

16 December 2018  
The Third Sunday of Advent

# Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Auguste Rodin  
St. John the Baptist Preaching

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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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## MOTHERS

One of the pleasures of being up front in the sanctuary is that I can witness nearly everything that is going on in the congregation. I especially enjoy seeing mothers caring for their little children. Dads do a lot of the caring for their children these days but when you want to keep a kid quiet, you need a professional, and that is where mothers come in.

First off, there is a mother's hip. I don't know if it has a magnet in it or that is naturally formed for this purpose, but a mother's hip is perfectly suited for a small child. One leg on one side and the other on the other, an infant automatically

knows this is where he or she should roost. The only obvious drawback is that a baby can easily grab on to a mother's necklace and twist it this way and that; if the necklace is sufficiently long, it can also be sucked by the child. (A baby will explore anything and everything first by putting it in his or her mouth.)

Hoping a fussy child can be cradled into sleeping, a mother will sometimes rock back and forth from one leg to the other. If that is insufficient, soft patting on the back with the free hand can be added. If a baby is cranky, it needs to be distracted; sometimes something as simple as blowing air on the child's face can be enough. Handing a larger child something to suck—like a missalette—can also work. A nearby bright light might distract. Quiet humming sometimes does the trick. Even just moving the child from the right hip to the left hip sometimes brings silence. Mothers are creative.

Fathers, I am sorry to say, are rarely as inventive. While taking the child completely out of the church is the last resort for mothers, fathers with a child in their arms are more than likely to back out the door at the first peep from their children. (I will not presume that fathers use a crying child just as an excuse to take a break from a long-winded homily, since our homilies here at St. Anne's are always right to the point.)



From time to time, a parent will come up to me after Mass and apologize for the outbursts of their small children during Mass. They really don't need to. Infants are our most welcome guests, regardless of their behavior. And I am not the only one that feels so. I have rarely seen a scowling face on any of our parishioners' faces when a baby gets fussy. Many of them have had children of their own and know firsthand the challenges parents face in coming to church with their children. Rather, they are happy to see young families coming to church together. The old timers tell me so all the time.

When we were quite young, my brother and I—being close in age—would bug each other at Mass: a finger in the side, a nudge when getting up, a mean stare, a foot on the toes, anything to get a rise out of the other. (Well, not just at Mass but whenever we were together.) We were doing this at a Mass when the Dominican sisters were kneeling near us in the church. A note came in the mail from one of the sisters the next week admonishing my parents to keep the two of us from being such a distraction at Mass. My mother's reaction: "She should try it sometime and see how well she does." My father's had practical advice: "Put Mike on one side and Tim on the other and the two of us in between." My sister was born not long after that and my brother and I were separated even more. Problem solved.

What really seems to work best is singing. Babies love singing. Why do you think lullabies are so popular? When the congregation is at song, the babies' eyes fill with wonder. So, the best thing you can do to help the parents of our youngest parishioners is to sing along with your other parishioners. A baby near you will be grateful.

Msgr. Mike

## Around our Parish

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

#### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

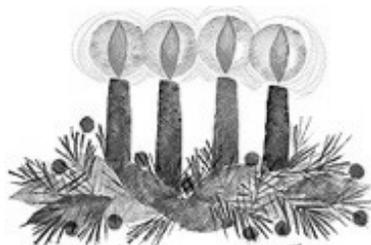


St. Anne's Knights of Columbus are collecting canned and boxed food donations (please, no perishables), and cash or checks at all masses this weekend. All donations will go towards assisting local disadvantaged families. For more information, contact Brian at 949-378-7454.

*"Help Us Help Those In Need"*

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Rejoice in the Lord always! (Phil 4:4)...God has drawn near to everyone...joy is the heart of the Gospel of Christmas. As a Mother, the Church knows the difficulties and sufferings that are part of the human condition. She knows well that in the life of many peoples and persons sadness prevails over joy, anxiety over hope. It is particularly to these men and women that the Christmas message is proclaimed in a preferential way, because 'Christ brought the good news of salvation to the poor, to prisoners freedom, and to those in sorrow, joy.' He is the genuine liberator of the human person ... today humanity yearns especially for the gifts of joy and peace. It is our mission as believers, with the eloquence of love expressed in deeds, to everyday stir up a world reconciled by love and animated by divine joy." —Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, *Seek That Which is Above*



### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2018

Monday 24 December	
3:30 PM	Christmas Story
4:00 PM	Children's Mass
6:00 PM	Mass
9:00 PM	Mass
Tuesday 25 December	
9:00 AM	Mass
12:00 noon	Mass



#### 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

Senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests across the country send heartfelt thanks and prayers for your donations to last week's Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Your gift helps hundreds of religious communities meet pressing retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God.

### ANGELS & SHEPHERDS NEEDED

Children, ages 4–7, are needed to be little angels and shepherds at our 3:30 p.m. Christmas Eve celebration. The children should wear a simple costume to mass, wings and a halo or a shepherd tunic and head covering. The faith formation office has a few costumes to lend. Please sign up before 12/20 at [faithformation@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:faithformation@stannesealbeach.org).

### THANK YOU

Sr. Teresa, principal of St. Anne School, Santa Ana writes "A huge thank you for the generous donations for STEM educational products for our 3rd and 4th graders. This money will allow us to purchase several sets of these products to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Math for our students. You are enriching the lives of these young Catholic students."

### ST. PADRE PIO HEALING MASS

Please join us on Monday, December 17th 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 at 562-537-4526.

### HELP! PSA PREPARATION EVENT

Please come help our office staff on Thursday, December 27th in the hall to stuff envelopes for our 2019 Pastoral Services Appeal which will kick off in January. Coffee and pastries will be served following the 9:00 AM mass for those lending a hand.



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## Around the Diocese

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### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

All services begin at 7:00 p.m.

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



### ADVENT & DYNAMIC CATHOLIC

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with BEST ADVENT EVER. Each day, you will receive an email with short inspirational videos, or real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey. Sign up at [BestAdventEver.com](http://BestAdventEver.com)

### ST. HEDWIG CHRISTMAS DINNER

St. Hedwig Church is offering a Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, December 25th at 1:00 p.m. in Quinn Hall. If you are alone this Christmas, you are invited to



St. Hedwig for a delicious dinner. There will be families to share their love and prayers with you, plenty of food, singing and more. There is no charge but **reservations are required**. Please contact Ed or Dewey at 562-598-7060 no later than December 22nd.

### 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

12/17 Thanksgiving  
 12/18 †Dennis Coit  
 12/19 †Ken Howe  
 12/20 †Jim Dorse  
 12/21 Shirl Giacomi  
 12/22 †Jim Swearingen  
 (†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, Stefanie Lavery, Myrna Navarro

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

"He will provide the way and the means, such as you could never have imagined. Leave it all to Him, let go of yourself, lose yourself on the Cross, and you will find yourself entirely." — St. Catherine of Siena

## 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.