

12 November 2017
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



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

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

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

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Deacon Peter Nguyen, dcnpeter@stannesealbeach.org

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

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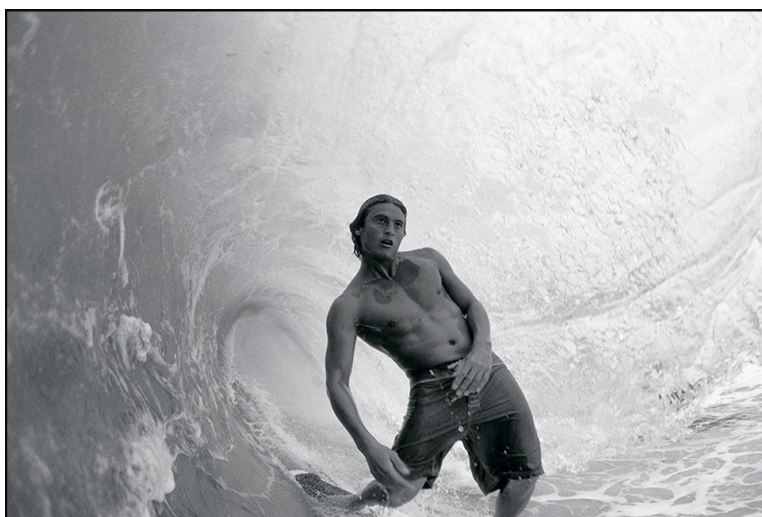
PRAYER SURFING

I remember watching a surfer ride some serious waves in Hawaii many years ago. His technique was flawless; he rode each wave exactly how that particular wave wanted to be ridden. I admired how he knew exactly when to pull out of the wave, a millisecond before it collapsed on to the beach. I had been trying my hand at body surfing that vacation on smaller, more accommodating waves. I loved the moment when, after swimming with the wave, it picked me up and carried me toward the shore. I had no experience at knowing when to pull out of the wave so I ended up beached on my belly with sand in places I didn't know I had. Showering afterwards, I washed sand from inside my ears and from behind my ears, between my hands and toes and that's not counting the surprising amount of sand I had collected in my trunks. I had to shampoo my hair twice. I was a mess but I was happy.

In the mornings I would be the first awake. With a cup of coffee, I would sit out on the lanai and say my prayers. The surfers were up early too; the waves must have been better at that early hour. I could see them down the beach considering where to surf. They would point to the right and then to the left as I imagined them judging the swells and the form of the waves. I looked to where they were pointing, trying to imagine what they were seeing in the ocean. As a very amateur surfer, I could only guess what they were talking about but watching them I thought I might learn something.

In the seminary we were given many conferences

on prayer. We were particularly trained in how to pray the Divine Office, a complicated mixture of psalms, prayers, readings and hymns which changed with the feasts and liturgical seasons. I can see myself back then



setting the red ribbon to the psalms, the green ribbon to the prayers of the particular feast and the yellow ribbon to the canticles that were said each day. Often I would need to look over to the breviary of the guy next to me when I got lost. Like a surfer, I had to first learn the technique of the way we prayed together.

Several of my confreres seemed to have an intense relationship with God when they prayed. They knelt straighter, rarely got distracted and prayed more intensely than I knew how to do. I envied them and blamed myself for not keeping as focused as they were. But over the years few of them remained in the seminary. Those who were more relaxed (or lax) like myself seemed somehow better suited to the life of a parish priest. What we lacked in concentration, we made up by perseverance.

Technique has its place but only in getting someone started. I still say the Divine Office but now it is organized for me on an app on my iPad. No ribbons. I still do it still first thing in the morning with a cup of coffee—decaf these days. Now as then, real prayer only begins when I take my eyes off myself—wondering if I am doing it right or pleasing God—and simply look to the Lord with love. And sometimes I feel something spiritually akin to what I felt when I was body surfing, that I am being carried by the Lord, him praying in me, or maybe carrying me along as my companion. Soon I am back distracted, trying to recall what appointments I had that day. Yet while it lasts, it is lovely.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

NEW DEGREES

All St. Anne's Council 9494 is pleased to announce our newest 1st 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 Monday, December 4th. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562.936.0164.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

ADVENT PREPARATION

Our November meeting will focus on Advent with things you can do to prepare inside our hearts and outside with others. Plan to attend on Monday, Nov. 27th and be ready to get spiritual! We will be giving out the new "Little Book" on Advent. Come and get your copy! Hospitality begins at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7:00 p.m. All women of the parish are invited!

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.

GETTY MUSEUM TRIP

Join Msgr. Mike and fellow parishioners on Saturday, January 13th to experience two exciting new exhibits!

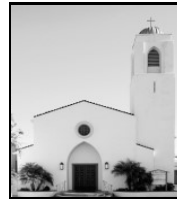
Giovanni Bellini: Landscapes of Faith in Renaissance Venice—Bellini's works present characters and symbols from familiar sacred stories, set in a dimension of reality and lived experience to a degree unprecedented in the history of Italian painting.



Sacred Landscapes: Nature in Renaissance Manuscript—

In Renaissance Europe, many people looked to nature for spiritual inspiration and to guide their contemplation of the divine. In manuscripts created for personal or communal devotion, elements of nature add layers of meaning to the illuminations. These landscapes remind readers to appreciate, and respect, the wonder of creation.

We will leave St. Anne parking lot at 9:30 a.m. and arrive back at 4:00 p.m. in a deluxe air conditioned bus. \$22.00 per person round trip. Please make your reservations, with payment, in the Parish Office.



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.

PREK-8 FAITH FORMATION

Thank you Knights of Columbus! Our Annual

Pinewood Derby and Chili party was a huge success. The Knights generously gave their time and all the supplies for the pinewood derby and our students loved every minute. We are grateful for your loving support of our young children.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

When people need healing, or are grieving the loss of a loved one, they need prayer, of course, but they also appreciate a little comfort. The Prayer Shawl Ministry prays for those in such circumstances and knits/crochets shawls for them. Currently there are ten members who feel blessed by the positive responses from the recipients. One wrote, "My prayer shawl is my new spiritual friend and it brings me peace and calmness!" Another said: "My husband wept tears of gratitude when he learned the significance of the prayer shawl you so lovingly made for him."

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

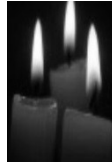
This group ministers to the sick and homebound by sending them cards, making personal visits and delivering meals when needed. They started out with fourteen members but some of them are now among those who are sick and homebound themselves.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING MINISTRY

Victims of human trafficking include not only men and women lured into forced labor by the promise of a better life in the United States, but also exploited boys and girls who were born and raised here in California. This new ministry aims to educate themselves and others on the reality and extent of human trafficking. It is a difficult subject and participants experience a camaraderie in sharing their knowledge with others at community events. They also maintain a bulletin board which continues to educate the whole parish about this issue.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

- 11/13 ✠ Daisy Toor
- 11/14 ✠ Rosemary Parker
- 11/15 Mary McGraa
- 11/16 ✠ Wendy Gillen
- 11/17 ✠ Albert Dinger
- 11/18 ✠ Samantha Glover
- (✠ 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, Dixie Redfearn, Rosemary Hirsch, Mike Maloney, Merrill Butler, Linda Bolt

Around Our Diocese

THANKSGIVING DINNER

Once again the Seal Beach Chamber of Commerce will be providing a Thanksgiving feast for people in our community who cannot be with family or friends on this special day. On Thursday, November 23rd, Bingo will begin at 11:00 a.m. and dinner will be served at Noon in the Parish Hall. Participants are asked to bring canned food items for donation to a local charity. Please RSVP to McKenzie at 562-799-0179 by Friday, November 17th.



ODCCW CONFERENCE

The annual ODCCW Conference “Dancing in the Rain: Showers of Joy” is the theme of the luncheon to be held at St. Norbert’s Catholic Church in Orange on Tuesday, November 21st. The donation is \$25 before 11/14 or \$30 the day of the event. The guest speaker is Bishop Timothy Freyer, Auxiliary Bishop of Orange. Registration is at 8:00 a.m., Mass is at 8:30 a.m. and adjournment is at 1:30 p.m. For reservations, call Pat Martin at 714-892-5219 or email jimandpatmartin@gmail.com.