Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said to them, “Thus it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.” - Lk 24:45-46
The call can come from anywhere at any time—to leave what you know for something … more. You don’t have to go looking for the call, you just have to be listening.

In 2008, 39 year-old Robin Emmons made the decision to leave her job of twenty years in the financial services industry. She didn’t know what she was meant to do, but she did know that banking was no longer it. It took all of one week for her to find a new direction.

While visiting her brother who’d recently been placed in a mental health facility, Robin noticed that both his physical and mental condition had worsened. She discerned that the decline was connected to a poor diet that lacked fresh produce. And after a little exploring she realized this was not just her brother’s problem. A combination of financial hardship and difficulty accessing well-stocked markets restricted the facility from offering a healthier menu to its residents.

Robin could have shrugged and gone back to her reality, where she had the money, the knowledge and the access to better food and a healthier lifestyle. And after all, it wasn’t like the residents were starving. But heroes don’t just live for themselves.

So she began donating fresh fruit and vegetables to her brother’s facility, so the residents could benefit from a healthier diet. And as Robin watched her brother and his new friends growing stronger, her vision grew.

And when she discovered that unhealthy food options were a systemic issue — that in Charlotte, North Carolina alone where she resided more than 72,000 low-income city residents lived in areas without a supermarket with fresh food — she knew she needed to act.

She ripped up her back yard, planted a garden, and went from weekend gardener to full-time activist. She founded the non-profit Sow Much Good, dedicated to ending “food deserts” where the under-served have to depend on fast food chains and convenience stores to feed their families. Additionally, Sow Much Good offers educational outreach and advocacy to support “food justice” around the country.

And her backyard movement has grown to include 200 volunteers, who help her tend three micro-farms on nine acres. To date Sow Much Good has donated over 26,000 pounds of fresh, organic produce to underserved communities in the greater Charlotte area.

“I’m up sometimes at 4:30 a.m. and don’t quit until midnight,” Robin says. “I get joy loading up the truck and seeing the same faces come back to load up on good food. I wouldn’t have it any other way. This is my bliss.”

Robin Emmons is literally growing goodness, and she’s a hero you should know!

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Dr. Ross Porter is the Director of Faith Formation and Evangelization.
Today’s Readings

**First Reading:** The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses. (Acts 3:15)

**Psalm:** Lord, let your face shine on us. (Ps 4)

**Second Reading:** He is expiation for our sins, and not for our sins only but for those of the whole world. (1 Jn 2:2)

**Gospel:** He said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled? You are witnesses of these things.” (Lk 24:44, 48)

Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 [1ab]/Jn 6:22-29

**Tuesday:** Acts 7:51-8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab [6a]/Jn 6:30-35

**Wednesday:** Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a [1]/Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 [1]/Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [12]/Jn 6:60-69

**Sunday:** Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118:1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 [22]/1 Jn 3:1-2/ Jn 10:11-18

Prayer for Priests

4/15 Rev. Msgr. Patrick McNulty
4/16 Rev. John Montejano
4/17 Rev. Robert Barco
4/18 Rev. Msgr. Jarlath Cunane
4/19 Rev. Joseph Denny, R.C.J.
4/20 Rev. Walter Paredes
4/21 Rev. Antonio Carlucci, R.C.J.

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:

Maria Soledad-Samson

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 Sciarr at (818) 340-6020, ext. 1015. Or email: esciarr@stmel.org.
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month
Pray for the Victims

A Prayer for Healing

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people’s wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace and justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

Are you looking for an easy way to GIVE?

The OASIS team is in need of volunteers to help seniors in our parish.

We have lots of seniors with a need for help. Let us know what you can commit to and we’ll find the right connection for you!

Call David Blackham at (213) 251-3572 or email stmel.oasis@gmail.com

OASIS = Older Adult Services and Intervention System

…”quotable…”

"The way to do much in a short time is to love much. People will do great things if they are stirred with enthusiasm and love."  — Mother Janet Erskine Stuart
VBS 2018: GEARING UP FOR LIFE’S BIG GAME!

St. Mel Vacation Bible School 2018

July 23 — July 27
8:45 a.m. — 12 noon

Online Registration has begun

God has given your children His ultimate playbook. He wants them to join His team, train hard, celebrate salvation, and encourage one another. Get in the spirit today with Game On!

Online Registration is Available Now
To register your child(ren) ages 3-11, please go to stmelparish.org and look for the shortcut to “VBS Registration.” You can pay by credit card online or by dropping off a check at the Parish Center. Make sure, when paying by check, that the envelope is clearly labelled VBS 2018 and includes your children’s names. Registration is limited.

Teen and Parent Volunteers
Teens and parents can join in the fun, too … and teens earn Christian Service Hours! Volunteer in the classroom, help with recreation, music, arts and crafts or snacks. To volunteer please go to www.stmelparish.org and look for the shortcut to “VBS Registration.” Registration for volunteers is at the bottom of the page.

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Paine, VBS Coordinator:
(310) 739-9508 deborahpaine@ymail.com
**DAYTIME ADULT**

**BIBLE STUDY**

**Wednesdays May 16 – June 27**

*Plus an optional “prequel” event on May 2nd*

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.  
Parish Center

Led by parishioner **Mary Killmond** and **Rick Ruhland** – classmates in Archdiocesan Adult Bible Study Leadership Program. Come join us as we study Mark – the first and shortest of the four gospels.

**Register by April 30th**

To register, bring $15 (cash or check) to the Parish Center.

For more information, visit www.stmelparish.org and click on “Faith Formation” and go to **Daytime Adult Bible Study**

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**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.

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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.
Each of us, as members of our Catholic community, can contribute to the healing of those harmed by abuse by remembering survivors in our prayers:

Mindful that Jesus’ resurrection transforms all who believe, we as church embrace our shared responsibility to protect our children and youth, and to ensure that they grow up knowing they are safe and loved. In solidarity with those victims who have endured the pain of abuse, we re-dedicate ourselves to their healing by increasing our own awareness and understanding, by contributing to the safe environment and practices of our church, and by extending our efforts out into the world.

For specific information on how you can make the world a safer place for children and youth please visit: www.archla.org/protecting.

Did You Know?

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”
Beyond St. Mel Parish …

Side by Side, Ritual and the Labyrinth
Saturday, April 28, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Mary & Joseph Retreat Center
5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Rituals, new and old, sacred and ordinary, focus us on the now, the immediate and the present. Day features two labyrinth walks, rituals for healing, special occasions, and for courage in these uncertain times. Using media, music, art and our own feet, we’ll experience a day filled with ritual and fun. Dress comfortably and wear walking shoes. **Cost:** $50 ($45 if paid in full by April 20) Lunch included.

Louisville High School Spring Open House
Wednesday, April 25

Tours and Fair  6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Presentation:  7:15 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Families and friends of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are invited to attend Louisville High School’s Spring Open House on Wednesday, April 25. Come tour the campus, meet the faculty and enjoy performances by our student singers and dancers. Tours run between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Our faculty and students will be here to answer all your questions and the presentation will begin at 7:15 p.m. Please visit louisvillehs.org for more information or contact us with questions at (818) 346-8812. Reservations requested but not required.

R.S.V.P. at: louisvillehs.org on the Admissions Page/Visit-Louisville

MARY HEALTH OF THE SICK LUNCHEON

Mary Health is excited to announce our **Fundraising Luncheon: Celebrating Mothers**, to be held at Sherwood Country Club on Thursday, April 26. The luncheon will feature boutique vendors, a silent auction and raffle baskets. Special performance by the Channel Islands Choral Association. Proceeds support our mission of high quality, compassionate care for the elderly and sick.

www.maryhealth.com  (805) 498-6795
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

Website Administrator
Joann Barros, JBarros@stmel.org

Administrative Assistant, Bulletin, Scheduling
Patrick Bobillo, x1012

Bookkeeper
Katie Kisiel, x1026

Parish Service

Pastoral Council: Mary Stefanec (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 (Lizens) (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: Margherita 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
Sacraments: Kerry Edwards kedwards@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1025
Ushers: Bob Aufmuth raufmuth@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 Sreiebant (818) 348-8386
Legion of Mary: Mitos Bitong (818) 710-9888
Young Adult Legion of Mary: Lourdes Curley (310) 367-7320
Rosary Ministry & Eucharist 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
RCYI (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

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 Hamaoui (818) 222-5498
OASIS (Older Adult Services and Intervention):
David Blackham 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: Maty Goodman (818) 591-3035
Virtus/Safeguarding the Children: Pat Andre pandre@stmel.org (818) 340-6020, x1044

To Become a Registered Parishioner at St. Mel
call (818) 340-6020, ext. 1012
or register online via our website:
www.stmelparish.org
ADS
St. Mel Drama Club Presents

This week!

Mulan

Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 19, 7:00 p.m.
Friday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 21, 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 22, 2:00 p.m.

All performances to be held in O'Connor Center

Reserved seating available at: stmelmulan.brownpapertickets.com

General admission tickets available at the door.
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

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