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.

Seeking Fellowship in Faith,
Solidarity in Service,
Excellence in Education

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

The child grew and became strong,
filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40

www.stmelparish.org 20870 Ventura Blvd. Woodland Hills, CA 91364 (818) 340-6020
Parish Staff

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
Joann Barros, JBarros@stmel.org

Parish Center Hours
Monday—Thursday
8:00 a.m.—8:00 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 Service

Pastoral Council: Mary Stefancic
Finance Council: James Hallissy
Life, Justice & Peace Council: Stephen Gruenfelder

Liturgical Ministries

Altar Servers: Kerry Edwards keddar@stmel.org
Altar Society: Cathenee Ghaffari (Linen
Church Environment: Kerry Edwards keddar@stmel.org
Eucharistic Ministers: Kerry Edwards keddar@stmel.org
Greeters for Sunday Liturgies: Margaretta Aufmuth
Lectors: Cindy Pardi
Liturgy Committee: Kerry Edwards keddar@stmel.org
MultiMedia Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo
Music Ministry: Francesco Alleruzzo falleruzzo@stmel.org
Sacristans: Kerry Edwards keddar@stmel.org
Ushers: Bob Aufmuth

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 Sceurant (818) 348-8386
Legion of Mary: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Rosary Ministry & Eucharist Adoration Coordinator: Mitos Bitong
Therians: Maty Goodman (818) 591-3035
Women’s Spirituality Circle: Cindy Pardi (818) 346-6257

Children and Youth

Baptism Preparation: Lisa Feliciano lfeliciano@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 mmathews@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) 549-6928

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 Gaidner (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

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: Matti Goodman (818) 591-3035
Virtus/Safeguarding the Children: Pat Andre pandre@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1044
**December 31, 2017 — The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph**

**Today’s Readings**

**First Reading** — Those who honor their parents will be greatly blessed and will atone for sins (Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14) or Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3.

**Psalms** — Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways (Psalms 128) or Psalm 105.

**Second Reading** — Be thankful; do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (Colossians 3:12-21) or Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19.

**Gospel** — The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom (Luke 2:22-40).

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**Prayer for Priestly Vocations**

O Lord, my God, you renew the Church in every age by raising up priests outstanding in holiness, living witnesses of your unchanging love. In your plan for our salvation you provide shepherds for your people.

Fill the hearts of young men with the spirit of courage and love that they may answer Your call generously. Give parents the grace to encourage vocations in their family by prayer and good example.

Raise up worthy priests for your altars and ardent, but gentle servants of the Gospel. Give the Church more priests and keep them faithful in their love and service. May many young men choose to serve you by devoting themselves to the service of your people.

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**Pray for Our Beloved Deceased**

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

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**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.

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Happy New Year!

Please join us on Sunday, January 7, for the **Angels Way Monthly Bake Sale**.

We will be available after each of the morning Masses with homemade pies, cakes, cookies and breads for your enjoyment. With your purchases of these wonderful items you support the special blessing that Angels Way Maternity Home is to our community.

Please stop by if you would like to know more about Angels Way. We love volunteers! If you would like to participate by baking, telephoning 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.

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Please learn more, please contact Rosemary McLarty at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1019.

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**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.
The object of a new year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul.

― G.K. Chesterton
This weekend we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family; Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. And the Gospel reading reveals what can only be described as an awkward moment. But remember, in the Lectionary — as in life — there are no coincidences!

St. Luke tells us that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus travel to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast, thus fulfilling their religious responsibilities. And after the celebration, Mary and Joseph start for home. They assume that Jesus is with their traveling party of relatives, and don’t realize He’s missing until they’ve been on the road for a day. When they do realize that Jesus is nowhere to be found, they understandably panic and race back toward Jerusalem. After three days of looking for Him (a foreshadowing of His time in the tomb), they finally discover Him in the Temple.

Jesus, at 12, was not yet a Bar Mitzvah — a ‘son of the law’. He would not be regarded as an adult in the Jewish faith for another year still. But there he sat among the teachers in the Temple, asking questions, giving insights, and generally blowing His audience away with his wisdom as his parents rush in. He seems genuinely surprised by Mary’s very natural concern. You can imagine her expression, her fear, her frustration, maybe even her anger — “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” Jesus’ response doesn’t sound particularly empathic; “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?” Mary and Joseph are bewildered and don’t understand, but the passage tells us that Jesus does leave with them, and is “obedient to them.”

Parenting any child is a humbling journey. But can you even begin to imagine parenting the Second Member of the Trinity — literally a perfect Child? It was assuredly not the only time Mary and Joseph would be “astounded.” But what does this passage have to say to us? We are not the Holy Family, and our children are not perfect. And holding Jesus, Mary and Joseph up as our models is typically a bit intimidating. But this passage is different. We can relate.

Despite their best intentions and plans, things don’t go as planned for Mary and Joseph. They do the right thing, go to Temple, but somehow lose their only kid in the process — Who just happens to be the future Savior of the world. They are confused, scared, and “astounded.” And when they finally find Him after three days of looking, He seems to brush them off. He’s got to be about His Father’s business; He’s their son but no longer their boy.

Welcome to family life … twists and turns, ups and downs, times of clarity and times of confusion, joy and sorrow. We try our best, and still things don’t always go the way we planned. But in it all — the good times and the not-so-good times — God is with us. And if we ponder the lessons family life offers us — and seek Him — like the Holy Family we will learn and grow.

Process, not perfection … with God, that’s enough!
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<td>1</td>
<td>Solemnity of Mary / New Year’s Day</td>
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<td>9 a.m. Morning Mass</td>
<td>7 p.m. Bereavement Support — Faculty Lounge</td>
<td>10 a.m. Theresians — Serenity House</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>First Friday 9 a.m. — 9 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. Men’s Group — Parish Center</td>
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<td>8 p.m. Monthly Bible Study for Women — Serenity House</td>
<td>7 p.m. Legion of Mary — Serenity House</td>
<td>7 p.m. Legion of Mary — Serenity House</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Young Adults — Parish Center</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. Women’s Spirituality Circle—Serenity House</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Angels Way Bake Sale — Auditorium</td>
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<td>12:20 p.m. Saints Among Us — Parish Center</td>
<td>10 a.m. Adult Club — Auditorium</td>
<td>10 a.m. M.O.M.S. — Parish Center</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. Legion of Mary Young Adults — Parish Center</td>
<td>9 a.m. Women Waiting on Wisdom — Serenity House (Mary Killmond BIB 887-9743)</td>
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<td>12:20 Welcome Home Series — Auditorium</td>
<td>7 p.m. Taizé Prayer Service — Church</td>
<td>7 p.m. Legion of Mary — Serenity House</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>8:45 a.m. Men’s Group — Parish Center</td>
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<td>3-6 p.m. Teen Confirmation</td>
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<td>Lighthouse CDs for sale after all Masses</td>
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<td>12:20 p.m. Saints Among Us — Parish Center</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</td>
<td>7 p.m. Bereavement Support — Faculty Lounge</td>
<td>7 p.m. Book Club—Upstairs in the Parish Center</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>9 a.m. Women Waiting on Wisdom — Serenity House (Mary Killmond BIB 887-9743)</td>
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<td>8:45 a.m. Men’s Group — Parish Center</td>
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<td>1:00 p.m. School Open House</td>
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<td>7 p.m. Bereavement Support — Faculty Lounge</td>
<td>10 a.m. M.O.M.S. — Parish Center</td>
<td>7 p.m. Scripture Study — Auditorium</td>
<td>9 a.m. Legion of Mary Young Adults — Parish Center</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>1:00 p.m. Baptisms</td>
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<td>3-6 p.m. Teen Confirmation — O’Connor Center</td>
<td>7 p.m. Bereavement Support — Faculty Lounge</td>
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<td>7 p.m. Legion of Mary — Serenity House</td>
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Did You Know?

Human Trafficking and Technology

Teenagers spend a lot of time online, making them prime targets for human traffickers. Using online ads that promise money and adventure in exciting, glamorous cities, traffickers attract young women and girls. Parents should be aware of the serious dangers online, and monitor their children’s online activity – sites they visit, social networks they may belong to, and who they are connecting with online.

For a copy of the VIRTUS® article “Human Trafficking and Sex Tourism with Children and Technology,” visit https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/free_article.cfm?free_articles_id=887, or call (213) 637-7508.

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”

Monthly Bible Study for Women

January 1

First Monday of each month
8:00 — 9:00 p.m.

In the
Serenity House
5108 Serrania Avenue

For more information, contact
Aimee Ostick at aimieeostick@gmail.com

University Series

St. Mel is proud once again to be hosting several sessions in the University Series of speakers and programs. We will have a kick-off 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

Getting Through the New Testament in an Evening
Dcn. Jim Carper
Monday, Feb. 26

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
Monday, March 19

My Kids Don’t Go to Church! Now What?
Dcn. Gene Gleason
Wednesday, March 21
All new families interested in attending St. Mel in fall of 2018 are welcome.

St. Mel School is excited to share our engaging and dynamic Kindergarten classrooms with you. We will be hosting tours and informational meetings with the administration and teachers in the New Year. Parents can spend time in our beautiful and vibrant classrooms and kinder playground and enjoy a get-together with parents, faculty, and administration.

Please RSVP to our school principal, Mrs. Mary Beth Lutz (mblutz@stmel.org) for one of the following dates:

- **January 11th**: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
- **January 18th**: 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

The tours will begin in the School Library with a brief introductory meeting, followed by a tour of the classrooms and campus, and conclude back in the Library with a question-and-answer session with our faculty, administration, and parents.
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.

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

OneLife LA  
Made For Greater  
January 20, 2018  
Downtown LA  
Walk for Life  
Music · Speakers · Service · Food  
Register for Free at OneLifeLA.org
ADS
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

St. Mel Church  20871 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91364  818 340 6020  www.stmelparish.com