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.
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, 340-1924
Preschool Director
Claudia Powell, 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
Joan Barros, JBbarros@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 Staff
Or by Appointment
Sacrament of Reconciliation
8:30 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
8:00 a.m.—7:00 p.m.
Friday
Monday—Thursday
Joann Barros, JBarros@stmel.org
Patrick Bobillo, x1012
Administrative Assistant
Kerry Edwards, x1025
Liturgy Coordinator
Director of Music Ministry
Monica Matthews, x1022
Francesco Alleruzzo, x1028

Parish Staff
Pastoral Council: Mary Stefanec (818) 340-6020, x3022
Finance Council: James Hallissy (818) 621-5799
Life, Justice & Peace Council: Stephen Gruenfelder (818) 269-0858

LITURGICAL 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 Sunday Liturgies: Margherita Aufmuth (818) 222-1303
Lectors: Cindy Pardi (818) 346-6257
Liturgy Committee: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
MultiMedia Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo (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 (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 Club: Tom Mackel (805) 432-7707
Men’s Group: Joe Sukitch (818) 225-1546
Partners in Prayer: Susie Srebrant (818) 348-8386
Legion of Mary: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Rosary Ministry & Eucharist Adoration Coordinator: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Theresians: 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 mmatthews@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1022
Monday Morning Moms: Sr. Marie Paul Grech (805) 279-4045
Ministry of Moms Sharing: 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 Hamaoui (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 (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: Maty Goodman (818) 591-3035
Virtus/Safeguarding the Children: Pat Andre pandre@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1044

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

The clergy and staff of St. Mel wish all our parishioners and friends a Christmas full of wonder—and peace. If you are visiting St. Mel today, we welcome you and invite you to come again.

May the joyful song of the angels resound in your heart today and throughout the year!
Glory to God in the Highest!

Today's Readings

First Reading — I will fix a place for my people. I will plant them so that they may dwell in their place without further disturbance (2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16).

Psalm — For ever I will sing the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 89).

Second Reading — To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever (Romans 16:25-27).

Gospel — Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:26-38).

Readings for the Week

During the Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]

Tuesday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17; Mt 10:17-22
Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Thursday: 1 Jn 1:5 – 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7cd-8; Mt 2:13-18
Friday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40
Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Hb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

Year-End Donations to St. Mel

Donations to your parish are used to keep our great programs and ministries going. By donating to St. Mel before the end of the year, you can also reduce your 2017 income taxes. Current tax law allows you to donate in ways other than by cash or check that can result in big tax savings to you.

To learn more, please contact Rosemary McLarty at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1019.
Once again this year, we are deeply grateful to the many parishioners who shared their time, talent and enthusiasm to make our Christmas Liturgies beautiful and inspiring.

A most heartfelt “thank you” to our outstanding

Altar Servers
Altar Society
Environment Committee
Eucharistic Ministers
Greeters
Lectors
Liturgy Committee
Multimedia Ministry
Music Ministry
Sacristans
Ushers

and the many others who planned and prepared our Christmas Celebrations!

2017 Together in Mission Campaign Coming to a Close
Thank you for your support. Our parish’s goal is $109,400.00. To date, we have received pledges of $103,812.10 and you have contributed $103,360.10 towards these pledges. The Together in Mission office has mailed their final billing reminder to your homes. For those of you that have a balance remaining towards your pledge we ask that you send your final gift in before December 31st to help us achieve our goal of collecting 100% of gifts that were pledged. You can either mail in your gift to the TIM office or make a payment online by visiting ourmissionla.org/give.

Holiday Parish Office Hours

Sunday, Dec. 24
Christmas Eve
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 25
Christmas Day
CLOSED
Tuesday, Dec. 26
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 31
New Year’s Eve
8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 1
New Year’s Day
CLOSED
Tuesday, Jan. 2
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Christmas Schedule

Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve
4:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.
11:00 p.m.

Monday, December 25
Christmas Day
8:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
12:00 p.m.

... in Gratitude ...

“O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant. O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him; Born the King of angels. O come let us adore Him ... Christ the Lord!”

— Original Latin authorship unknown.
English translation by Rev. Frederick Oakeley
Dear Saint Mel Family,

For most of us, Christmas means coming home. Home is the safe place, the place that, when you come there, they always let you in – because you belong. Home is where the heart is. No matter how long ago or how far away our childhood home, memories of Christmas joy may still stir our hearts in the here and now. So fresh are those memories, we may even weep at old Christmas songs.

Over two millennia ago, God broke into human history and made his home with us. He left his heavenly realm and came among us as a helpless child. He was in the loving care of his mother Mary and under the watchful eye of Joseph, her husband. He became one of us – fully human, while still fully divine. He is Emmanuel: God-with-us – present in our own homes and our own lives.

Jesus in turn invites us into his home. He tells us, “In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places (many mansions) …and I have prepared a place for you” (John 14:2). This Christmas as we welcome the infant born in Bethlehem into our churches, into our homes and into our hearts, we turn to him to show us the way to our home in heaven with him. Jesus himself is the Way home.

With only a few days left in 2017 and the prospect of a promising New Year ahead in 2018, it is sometimes hard to imagine we are this far into the “new” 21st Century. But here we are gathered together, the family of faith awaiting the coming light, the brightness of Christmas, and a season of Peace to follow.

We welcome you home for Christmas to St. Mel Parish and pray that throughout this season of light and into the coming New Year, we may have many occasions to be together as God’s people. We gather each week as brothers and sisters to Jesus who makes his home with us. We look forward to gathering with you and making a home together.

The entire St. Mel staff and I, together with Father Vivian Ben Lima and Deacon Brian Conroy and his wife Esperanza, wish you the blessings of Christmas and a happy, healthy, peaceful New Year.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Dave
All new families interested in attending St. Mel in fall of 2018 are welcome.
The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, through its initiative Kid Smartz, provides age-appropriate videos for children on how to put safety rules into action. This video series teaches children to always “check first” with a parent, guardian, or other trusted adult before going anywhere, helping anyone, accepting anything, or getting into a car.

To view the video, visit: http://www.kidsmartz.org/Videos

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Life, Justice and Peace Corner

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”

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University Series 2018

St. Mel is proud once again to be hosting several sessions in the University Series of speakers and programs. We will have a kickoff weekend with sign-ups and information on January 6 and 7.

Here is the schedule for the University Series coming to St. Mel during Lent 2018:

God under Fire: The Adventures of a Military Chaplain Fr. Paul Donlan Monday, Feb. 19
Lenten Solemn Vespers Fr. Vivian Ben Lima & St. Mel Choir Wednesday, Feb. 21
The Mass with a Pause Button Fr. Vivian Ben Lima Wednesday, Feb. 28
Understanding Loss, Grief and Mourning Paul Brogan Monday, March 5
Slavery and the Bible Chris Knabenshue Wednesday, March 7
The Outlaw David ben Jesse Dr. Daniel Smith-Christopher Monday, March 12
Will the Real Mary Please Stand Up? Sr. Gretchen Hailer Wednesday, March 14
My Kids Don't Go to Church! Now What? Dcn. Gene Gleason Monday, March 19

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Do You Donate to United Way Through Payroll Deduction?

This is the time of year when most major companies have their United Way Campaign. Typically, the option is to donate via payroll deduction to your local United Way or to a nonprofit of your choice.

Please consider designating St. Mel as your nonprofit of choice. Usually the employer underwrites the campaign’s administrative cost so 100% of your donation will go to St. Mel. Thank you!

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St. Mel on Social Media

Like us on Facebook: SaintMelParish
Follow us on Twitter: @SaintMelParish
Our 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.

For more information, please contact:

Mitos Bitong  (818) 486-2971
Cece Jarillo  (310) 923-3219
Joy Rivera  (818) 823-8987
Beyond St. Mel Parish …

**Feast of Jesus Infant of Prague**

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels  
555 W. Temple Street  
Los Angeles  
♦ Devotional Prayer  
♦ Holy Mass  
♦ Candle Lighting

Friday, January 12  
7:00 — 9:00 p.m.  
Join us or a special celebration with  
Bishop Joseph V. Brennan  

"The more you honor Me, the more I bless you"

The history of the devotion to the Miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague dates back more than 400 years to when the statue of the Holy Infant in the guise of a king was brought to Prague (in the present day Czech Republic). Miraculous healings were attributed to the Child Jesus, as was the protection of Prague when it was laid siege to by the Swedes in 1639.

Today, we have the privilege to come close and touch one of the Holy Robes that the Infant Jesus of Prague wears in the holy shrine in City of Prague.

For more information: (818) 887-5413

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All parishioners who are interested in participating in a new **Play Reading Group** — which would meet once a month to read a play together, followed by a discussion — are invited to call  
Al Rossi  
at (818) 902-1538

It's possible that, once established, the group could present performances for parishioners in the form of staged readings.  
**Come join us!**

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**Special Prayer Intentions**

If you or a loved one have a need for special prayers, please visit the home page of stmelparish.org and click on the "Special Prayer Requests" button. Fill out a simple form and the entire St. Mel Parish community will pray for your intention.

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

-Philippians 4:6

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**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 Frankie 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.

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**A Savior has been born for you**
ADS
ST. MEL CHURCH IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

The WELCOME HOME Series

New Year’s is a time for new beginnings. If you have been away from the Catholic Church for a while, or know someone who has left the Catholic Church, we hope that this series will help give you and your friends direction and answer your questions.

SUNDAY JANUARY 7, 2018
Why be Catholic? What’s in it for me?

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2018
The Journey Home:
Personal stories

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018
Becoming Whole and Holy

Fr. Lima, S.T.L & Dr. Porter, Ph.D., M. Div.

Auditorium
12:20 PM - 1:00 PM Simple Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Series Talk