Pastor
Rev. David Whorton

Associate Pastor
Rev. Vivian Ben Lima

Deacon
Dn. Brian Conroy

Weekday Mass
Monday—Saturday 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.

Sunday, November 12, 2017    Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

www.stmelparish.org  20870 Ventura Blvd. Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (818) 340-6020
To Become a Registered Parishioner at St. Mel

call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012
or register online via our website: www.stmelparish.org
November 12, 2017 —Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today’s Readings

First Reading — Wisdom is easily discerned by those who love her (Wisdom 6:12-16).

Psalm — My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psalm 63).

Second Reading — Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [13-14]).

Gospel — Stay awake! You know neither the day nor the hour (Matthew 25:1-13).

Readings for the Week

Monday:       Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-10; Lk 17:1-6
Tuesday:      Wis 2:23 -- 3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-19; Lk 17:7-10
Wednesday:   Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19
Thursday:     Wis 7:22b -- 8:1; Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25
Friday:        Wis 13:1-9; Ps 19:2-5ab; Lk 17:26-37
Saturday:     Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43; Lk 18:1-8
PS 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development
Next weekend, we will be collecting donations for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. By supporting this collection you give people a hand up, not a hand out.

The CCHD is the national anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ “... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free.” (Luke 4:18)

Learn more at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Thanksgiving Mass and Reception
The St. Mel Pastoral Council invites you to a reception following the 9:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day Mass (November 23). Join us for a cup of coffee and refreshments, as we take this opportunity to express how thankful we are for you — our St. Mel family.

Online Giving
Need help with your Online Giving account? If you have questions or need assistance with setting up or making adjustments to your donation using Online Giving, please call Rosemary McLarty at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1019 and she will be happy to assist you. It’s convenient, simple and secure, and saves our staff precious administrative time. Thank you for your support of our parish!

Also … If your credit card expires or is reissued by the credit card company, please remember to login and change the information online.
We’ll never know how our small act of love in sharing Lighthouse CDs is saving souls!

The Lighthouse CD kiosk will be on display in the vestibule of the church offering different CDs after every Mass next weekend (November 11 and 12).

There is a suggested donation of $5.00 per CD.

CD Feature of the Month

Encounter Christ First: Then Set the World on Fire

by CURTIS MARTIN

Curtis Martin, founder of FOCUS and world-renowned authority on evangelization, shares how a personal encounter with Jesus is the key to following him with fidelity, gratitude, and joy. With humor and relatable examples, he also shows how experiencing Christ before evangelizing others is the biblical model witnessed to by the Apostles, and one that is certain to bear fruit in the life of any believer.

Lighthouse Catholic CDs Change Lives

If you need to buy CDs anytime or schedule a showing in any of your ministry meetings, please contact Mitos Bitong at 818-710-9888 or imc78@aol.com.

St. Mel Book & Video Club

Please join us for the next meeting of the St. Mel Book and Video Club as we present:

The Protestant Revolution

Parish Center
November 15
7:00 p.m.

October 2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, when Martin Luther nailed a list of his grievances with the Catholic Church (commonly called “The 95 Theses”) to the door of All Saints’ Church in Wittenberg, Germany.

In this documentary-style film, written and narrated by Trent Horn, you will be introduced to Martin Luther and the events that shaped his thinking and lead him to “protest” against his Catholic faith.

The film investigates common myths about the Reformation and the key ideas Luther exposed that resulted in the breaking away of believers and the establishment of non-Catholic Christian religions; ideas still firmly at the heart of modern Protestant theology. Hear from top apologists Tim Staples, Jimmy Atkin, Karlo Broussard, and Steve Weidenkopf as they unpack Luther’s theology and give a clearer understanding of our Protestant brothers and sisters.

For additional information, contact Tom Mackel: solarme@me.com.

... quotable ...

Learn the heart of God from the word of God. – Pope St. Gregory
My Dear Saint Mel Family:

As the Advent Season approaches and we prepare for the coming Christmastime, I want to share with you my decision to bring my term as your pastor to a conclusion in June of this coming year. I look forward with some bittersweet sadness to our final seasons of celebration, including the great feast of Easter. I have so enjoyed my time here at Saint Mel. I feel very close to so many of you and I am moved with joy and thanksgiving for each of you as we celebrate the Sacred Liturgy together each Sunday.

As many of you know, I have been struggling with health issues that have hampered my ability to be the best pastor I can be for the Saint Mel community. My own health issues have taken a personal toll on me that cannot be denied. In consultation with our bishop, my medical providers, our dedicated staff, and my supportive and loving friends, I have decided that I will end my term as your pastor effective in June of 2018. My priestly ministry will continue as an associate pastor at a parish yet to be determined.

This means we need to pray together that the Lord of the Harvest will send a gifted and able pastor to lead the great Saint Mel Parish community into the future. As our recent celebration of Legacy Day pointed out clearly, we are a wonderful diverse community blessed with abundant gifts. Chief among these is the gift that each one of you brings to the whole parish.

I am most grateful for the supportive Saint Mel Parish clergy, the outstanding parish staff, and each of you who have enriched my ministry and given me great joy and satisfaction to have been blessed to be among you as pastor. Please be assured of my prayers for you as we look forward to a new season of life and growth at Saint Mel Parish.

Reverend David Whorton
November 2017
St. Mel Parish has an active group of Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick and Homebound. Sometimes, however, the parish staff does not know when someone is unable to come to Mass on a short-term or long-term basis. Please let us know if we can be of assistance.

Those who desire to receive the Eucharist in their homes while recovering from illness or injury, or due to age or permanent disability, should call Ella Sciarra at the Parish Center: (818) 340-6020 ext. 1015.

If you suspect that one of our parishioners may benefit from our ministry, please contact Ella or another staff member. We will contact them. If you are considering serving in this ministry, please call Ella for information and training.

We serve by visiting homes, retirement and assisted living facilities and hospitals. The joy and comfort our volunteers bring is very much appreciated by those they serve.

If there is a need/desire for Anointing of the Sick, please contact the Parish Center office and indicate the degree of urgency. A priest will be notified and respond accordingly. Thank you.

For more information, please contact:
Mitos Bitong (818) 486-2971
Cece Jarillo (310) 923-3219
Joy Rivera (818) 823-8987

Coming December 10
St. Vincent dePaul

Bundle Sunday

On December 10, St. Mel will be hosting a Bundle Sunday for the Society of St. Vincent DePaul thrift stores.

Please bring your useable clothing, small appliances and household items on that date. Their truck will be here in the main parking lot from 8:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Your tax-deductible donation will help the Society in their endless efforts to assist the needy.

They are in great need of furniture, large appliances and vehicles. But please don’t bring such items to the truck. You may call (323) 224-6280 or (800) 974-3571 for free pick up of large items.

(Please — no car seats, baby cribs, strollers or mattresses.)
Did You Know?

Family Travel Safety Rules

If you’re traveling to spend Thanksgiving with friends or family, it’s important that everyone in your group is up to speed on travel safety, and this safety starts at home. Make sure you have plans in place that let friends and family know where you’re headed, and set up your house to look “lived-in” when you’re on the road. Teach kids to pack smart—avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and carry only the necessary ID cards and money in the event of an emergency.

For a copy of the VIRTUS® article “Family Travel and Vacation Safety,” visit http://www.la-archdiocese.org/protecting/Pages/VIRTUS-Current-Online-Articles.aspx or call (213) 637-7508.

Life, Justice and Peace Corner

Bags in the Basket

Please take a paper bag from the baskets near the entrance 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”

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Adopt-A-Family 2017 Starts This Weekend

Once again, St. Vincent de Paul will partner with the Guadalupe Center in Canoga Park to assist needy families in the West Valley in providing food and gifts for Christmas.

Because of our parishioners’ generous participation, we’ve been able to sponsor more than 120 families every year. You can join us in being a part of AAF 2017 by stopping at our table before or after all the Masses beginning this weekend and continuing through December 9/10, to sign up with one of our members to make a suggested donation. All contributions will be used to purchase scrip for food and gifts for families that have participated in Guadalupe Center programs during the year.

We invite you to open your hearts during this time of giving to bring Christ’s love and joy to these families at Christmas.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree will once again be a part of our Christmas tradition here at St. Mel beginning on the weekend of November 25/26. Please stop by the church vestibule and select a gift tag from the tree and purchase a toy or gift for a needy child. Place your unwrapped gift under the tree before Friday, December 15.

All gifts collected will be delivered to the Guadalupe Center in time for their annual Children’s Christmas party.
St. Mel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
O'CONNOR CENTER

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Do you make or sell something unique?
Are you a small business owner who wants to be a part of something special?
Maybe you’d like to showcase a new product or find a new way to reach customers.
Why not be a vendor at the St. Mel Christmas Boutique?

For information, contact Lisa Gandara at lisamgandara@att.net

Happy Thanksgiving

Come join us as one family of St. Mel to give thanks to God

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS: 9:00 AM

Bring non-perishable food for the poor and a loaf of bread and a bottle of wine to be blessed for your Thanksgiving table

St. Mel Special Needs Ministry

November 12
12:20 p.m. in the Parish Center

Led by two wonderful and gifted special education teachers, Linda Cobuzzi and Pauline Furman, along with a host of volunteers, our Saints Among Us class will involve preparation for reception of the Sacraments, but it serves a larger function as well; that of a community of friendship. And Catholics from outside St. Mel are welcome too!

A suggested donation of $100 to St. Mel, to cover the costs of the year, is requested, but if this is a burden please give what you can. We do not want money to be a deciding factor in your child’s involvement.

♦ Preparation for the Sacraments
  ♦ Fellowship
  ♦ Music
  ♦ Art

For information and an interview, contact Dr. Ross Porter
(818) 340-6020 ♦ RPorter@stmel.org

Taizé

If you are seeking a time to reflect and restore …
to celebrate God’s goodness …
in a contemplative spirit …

Please join us for the St. Mel Taizé Prayer Service

On the second Monday of each month, we gather in the church from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. for brief scriptural reflections, beautiful music, sacred images and a sense of true community.

Our next Taizé service will be Monday, November 13 at 7:00 p.m.
This month’s theme:

Gratitude

All are welcome

St. Mel Christmas Boutique

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17
10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
O’CONNOR CENTER

CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Do you make or sell something unique?
Are you a small business owner who wants to be a part of something special?
Maybe you’d like to showcase a new product or find a new way to reach customers.
Why not be a vendor at the St. Mel Christmas Boutique?

For information, contact Lisa Gandara at lisamgandara@att.net
Beyond St. Mel Parish ...

**Employment Opportunity at Angels Way Maternity Home**
Do you love babies? Angels Way is currently seeking a House Manager. Enjoy private quarters in the home. This is a live-in position for an adult female. Requirements include having your own car and insurance. No drugs/smoking. Position is available starting November 1.

For information and/or an application, please call the Angels Way office at (818) 346-2229 or email info@angelswayhome.org.

**Hope for Troubled Marriages**
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 separation or divorce — 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 December 8-10, please call (909) 900-5465 or e-mail 6006@retrouvaille.org.

For more information, visit HelpOurMarriage.com.

---

Magandang umaga!*

The Filipino-American Community of St. Mel invites you to enjoy a traditional Filipino-style breakfast after all morning Masses next Sunday, November 19.

Be sure to stop by the Auditorium next weekend to try some of their delicious, lovingly-prepared, home-cooked items.

*Magandang umaga is Tagalog for “good morning.”

---

Envelope Reminder

We want to ensure that all our parishioners receive proper credit for their contributions. If you receive preprinted envelopes in the mail each month, please try to use those. If you forget or misplace your envelope, you can fill out one of the white envelopes found in the pews. When doing so, please include your envelope number, if you know it. Please don’t write only your last name on the envelopes. Even if you have an uncommon last name, there may be someone else with that name in the parish. (You never know when long-lost cousin Al is going to turn up).

If you are not receiving envelopes or you can’t remember your envelope number, call Patrick Bobillo in the Parish Office: (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012.

---

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
ADS
The 4:00 pm **St. Mel Christmas Eve Mass** will feature the talent of our parish and school children.

All children in **2nd-12th grades** are invited to sing in the Christmas Choir.

Open to all St. Mel children grades 2-12, this special group of singers will not only lead the music for the 4pm Christmas Eve Mass at St. Mel but will also perform a pre-liturgy mini concert. **Enrollment in this group is by director approval. (Students do not need to be members of the school choirs to participate.)** Plus, students can earn Christian Service hours for all of their rehearsal time!

If your child is interested in singing on Christmas Eve, they must attend one of the Director Preview dates. This will give Mrs. Penney and Mr. Alleruzzo the chance to meet those who would like to be a part of the group and determine good voice groupings. **PREVIEW DATES** The remaining preview date will be **Saturday 11/18 from 10:00-11:15 a.m. (location TBD).** Return the form below if your child is interested in singing on Christmas Eve.

---

**REHEARSALS**

Christmas Eve singers must attend at least **one of the optional rehearsals and both of the mandatory rehearsals** in order to participate on Christmas Eve (min. 3 rehearsals total).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Optional Rehearsals</th>
<th>Mandatory Rehearsals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(<strong>must attend at least one of these rehearsals</strong>)</td>
<td>(<strong>must attend both of these rehearsals</strong>)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. Dec. 8</td>
<td>Tue. Dec. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:45-2:15 p.m. Library (pack a lunch)</td>
<td>12:45-2:15 p.m. Audit (pack a lunch)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sat. Dec. 15</td>
<td>Fri. Dec. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 a.m.-11:15 p.m. Audit.</td>
<td>10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. Dec. 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15-4:30 p.m. Audit. (snack provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Christmas Eve</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun. Dec. 24</td>
<td>Family Christmas Eve Mass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Meet in Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. CALL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ Yes, my child is interested in participating in the Christmas Eve choir (upon director's approval) and can attend the required rehearsals.

Student Name(s) ___________________________ Grade(s) ___________________________

Parent Name ___________________________ Phone ___________________________

Email ________________________________________________________

My child(ren) will attend the following Preview Day:  ☐ Wed. 11/8 ~ 12:45pm  ☐ Sat. 11/18 ~ 10:00am

Email Mrs. Susie Penney (spenney@stmel.org) for more information.
CHURCH NAME AND ADDRESS
St. Mel Church #519934
20870 Ventura Boulevard
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

TELEPHONE
818 340-6020 Ext. 1012

CONTACT PERSON
Patrick Bobillo

EMAIL: pbobillo@stmel.org

SOFTWARE
MSPublisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat XI
Windows 7

PRINTER
HP LJ 4

TRANSMISSION TIME
Tuesday 5:00

SUNDAY DATE OF PUBLICATION
November 12, 2017

NUMBER OF PAGES SENT
1 through 13

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS