The Giving Tree

The St. Vincent de Paul Conference of St. Mel is again sponsoring the "Giving Tree" this Christmas season. You are invited to take a gift tag and purchase an appropriate gift for the child whose age is specified on the tag; then return the UPWRAPPED gift with the tag attached and place it under the tree by December 15th. All the gifts will be distributed in our community. Please pick up a gift tag from the tree in the vestibule of the church.

Buying with a Conscience



Millions of hard-working people around the world are living in extreme poverty through no fault of their own. They simply lack access to the information, services and infrastructure they need to participate as equals in the global economy in order to earn their fair share.

Reynaldo Cifuentes has grown coffee most of his life in his village in the Chiapas region in southern Mexico. He has lived the hardships of many small coffee farmers, who sell their crop for a low price and often have to migrate to look for work. This is where Fair Trade comes in. Fair Trade is based on the principle that people should earn a fair profit for the items they produce. Fair Trade guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It provides access to the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need and rarely get. Fair Trade connects producers with people like us who can help raise them out of the cycle of poverty. Get involved! St. Mel is sponsoring a Fair Trade sale on December 13 8:00am to 12:30 pm in the auditorium. Be a beacon of HOPE! Be a positive force for the poor. Buy with a conscience! Buy Fair Trade coffee, chocolate and handmade articles for yourself, your family and friends. Help make a difference! Be a Volunteer! Call Stephen and Nancy at (818) 703-6522 or Pia and Anselm at (818) 346-8874.

St. Mel Annual Christmas Concert

Join us to delight in the sounds of Christmas with our parish and school children's choirs and handbell choirs at our annual Christmas Concert. "Christmas Is..." will be an evening filled with the music and sounds that enhance the beauty, joy and wonder of this holy and happy season. The concert will be held in the Activity Center on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00 pm. Admission is free and EVERYONE IS WELCOME. Come support the children and make this event a special part of your Christmas festivities.

Employment Opportunity At Angels Way Maternity Home

Weekend relief house manager. The job is for 9 am Saturday until 9 am Monday. It is a position for an adult female to supervise the home and residents during weekend hours. Requirements include having your own car, insurance and be a non-smoker. Position is available immediately and pays \$150 a month. For information and/or application, please call (818) 346-2229.

Children's Corner

Ages 3-6

December 13, 2009 • Luke 3:7-18

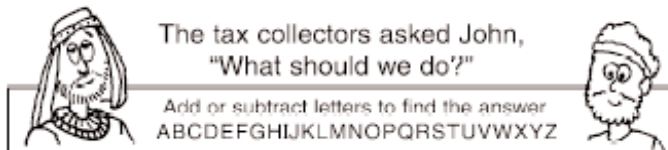
John Preaches to the People

John the Baptist taught the people who came to be baptized.

Find these letters: B A P T I Z E D



St. Mel Children's Corner



The tax collectors asked John, "What should we do?"

Add or subtract letters to find the answer
ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

John answered ...

B+2 Q-2 K+3 W-3

G-4 K+4 G+5 Q-5 K-6 J-7 M+7

C-2 L+2 W+2 J+3 M+2 U-3 J-5

N+6 N-6 C-2 L+2 Z-1 Q-2 X-3

D-3 M+5 G-2

M+5 B+3 R-1 W-2 F+3 O+3 H-3 F-2

Baptism in Faith

The next baptism preparation class will be held Monday evening, January 4th, from 7-9pm, upstairs in the parish center. Parents must be registered members of St. Mel Parish and meet with the parish baptism coordinator prior to the scheduling of a baptism. In addition, parents and godparents are required to attend a baptism preparation class. Baptisms in January 2010 will be celebrated on January 17th and 24th at 1:00 pm. A special note...there will be no baptism preparation class at St. Mel during the month of December. However, baptisms will be celebrated on Sunday, December 20th at 1:00 pm. For further information or to schedule an upcoming baptism, please contact Pat Andre at 818 340-6020, ext. 1022.

Save The Date



Saturday, January 30
7:00 - 9:30 pm
St. Mel Activity Center
\$18.00 per person

Purchase tickets in advance as they will not be sold at the door. Tickets available at the St. Mel Parish Center or Franklin's Hardware at 21936 Ventura Boulevard beginning in January. whfatherdaughterdance.com