SECOND SUNDAY OF Lent

Pastor
Rev. David Whorton

Associate Pastor
Rev. Vivian Ben Lima

Deacon
Dn. Brian Conroy

Weekday Mass
Mon.—Sat. 8:15 a.m.

Weekend Mass
Saturday Vigil
5:00 p.m.
Sunday
7:15, 9:00, 11:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Reconciliation
Saturday
3:45 — 4:45 p.m.
or by appointment

Parish Center Hours
Monday-Thursday
8:00 a.m. — 8:00 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday
8:30 a.m. — 7:00 p.m.

From the cloud came a voice:
“This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.”
Mark 9:7
St. Mel Parish
20870 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91364
Phone: (818) 340-6020
Fax: (818) 340-0261

Parish Staff

Pastor
Fr. David Whorton, x1014

Associate
Fr. Vivian Ben Lima, x1016

Deacon
Brian Conroy, x1018

Director of Administration
Rosemary McLarty, x1019

Director of Faith Formation & Evangelization
Dr. Ross Porter, x1013

Elementary School Principal
Mary Beth Lutz, (818) 340-1924

Preschool Director
Claudia Powell, (818) 340-3180

Confirmation Coordinator
Ella Sciarra, x1015

Religious Education Coordinator
Monica Matthews, x1022

Director of Music Ministry
Francesco Alleruzzo, x1028

Liturgy Coordinator
Kerry Edwards, x1025

Administrative Assistant
Patrick Bobillo, x1012

Website Administrator
Joann Barros, JBarros@stmel.org

Parish Center Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday
8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 3:45—4:45 p.m.
Or by Appointment

To Become a Registered Parishioner at St. Mel

call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012
or register online via our website:
www.stmelparish.org

Parish Council: Mary Stefancic (818) 340-6020, x3022
Finance Council: James Hallissy (818) 621-5799

Liturical Ministries

Altar Servers: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
Altar Society: Catherine Ghaffari (Linens) (818) 398-7403
Church Environment: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
Eucharistic Ministers: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
Greeters for Masses: Margaretta Aufmuth mlaufmuth@roadrunner.com (818) 222-1303
Lectors: Cindy Pardi (818) 346-6257
Liturgy Committee: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
MultiMedia Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1028
Music Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1028
Sacristans: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
Ushers: Bob Aufmuth rlaufmuth@roadrunner.com (818) 222-1303

Personal Growth/Spiritual Development/Sacraments for Adults

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) & Adult Confirmation:
Dr. Ross Porter (818) 340-6020, x1013
Book and Video Club: Tom Mackel (805) 432-7707
Men’s Group: Joe Sukitch (818) 225-1546
Partners in Prayer: Susie Scheck (818) 348-8386
Legion of Mary: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Young Adult Legion of Mary: Lourdes Curley (310) 367-7320
Rosary Ministry & Eucharistic Adoration Coordinator: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Therians: Maty Goodman (818) 591-3035
Women’s Spirituality Circle: Cindy Pardi (818) 346-6257

Children and Youth

Baptism Preparation: Lisa Feliciano ifeliciano@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1020
Teen Confirmation: Ella Sciarra esciarra@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1015
RCIY (Rite of Christian Initiation of Youth)/Ages 11-14
Religious Education PreK-8
Sunday Preschool/Ages 3-5 during 9 a.m. Mass
Children’s Sunday Mass Dismissal
Vacation Bible School: Monica Matthews mmmatthews@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1022
Ministry of Moms Sharing (M.O.M.S. Group): Virginia Dooley (818) 497-6292
Parish Swim Team: Andrea McIntyre stmelswim@gmail.com (310) 849-6928

Caring Ministries

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound:
Ella Sciarra esciarra@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1015
Motion Picture Hospital: Michel Hamou (818) 222-5498
OASIS (Older Adult Services and Intervention):
Ann McGlinn-Work stmel.oasis@gmail.com (213) 251-3572
Bereavement Ministry/Funeral Planning / Grief Support Group:
Ella Sciarra esciarra@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1015

Outreach

The Brown Bag Bunch: Nancy Gruenfelder (818) 703-6522
The Hot Lunch Bunch: Nancy Gruenfelder (818) 703-6522
St. Vincent de Paul: Kent Gairdner (818) 389-2398
St. Vincent de Paul (Donation pick up)
(800) 974-3571

Respect Life Activities

Pregnancy Counseling Center
(818) 895-2500
Angels Way Maternity Home
(818) 346-2229
First Friday Respect Life Holy Hour (11:00 — 12:00)

Hospitality/Social

Adult Club: Irene Strauss (818) 344-3333
Coffee & Donuts: Leticia Harding (818) 614-6606

Archdiocesan Service

Worldwide Marriage Encounter: Russ & Jeanine Walker (805) 648-4244
Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women: Mati Goodman (818) 591-3035
Virtus/Safeguarding the Children: Pat Andre pandre@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1044
Mass for the Intentions of the Week

Saturday, February 24
5:00 The Au & Veszelszk Family

Sunday, February 25
7:15 Les Vesell +
9:00 Helen Kilfoyle +
11:15 Fortunato de la Cruz +
5:00 Ursula Eligio +

Monday, February 26
8:15 Shirin Jafari

Tuesday, February 27
8:15 Judy & Ricky DeFelice +

Wednesday, February 28
8:15 Peggy Navarro +

Thursday, March 1
8:15 Richard Harding +

Friday, March 2
8:15 Prosperidad Cabezon +

Saturday, March 3
8:15 Oren Ohayon & Family

Prayer for Priests
2/25 Rev. Falaniko Atonio
2/26 Rev. Jeff Baker
2/27 Rev. Michaek Chaberek, O.P.
2/28 Pray for Vocations
3/1 Rev. Mark Choi
3/2 Rev. Joshua Diener
3/3 Rev. Raul Gatbonton, M.M.H.C.

Pray for Our Beloved Deceased
In your Masses and prayers during the week please remember the repose of the souls of our deceased parishioners and loved ones.

Bereavement Support at St. Mel
The Group meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the elementary school faculty lounge. All are welcome. Call Ella Sciarra at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1015. Or email: esciarra@stmel.org.

Today’s Readings

First Reading — The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith (Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18).

Psalm — I walk before the Lord, in the land of the living (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — God did not spare his own Son (Romans 8:31b-34).

Gospel — This is my beloved Son (Mark 9:2-10).

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23; Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14-16; Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8-11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

Please join us next Sunday, March 4 for the Angels Way Monthly Bake Sale. We will be available in the Auditorium after the morning Masses with mouthwatering homemade baked goods. With your purchases of these wonderful items you support the special blessing that Angels Way Maternity Home is to our community.

Bake Sale

Please stop by if you would like to know more about Angels Way. We love volunteers! If you would like to participate by baking, calling or working at the bake sale tables, please call Angels Way at 818-346-2229 (818-346-BABY).

As always, thank you for your generous support.

Lenten Communal Penance Service

Tuesday, March 20
7:00 p.m.
God loves each of us as if there were only one of us. – St. Augustine
In the spirit of Legacy Day, we present another in a series of articles focusing on one of the many cultural groups that so deeply enrich our St. Mel community as a whole.

We are so fortunate to belong to a church that is universal, and at the same time, diverse in traditions. You can go to any country to attend Mass and feel at home. You can connect with it right away, even if it's in a different language. That's why our church is called “Catholic” because it means universal. Mexico practices some of the same Lent traditions and rituals as we do, but it also has its own traditions.

In Mexico you will find that during Lent, just as in our country, there are carnivals or celebrations on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, the homily is completely dedicated to the solemnity and seriousness of Lent. The congregation is reminded of the obligation of fasting, giving alms, going to confession, abstaining from meat on Fridays, and perhaps attending a “mission.” As for particular traditions, there are many neighborhoods that participate in small processions from one end of the neighborhood to the central church. These processions usually begin at 2:00 in the afternoon. The church bells ring in order to gather the congregation at the designated street corner.

At the beginning of the procession, and every five minutes or so, a single firework rocket is launched. The explosion of the rocket signals to the whole community so they can join in if they wish to do so. Traditionally, the people walking in the procession pray the rosary and perhaps some litanies are said. In many cases, and especially on Good Friday, there are ten or twelve men who dress up as the fariseos. These men march at the end of the procession wearing ugly wooden carved masks usually representing animals or just devils with horns. Usually the fariseos are shirtless, wearing only long pants, and no shoes. The fariseos represent the Pharisees who were touched by Satan and participated in the crucifixion of Jesus. They also represent those of us who betrayed Jesus with our sinfulness. Sometimes they march to the beat of a small drum and maracas. I recall the frightening feeling I had looking at these men thinking I didn’t want to sin because I was afraid I would end up looking like them. Or even worse, my soul would end up looking like those ugly masks. Of course, the fariseos did not enter the church at the end of the procession. Once inside the church, special prayers were said, and Mass was celebrated.

Other traditions of lesser importance are the special foods for Lent. In particular, there is capirotada, which is a bread pudding that is made with toasted “birote bread” which is like a small French bread. The birote bread is baked with a special sweetener similar to molasses or brown sugar syrup. The bread is baked with the syrup, cloves, raisins, cinnamon, and cheese. The bread represents the body of Christ, the syrup being the blood, the clove the nails, and the melted cheese the shroud. Another food that is traditional for Fridays is the empanada which is a pastry shell stuffed with vegetables or seafood.

Going back to the universality of the church, you will find that in Mexico, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are very similar to our traditions here in the U.S. For example, on Palm Sunday there is the blessing of the palms followed by the procession to the church. On Good Friday, prayers begin at noon, and they end at 3:00 pm. Of course, Easter Sunday mass is the greatest celebration of all with white flowers everywhere and everyone dressed in their Sunday best. We should all remember to embrace our cultural traditions.

~ by Gilbert Salazar

FACT FILE
► With almost 99 million Roman Catholics (about 80% of its population), Mexico is the 14th “most Catholic” nation on Earth.

Q: Who are some of the patron saints of Mexico?
A: The Virgin Mary (as Our Lady of Guadalupe), Philip of Jesus and St. Joseph
CELEBRATE!

A million thanks to all of our parish volunteers – both school parents and all other parish volunteers — for the time you have taken to attend a Virtus training class or read yet another monthly Virtus bulletin!

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE’S LIFE!

As we continue to celebrate our efforts to keep our children safe from abuse, we are reminded of our responsibility in maintaining our Virtus certification and education every four years. Remember: If you’ve NEVER taken the initial Virtus training, OR if it has been over four years and 90 days since your last session, OR if a recertification session is not currently available or convenient for you, then the three-hour Protecting God’s Children® session is the one for you! This training for adults ages 18 and over makes participants aware of the signs of child sexual abuse, the methods and means by which offenders commit abuse, and five easy steps one can use to prevent child sexual abuse. It is required that anyone at St. Mel who volunteers in our church (including all liturgical ministers) or either of our schools, with or around children, MUST BE VIRTUS TRAINED.

Virtus certification is valid for four years. A 90-minute recertification session is only for those persons who have ALREADY attended the initial Virtus training. If your Virtus certification is more than 90 days past the four year expiration date, the three-hour class MUST be repeated.

Recertification can be accomplished through:
Completing 48 online bulletins over the last four years (you must also contact the archdiocesan office of Safeguarding the Children regarding certificate); OR attending a live Virtus recertification session; OR attending a three-hour Protecting God’s Children session.

UPCOMING VIRTUS TRAINING SESSION:
SATURDAY, MARCH 10th
8:00 a.m — 11:00 a.m. PARISH CENTER

To register, please contact Pat Andre: pandre@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, ext. 1044

A list of other scheduled sessions is available at www.virtus.org under “First Time Registrant”. Please check for listings in both the Los Angeles—San Fernando Region and the Los Angeles—Santa Barbara Region.

Attention! New Bulletin Coming!
Advertisers and Sponsors Needed

Do you own a business?

Would you like to remember a loved one with a weekly memorial?

Are you looking to reach out to your fellow parishioners every week?

Would you like to help St. Mel in a unique way?

If so, why not advertise in our weekly bulletin? Our bulletin needs ads! The ads and sponsorships in the bulletin will allow us to receive our weekly bulletin at no cost to the church.

Kjirsten Finnegan and Mark Hiller from our new bulletin publishing partner, Liturgical Publications, will be in the office the week of February 26 seeking advertisers for our new bulletin.

You can reach Kjirsten at (402) 312-9955 or KFinnegan@4LPi.com and Mark at (414) 507-6500 or MHiller@4lpi.com. Thank you for your support!

2018 Golf Tournament

April 30
Calabasas Country Club

Join us for St. Mel’s annual charity golf tournament! Hurry! Sign up today while spots are still available. Only $250 per person or $900 per foursome.

Registration Includes:
• Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner • Fantastic Gift Bag • One Year Subscription to Golf Magazine • Hats • Free Beer and Beverages

Golf Auction Includes:
• Vacation Getaways • Autographed Sports Memorabilia • And Much More!

Visit www.golf4stmel.com to register or contact Tiffany Gran for more info: tonytiffanytrent@msn.com

M.O.M.S. GROUP

Ministry Of Moms Sharing
Moms — bring your little ones and meet other St. Mel moms to discuss the joys and challenges of motherhood.

Share faith and fellowship while your little ones enjoy a playdate!

Next Meeting: February 28
10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Parish Center
Helping Children Problem Solve Through Communication

Often the easiest response to complicated conversations about sensitive issues is a generic one, but these moments can be opportunities to help children grow. For example, if a child comes to you and tells you that a friend is being left out of social activities, you might respond with a question: “Do you think there is anything you can do help him/her feel more included?” Or if your child comes to you for money for social activities, instead of just giving them the cash or suggesting how they might get the money, you might prompt them to consider ways that they could earn money or fundraise on their own. In this way, you are not only helping a child find a solution to an immediate situation, but also helping them to grow in wisdom and prudence. For complete VIRTUS® article name and more communication tips, visit www.archla.org/protecting.

Did You Know?

Bags in the Basket
Please take a paper bag from the baskets near the entrances and return it with your donation of nonperishable food for the Guadalupe Center. We require donations of only nonperishable items as the food is only picked up once a week and it’s a shame to see some of it go bad before we can get it to those it is intended to feed.

This is an important and ongoing opportunity for all of us to help the needy of our community. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity.

Guadalupe Community Center, 21600 Hart Street, Canoga Park, 91303. (213) 251-3549

“I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME”

Join Us for a Donut and a Hot Cup of Coffee

Are you new to St. Mel?
We’d love to meet you! Please join us for coffee and donuts this Sunday in the Auditorium following all the morning Masses.

Are you not new to St. Mel?
You should join us for coffee and donuts too. You know we’d love to say “hi” and see your smiling face!

If your family or group would like an opportunity to host some Sunday morning, contact Leticia Harding: (818) 614-6606 lamas86@sbcglobal.net

The St. Mel Junior High Drama Club Needs You!
Do you like to sew? Are you looking for a fun project during winter evenings?

If so, we would love to have your help making the costumes for the 2018 school drama production of Mulan!

Please contact Sarah at stmeldrama@gmail.com for all the details.
The Sacrament of Baptism for Children

St. Mel Parish prayerfully welcomes and supports young families as they bring their children to the sacrament of Baptism. Infants and young children are typically baptized at St. Mel on the third Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

Parents must be registered members of the parish, and attend one parent/godparent baptism preparation class. Our next class is **Monday, March 5, from 7-8:30 p.m.** in the Parish Center.

If you are interested in having your child baptized, please contact Lisa Feliciano in the Baptism Ministry Office at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1020, or at lfeliciano@stmel.org for further information or to set up an appointment.

---

**We joyfully welcome the newly baptized into our faith community:**

**DANIELLA ANAHI HERNANDEZ**
Daughter of Diego and Carmen

**HUNTER ALEXANDER HERNANDEZ**
Son of Alex and Jennifer

**MARY MERCEDES BUENACOSA YADO**
Daughter of Romel and Janice

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**Eucharistic Adoration**

**First Friday, March 2**
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Benediction at 4:00 p.m.

“To fall in love with God is the greatest romance; to seek him the greatest adventure; to find him, the greatest human achievement.”

- Saint Augustine
HOPE FOR TROUBLED MARRIAGES
RETOUVAILLE PROGRAM
WEEKEND RETREAT
MARCH 9th — 11th

Retrouvaille (REH-tro-v-eye) is a peer marriage ministry program that has helped thousands of married couples who are experiencing disillusion or misery in their marriage, even separated or divorced, rediscover a loving marriage relationship. The program begins with a weekend stay followed by a series of post-weekend sessions.

For information, including cost, or to register for the next Los Angeles program beginning with a weekend on March 9-11, 2018, please call 909-900-5465 or email: 6006@retrouvaille.org. For more information, visit HelpOurMarriage.com.

Retreat: “Exploring the Foundations of Prayer” with Dr. James Finley
The Center for Religion and Spirituality at Loyola Marymount University offers theological and spiritual formation programs to the larger community. You are invited to our next retreat:

Saturday, March 3

A one-day retreat devoted to exploring the transformative power and the challenges of learning to be faithful to daily prayer and meditation. A contemplative retreat, devoted to actual practice of prayer as a way to live in the peace of God that surpasses understanding.

Questions?
Please call the Center for Religion and Spirituality at 310-338-2799 or e-mail crs@lmu.edu

KINDRED HEARTS

THE GRATEFUL HEART by Wilkie Au and Noreen Cannon is a book study that explores how gratitude is a means of “living the Christian Message” and a guidebook for those seeking to explore the richness of a grateful life.

Place: Notre Dame Center 1776 Hendrix Ave., Thousand Oaks, 91360 on Thursday March 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Sister Marie Paul Grech, SND at mgrech@sndca.org, especially if you plan to attend.
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Dentistry For Children
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818-601-8430

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319934 St Mel Church (A)
In solidarity with the poor and suffering, please join our St. Mel Community every Friday in Lent at 6:00 PM for a ministry-sponsored soup meal in the auditorium, and the Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM in the Church. Donations will be accepted for those in need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SOUP</th>
<th>STATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>PASTORAL COUNCIL</td>
<td>TRADITIONAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>BOY SCOUTS</td>
<td>CRS RICE BOWL</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH</td>
<td>FIL-AM COMMUNITY</td>
<td>TRADITIONAL</td>
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<td>MARCH</td>
<td>GIRL SCOUTS</td>
<td>TEENS</td>
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</tbody>
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ST. MEL CHURCH, 20870 VENTURA BLVD, WOODLAND HILLS CA. 91364
PHONE: 818 340 6020   www.stmelparish.org