

4 November 2018
Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Msgr. Mike Heher, Pastor
pastor@stannesealbeach.org
562-431-0721 Ext. 14

Fr. Ben Tran, Parochial Vicar
pv@stannesealbeach.org
562-431-0721 Ext. 11

Fr. Robert Vidal
Pastor Emeritus
Fr.bob@stannesealbeach.org

Deacon Peter Nguyen
dcnpeter@stannesealbeach.org

Amy Papageorges
Director of Faith Formation
dre@stannesealbeach.org
562-431-0721 Ext. 16

Jyllian Rhodes
Youth Ministry/Confirmation
ym@stannesealbeach.org
562-431-0721 Ext. 15

Jan Cooper, Front Office
office@stannesealbeach.org

Tim Kimmnu
Cleaning and Maintenance
tim@stannesealbeach.org

MASSSES: 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

340 10TH ST. | SEAL BEACH CA 90740 | 562-431-0721 | WWW.STANNESEALBEACH.ORG

ASCETIC

Every time I go in for a checkup, a moment of truth comes when I am called from the waiting room toward one of the examination rooms. The nurse stops at the scale in the hallway and waits for me to step on. I hand her my book and my phone and my fistful of keys; I don't want to be accused of putting on weight simply because of what's in my pockets. The office used to have a scale where you had to slip the weights this way and that until the arrow floated half-way between the two metal bars; now it is all automatic, digital, and immediate. She looks at the screen, announces the number out loud and enters it into my chart. I had hoped my weight was somehow down but fear what the doctor will say when he notices that it has gone up some.

The problem is that I am not a natural ascetic. A friend of mine can go all day without eating, even on days when he goes to the gym and works out. I can't imagine how he does it. I would be faint.

My favorite parable is the one where a king put on a wedding feast for his son. I am almost always up for a party. The king's servants had prepared calves and cattle with all the fixings. But the invited guests refused to attend, and mistreated and killed his servants. So, the King sent his other servants out to the highways and byways to invite to the banquet whomever they found there. But, hold on: when the king saw that one of the newly arrived guests was not dressed in a proper wedding garment, he had the fellow bound hand and foot and cast out into the darkness. Perhaps that particular outcast had been like Noah, who after he drank a little too much wine, disrobed. My primary reaction to the parable was that I do not want *that* king to be *my* king.



Quite a temper on him!

The monk Simeon was so sought after by people wanting his prayers and advice, he had little time for his own spiritual practice. He discovered a pillar which had survived from ancient times and climbed up of top of it to get his needed distance. There is some question about how he got his food and drink; some believe young boys would climb the pillar to deliver his necessities; others believe he had a rope and pulley in which he could draw up his supplies.

Even among extreme ascetics, there was always the temptation to be proud of one's austerities. To test Simeon's humility, monastic elders ordered him, under obedience, to come down from the pillar. If he refused, they would know it was through pride that he carried out his ascetical practice and they would forbid it. But Simeon immediately followed their order and so they allowed him to continue to live on top of his pillar. He was a real ascetic, even though his practice was unconventional.

I admire people like Simeon, but I argue that Jesus' first miracle in John's Gospel was to turn ordinary water into wonderful wine so the bride and the groom at the wedding reception he was attending would not be embarrassed. Besides, his own mother asked him to. Asceticism has its limits. Sometimes the appropriate thing is to party with your neighbors and friends. Nothing wrong with fasting and long hours of prayer and performing good works. But I am hoping that being convivial is also rewarded by God.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



ALASKA FISHING TRIP

St. Anne Knights of Columbus are organizing another tremendous opportunity for anyone interested in fishing in Alaska July 7th-13th, 2019. Details of the trip will be posted on the Knight's bulletin board outside the Parish Hall. This is a great trip at a great price! In order to secure the same fantastic accommodation as this year's trip, we are trying to get as many reservations as possible over the next couple weeks. For more information, contact Dave Davies at 562-708-9900.

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, Nov. 5th. For more information, contact Paul at 657-245-3722.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

NATIONAL NEEDS COLLECTION

This weekend the annual National Needs Collection will be taken up in our Diocese. This collection combines four national collections: 1) Catholic Campaign for Human Development—addresses the root causes of poverty in America through promotion and support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and transformative education. 2) Catholic Communication Campaign—contributes to the process of evangelization by fostering activities in relation to television, radio, other media, and through special projects of the Catholic press. 3) Catholic University of America—provides funding for academic scholarships. 4) Catholic Home Missions—helps our Catholic neighbors here in the United States who do not have access to basic pastoral services.

GOD'S LAWS

God's laws are not intended to burden or torment us. Instead they are guideposts that point us in the direction of good living. Accordingly, good living requires loving God and loving one another. We should not follow God's laws out of fear of what might happen if we don't, but rather view them as a foundation for building relationships and trust with one another and with God.

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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.

USHERS NEEDED!

Are you called to serve your parish as an usher?

Ushers greet each person as they arrive for mass with a smile. They are available to answer visitors' general questions and provide help in seating those with special needs who want assistance. During mass, the ushers collect the church offering. Ushers are on hand to minimize distractions during mass. In an emergency they access first aid supplies and if necessary, ushers will help direct the congregation to safety in an orderly manner. They inform those in the sanctuary of any urgent matters. At the end of Mass they hand out the weekly bulletin. More ushers are needed at all masses to fill in during absences and holidays. At this time ushers are specifically needed for the 5:00 p.m. mass on Saturdays. Just one mass a month will make a big difference. Please contact Dick at 562-596-0359 if you have questions. Everyone interested in finding out more about being an usher are invited to attend an Orientation meeting on Saturday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m. To volunteer, please call the parish office with your name, phone number and which mass you usually attend.

THANK YOU

Msgr. Mike, Fr. Ben and Fr. Bob are very appreciative of the work Lori Marino and Elaine Sloan do each week to keep our Mass linens clean and pressed. Thank you ladies!



TURKEY BUCKS

The Turkey Bucks campaign is part of Pavilions holiday charitable giving that helps feed families. St. Anne has been chosen to be their community partner for the local campaign. The campaign began Oct. 24th and ends Nov. 20th. We are responsible for picking up and delivering the meals for Thanksgiving. If you would like to help deliver, or you know less fortunate families that need a meal, please call the parish office as soon as possible!

Around the Diocese

SPIRITUAL EXERCISES/ST. IGNATIUS

The winter session of spiritual exercises classes at St. Peter Chanel in Hawaiian Gardens begins the week of November 10th. You may choose to attend Saturdays at 11:00 AM, Sundays at 1:30 PM, Wednesdays at 7:00 PM or Thursdays at 9:15 AM. There is no charge for the program, all materials are provided. For more information, call Veronica at 562-924-7591.

VOCATION AWARENESS WEEK

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, November 4-10. This annual event is a special time for parishes to foster a culture of vocations for the priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life. Pope Francis, in his message for the 2018 World Day of Vocations, emphasized that it is at the loving initiative of God, and by His personal encounter with each of us, that one is called. "Even amid these troubled times, the mystery of the Incarnation reminds us that God continually comes to encounter us. He is God-with-us, who walks along the often dusty paths of our lives. He knows our anxious longing for love and he calls us to joy. In the diversity and the uniqueness of each and every vocation, personal and ecclesial, there is a need to listen, discern and live this word that calls to us from on high and, while enabling us to develop our talents, makes us instruments of salvation in the world and guides us to full happiness." Vocation Awareness Week is designed to help promote vocation awareness and to encourage young people to ask the question: "To what vocation in life is God calling me?"

PRIESTHOOD DISCERNMENT

Men interested in Diocesan Priesthood are invited to attend the next Priesthood Discernment evening on Wednesday, November 14th at 6:00 p.m. on the first floor of the Diocese of Orange pastoral Center on the Christ Cathedral Campus. The purpose is to familiarize interested men with the life, prayer, and possible call to Priesthood in the Diocese of Orange. There is no commitment, other than the expression of interest to participate. Questions? Call Rev. John Moneyppenny, Director of Vocations, at 714-282-3036.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

11/5 - 11/10 ☩ All Souls

(☩ Rest in God's love and peace)

Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and offer our prayers for them. —St. John Chrysostom



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, Gary Rousselo, Bob Rattray, Julie Rivera, Jean Barbazette, Pat Giacomi, Janet Tedesco, Ernie Ramirez, Mike Harvey, William Spillane, Bill Matheus, John Barnes

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

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending us every day in His goodness." — St. Gianna Molla

"You change your life by changing your heart."
— St. Benedict of Nursia

SACRAMENTS

In order to celebrate the following Sacraments at St. Anne, it is vital to be an active member of our Faith Community.

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.

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.