

17 December 2017  
Third Sunday of Advent

# Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



John the Baptist Preaching, Auguste Rodin, 1925

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**MASSES:** SAT: 5:00 PM; SUN: 8:00, 10:00 AM, 12:00, 4:00 PM; DAILY: 9:00 AM

**CONFESSIONS:** Mon-Sat 8:30AM; Sat 4:00-4:45 PM

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## CHANGING TRADITIONS

When I was growing up, my parents did not decorate our house with a Christmas tree and our other holiday decorations until just before Christmas, usually just three days before Christmas, which was my birthday. They had been brought up to believe that the actual Christmas season did not begin until Christmas eve. Then we would leave the tree up until the feast of the Epiphany, which celebrates the moment when Christ was introduced to the whole world in the persons of the three kings.

This tradition has largely been eliminated in our culture. The Seal Beach Christmas Tree Lighting took place even before Thanksgiving. All the stores start the Christmas season on what is called Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, this year some even earlier. They offer deep discounts to get people into their stores. There are crowds and sometimes fights break out over who gets to buy the last of a much-marketed new toy. Christmas music is playing wherever you go, sometimes to the point that you are tired of hearing the songs by the time you get to the feast. How many times can you listen to “fa la la la la” before wanting to scream? Last year I saw a Christmas tree already in a neighbor’s trash just the day after Christmas.

The season of Advent has been swallowed up in this culture of ours, which is a shame. The scripture readings assigned during Advent are very beautiful. If you are ready to be a little counter-cultural, you might want to read them each day in the next week. They are easy to find on an app called iMissal and on line at [www.usccb.org/readings](http://www.usccb.org/readings). In the gospel for Monday,

for example, Matthew describes how the birth of Jesus came about and how an angel came to Joseph to tell him that he should not be anxious about taking Mary as his wife.

One is easily distracted by the sights and sounds of the Christmas season. There are presents to wrap and parties to attend and preparations to make if you are going to visit relatives or welcoming them into your home. Everyone seems to be so busy. It is hard to find even a parking place. There ought to be an occasional silent night, holy night, preferably in a cozy stuffed chair sitting before the flames of a fire in your fireplace with a hot toddy in your hand. Don’t miss the chance.

Oh, I might as well tell you what’s on my wish list for Christmas. This is what I really want: I would like you to do what you have done so well before: when you come to Christmas Mass, make it your job to welcome all our guests, relatives and visitors and those who show up only twice a year. No matter how crowded it gets, show them a smile, help them find the missalettes and hymnals if they aren’t sure where we keep them and make sure the older folks get a seat, even if you have to give up yours. Doing that makes quite an impression on others—I know because people comment on it—but the other reason is that I believe that’s what Pope Francis would want us to do. Msgr. Mike

## Around our Parish

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### PARISH FOOD DRIVE

During this season of Advent our Knights of Columbus will be collecting cash, checks, and/or canned and boxed food donations. Please, no perishables. This is the **LAST WEEKEND** we will be able to accept items. All donations will go toward assisting local disadvantaged families this week for their Christmas celebrations.



#### NEW DEGREE

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus, Council 9594, is pleased to announce its newest 2nd Degree member, Michael Van Vooren.

#### MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. We typically meet the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2nd. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562.936.0164.

*"Help Us Help Those In Need"*

### WOMEN'S GUILD

#### MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Joanne Groustra at 562-296-8705 or Lorraine Fiori at 562-296-5163.

### ST. PADRE PIO HEALING MASS

Please join us on Monday, December 18th at 1:00 p.m. for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary. Individuals may receive personal blessings after the Healing Mass. All are welcome! For more information, please call Janice Herlihy at 562-537-4526.

### CLEANING THE CHURCH

Just as we prepare our hearts during Advent to welcome the coming of Christ, so must we prepare our House to welcome visitors at our Christmas Masses. Please help us clean our church on Wednesday, December 20th at 9:45 a.m. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to dust, polish or vacuum.



#### OUR MISSION:

Saint Anne Church exists to help us become disciples of Jesus Christ who connect with God, grow in faith, and serve in love.

### RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION

Last weekend we took up a second collection for retired religious. Our parish collected \$7,733.00 in donations. Thank you for your generosity!

### CHRISTMAS GIFT OF A RETREAT

For the woman in your life that has everything—give a quiet weekend retreat of 2 nights and 3 days at the Sacred Heart Retreat House with its beautiful serene grounds, deliciously prepared meals and spiritually reviving talks! For more information about the April 13-15, 2018 weekend, call Maureen at 562-596-4141.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT OF A GETTY TRIP

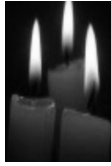
For the art lover in you life—give them a stress free visit to the Getty. Hop on a luxury bus at St. Anne for a restful ride up to the Museum. Stroll through exhibits feeling an appreciation for gifts God has given to these artists. After lunch, take time to view the grandeur of the Pacific Ocean from the hilltop garden. Soon it will be time to leave and meet our bus for the ride home where you can choose to chat with fellow parishioners or take a cat nap. Limited reservations still available in the Parish Office.

### Christmas Schedule 2017

Confessions	
18 – 22 December	8:30 – 8:50 AM
Saturday 23 December	8:30 – 8:50 AM
	4:00 – 4:45 PM
Christmas Masses	
Sunday 24 December	
3:30 PM	Christmas Story
4:00 PM	Children's Mass
6:00 PM	Mass
9:00 PM	Mass
Monday 25 December	
9:00 AM	Mass
12:00 noon	Mass
<i>There is no evening Mass</i>	

## 9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

12/18 ✠Victoria Arriola  
 12/19 ✠Joseph Jones  
 12/20 ✠Cora Cornejo  
 12/21 ✠Stephen Pryharski  
 12/22 ✠Jim Swearingen  
 12/23 ✠Vic & Aurora Flores  
 (✠ Rest in God's love and peace)



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Ed Palacol, Kathleen Kastner, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Jerome Gendron, Julia Poirier, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Rosemary Hirsch, Mike Maloney, Merrill Butler, Steven Lang, Kay Lang, Linda Bolt, Bob Wagner, Greg Roussele, Sylvia Bartolomucci, Alba Elrod

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## Around Our Diocese

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### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 18th @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Holy Spirit Parish, 17270 Ward St., FV  
 Monday, December 18th @ 7:00 p.m.  
 St. Mary by the Sea, 321 10th St., HB  
 Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Holy Spirit Parish, 17270 Ward St., FV  
 Tuesday, December 19th @ 7:00 p.m.  
 St. Bonaventure Parish, 16400 Springdale St., HB  
 Wednesday, December 21st @ 7:00 p.m.  
 Sts. Simon & Jude, 20444 Magnolia St., HB

### HOMELESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL

On Thursday, Dec. 21st at 7:00 p.m. the Diocese of Orange along with Our Father's Table and HomeAid Orange County will be hosting the "Homeless Persons' Memorial Service." The event will be held in the Arboretum at Christ Cathedral. RSVP at 714-282-6001.

### TV MASS FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Is someone you love unable to join us at church during this holy time of Advent and Christmas? For the faithful at home or in healthcare settings, the TV Mass brings spiritual comfort and the blessings of joyful hope in our Savior. The TV mass does not fulfil the obligation for those who can get to church.

Christmas Day and Sunday TV Mass—

KDOC channel 56 at 9:00 a.m.

Online Mass—[www.HeartoftheNation.org](http://www.HeartoftheNation.org)