

2 December 2018  
The First Sunday of Advent

# Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Leandro Bassano, The Last Judgement

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

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

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# HOW TO AVOID A CHRISTMAS DISASTER

**N**ot every family's Christmas turns out to be filled with tidings of comfort and joy. Put a big family in a small house and tensions are bound to rise. When much of the family has traveled a long distance to gather, this is particularly true; everyone starts off already tired.

Families have long memories. Sometimes a sibling will say something that shows that, although a heartfelt apology was offered years ago, her wound has not been healed; listening to her you wonder if it has actually been nursed. An adult child will

declare that he resents the way he was brought up, hurting the parents who thought that they had done the very best they could.

A wrongly chosen gift can touch on raw nerves; "Don't you know I am allergic to chocolate?" Add a round or two of drinks and the discussions and debates can turn ugly. Who thought it was a good idea to bring up politics at Christmas?

Sometimes it is the nephews and the nieces who don't get along. Some want to sit around watching football games on TV while others want to get out of the house, away from their parents, and "do something."

It can be dangerous to have too many cooks in the kitchen. One cook likes to heavily season meats while another prefers to keep the spices at a minimum. Should the main course be cooked to rare, medium or

well done? The cooks do not agree. The same for the amount of dressing on the salad: a little or a lot?

An ingredient is missing, and the person sent to the store brings back the wrong item—why wasn't he paying attention?—and has to be sent back, usually

with a "supervisor" to be sure he gets the right stuff this time.

Too often everyone is trying too hard. It is Christmas, after all, and the whole family is watching. Everything has to be perfect. But it's hard to be nice when you are out of practice.

St. Thomas Aquinas describes virtue as a "habit of

being." You acquire virtue by practice, like a basketball player shooting hoop after hoop after hoop. If you act generously over and over again, soon you will be a generous person without you having to work at it. It becomes part of who you are.

I mention this because we all will have our relatives and friends gathering soon; it's not too early to practice your kindness and patience. These are two virtues we'll all need come December 25th.

Msgr. Mike



## Around our Parish

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will be collecting canned and boxed food donations (please, no perishables), and cash or checks at all masses through the weekend of Dec. 16th. All donations will go towards assisting local disadvantaged families. For more information, contact Brian at 949-378-7454.

#### 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 Monday, December 3rd. For more information, contact Paul at 657-245-3722.

*"Help Us Help Those In Need"*

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Masses for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 7th at 4:00 PM and Saturday, Dec. 8th at 9:00 AM and 12:00 Noon.

### ADVENT CLASSICAL CONCERT

Our parish will host an Advent Classical Concert on Monday, Dec. 10th at 7:00 p.m. Professional classical musicians will present an hour repertoire of classical and Christmas music in our sanctuary. Please plan to attend and invite your friends. This free concert is an early Christmas gift to our parishioners and the Community of Seal Beach.

### FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope.... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope." —Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Seek That Which is Above*



#### 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.

### RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

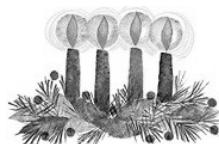
Next weekend our parish will take up a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the annual appeal and distributes financial assistance to support, educate and assist eligible religious institutes for retirement needs in the US to care for their elderly members now and in the future. Their goals include: 1) Raise funds for retired religious; Many elder religious worked for years for small stipends, leaving a large gap in retirement savings. At the same time, fewer religious are able to serve in compensated ministry. 2) Educate religious institutes to allocate assets realistically, assess their current retirement needs and implement planning. 3) Develop educational tools, programs, services and resource materials that enable religious institutes to address retirement wisely. Like many Americans, religious communities face the monumental challenge of funding eldercare.

### MINISTRY TO THE SICK

The Ministry to the Sick will have a meeting on Monday, December 3rd at 9:45 a.m.

### FIRE DISASTER 2ND COLLECTION

St. Anne Parish collected \$2,000 on the weekend of Nov. 18th for fire victims. After contacting St. Paschal Baylon in Thousand Oaks, we are sending the money to their St. Vincent de Paul outreach program to assist parishioners who are experiencing hardship from a loss of income due to the houses of their employers being reduced to ashes.



### CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

A Children's Christmas Choir will perform at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve mass. All children ages

6–18 are invited to participate.

Practices will be held on all Tuesdays in December from 2:30–3:00 p.m.

Sign up at [faithformation@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:faithformation@stannesealbeach.org).



## Around the Diocese

### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

- Mon., Dec. 3—St. Vincent de Paul Parish  
345 Talbert Ave, Huntington Beach
- Mon., Dec. 10—Holy Spirit Parish  
17270 Ward Street, Fountain Valley
- Tues., Dec. 11—Holy Spirit Parish  
17270 Ward Street, Fountain Valley
- Tues., Dec. 11—St. Bonaventure  
16400 Springdale, Huntington Beach
- Mon., Dec. 17—St. Mary by the Sea  
321 Tenth Street, Huntington Beach
- Thurs., Dec. 20—Sts. Simon and Jude  
20444 Magnolia Street, Huntington Beach

### CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

Celebrate the season with the choirs of Christ Cathedral: The Diocesan Choir, The Diocesan Children's Choir, and the Christ Cathedral Choirs in English, Vietnamese and Spanish! Usher in this Christmas season with splendid carols both new and old on Friday, December 14, 2018 at 7:30 PM in the Arboretum. The hundreds of singers in this choral Christmas spectacular will be accompanied by the Arboretum's legendary 82-rank Aeolian-Skinner Organ and the Cathedral Orchestra. Get your tickets early as last year's performance was sold out! Tickets available on the website – [www.christcathedralmusic.org](http://www.christcathedralmusic.org) or by phone, 714-971-2141 x 5529. Ticket pricing: \$75 Premium (1<sup>st</sup> 4 rows), \$40 Special Front, \$25 General Admission, \$20 Senior and \$10 Student.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT OF A RETREAT

For the woman in your life that has everything, give a quiet weekend retreat of 2 nights/3 days during Lent (April 5-7, 2019) at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra. Retreat Master Rev. Gary Sumpter will give thoughtful talks with the theme; "In You, all find their home." The Carmelite sisters pamper us with lovely rooms, deliciously prepared meals and beautifully serene grounds and chapel. Give a gift certificate for your wife, mother, daughter, or sister with shared rooms at \$180 each or a private room at \$285. For more information contact Maureen at 562.596.4141 or [askmaureen@yahoo.com](mailto:askmaureen@yahoo.com).

## 9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 12/3 | †Greg Normandin                                   |
| 12/4 | †Harumi Mayeda                                    |
| 12/5 | †Mary Huntington                                  |
| 12/6 | †Justin Benavidez                                 |
| 12/7 | Seminarians                                       |
| 12/8 | For the Parish<br>(†Rest in God's love and peace) |



## PLEASE PRAY FOR

Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Kathleen Kastner, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Jerome Gendron, Julia Poirier, Don Miller, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Merrill Butler, Steven Lang, Linda Bolt, Bob Wagner, Bob Rattray, Julie Rivera, Jean Barbazette, Pat Giacomi, Janet Tedesco, Ernie Ramirez, Mike Harvey, William Spillane, Bill Matheus, John Barnes, Carol Forbes, Catherine Tautges, Ken Hammond

\*If you would like to have your name added or removed from this list, please call the parish office.

"You never go away from us, yet we have difficulty in returning to You. Come, Lord, stir us up and call us back. Kindle and seize us. Be our fire and our sweetness. Let us love. Let us run." — St. Augustine

## SACRAMENTS

**Baptism:** Contact the Parish Office to arrange for baptism. Baptisms are usually celebrated the first Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Baptism preparation classes for parents and Godparents are held once a month on a Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

**PreK-8 Faith Formation:** For information and/or enrollment in faith formation programs, please contact [faithformation@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:faithformation@stannesealbeach.org).

**Confirmation:** Students typically begin the Confirmation process as a freshman in high school and complete the process at the end of their sophomore year.

**Marriage:** An appointment with one of our priests to begin marriage preparation must be made at least 6 months before the wedding celebration.

**Funeral:** Contact the parish office to arrange funerals.

**Pastoral Care:** If you, or someone you know, wishes to have their name placed on our prayer net, or a visit and/or Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** In case of serious illness, contact the parish office.

If you want information about any of our many active ministries, please pick up a brochure from the vestibule.