

18 March 2018
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Christ and Apostles, Georges Rouault, 1938

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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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WHEN I WAS CURSED

Many years ago, I thought that someone had put a curse on me.

I was in a busy parish and it was Summer; I had more Masses than usual because one of the other priests was away on vacation. I had just completed the noon Mass and I was sweaty, so I went upstairs to my suite and stepped into the shower to hose myself off. I had just gotten the temperature just so when the doorbell rang. Someone else will get that, I remember thinking, but, no, no one else was in the house. I knew that because the doorbell rang again. So I jumped out of the shower and started drying off. Dingdong again, this time more insistent. And again, then dingdong, dingdong, dingdong, as I was putting on my pants and pulling my t-shirt over my head. As I was rushing barefoot down the stairs, the ringer just stuck his finger in the doorbell so the dingdong, dingdong, dingdong was constant. I got to the door, opened it quickly and asked, "What in heaven's name do you want?" "Father, I need the key to the hall," the man replied. I stared at him. He did all of this hubbub just to get a key? I let him have it. "Did your parents not teach you how to ring a doorbell when you were growing up? You ring it once and wait until the person inside gets a chance to get to the door. You do not ring it over and over and over. So don't do that again. Do you hear me?"

He blinked once, looking at me straight in the eyes without any emotion. No apology. No look of shame. No sense that he had done anything wrong, and that really got me fuming. "The key, Father," he said. "I need the key." So I went to the back office and got the key, all the while contemplating all I'd like to do to him with the key with its wooden handle. I handed him the key. He took it and turned away. No thank you. Nothing. I had been planning to take a nap that afternoon, to be rested before I went over for the evening Mass, but that was impossible. I was too worked up by then.

Again on a Sunday afternoon when I was hot and tired, the rectory doorbell rang. When I opened the

door, there were four young adults, three men and a woman. They handed me a brochure and asked if I had come to know Jesus.

"I'm a priest," I said, and pointing over toward the church, "and that is my church. Of course, I know Jesus!"

This did not seem to impress them much. The woman asked, "But have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior?"

With a little sound of frustration, I answered, "Yes, I have. I was baptized when I was an infant and I recite the creed every Sunday at Mass. That's how we Catholics show our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior."

"So this is a *Catholic* church," one of the young men said and it was clear by the way he said it that he was disappointed. "You won't get to heaven as a Catholic, you know."

"No, I did not know that." I replied. "Who told you that Catholics won't be welcome in heaven?"

He did not answer my question, but I wasn't listening to him at that point. The picture had dawned on me: this team intentionally came to this church determined to catch a "big fish." Can you imagine how impressed their pastor would be if their team were to return and be able to say that they had converted a priest?

"This conversation is over," I said firmly. "I am perfectly happy being a Catholic and a priest, so I am not interested in discussing this further with the four of you. And if I am blessed and remain faithful to the Gospel, I am confident that Jesus will welcome me into heaven. Look for me when you get there; you'll be surprised to find me." They kept talking but I closed the door.

Several other incidents like that have beset me on Sunday afternoons over the years. That's why I thought I had been cursed. But none since I have been here at Saint Anne's. Thank you for casting out the curse.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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, April 9th. For additional information, please contact J. Jones at 562-936-0164.

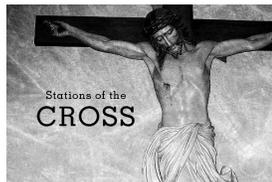
"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

On Monday, March 26th, "Women and Heart Disease" will be presented by guest speaker, Debbie Truax, a Geriatric Nurse Practitioner. She will talk about why women's heart disease presents differently from men's and will also focus on how to optimize heart health. The meeting is open to all parishioners and the Seal Beach community. Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Kathy Stoddard at 707-477-0104.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Our parish teens will offer a Stations of the Cross prayer service in the church on Friday, March 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come and see this special enactment of our Lord's final steps. Jesus' steps will be brought to life as you encounter this beloved devotion in a new way. Music will envelop and propel us through the story and each of us will feel truly present at the foot of the cross, not just as an observer, but as an active participant in salvation history. Stations are appropriate for all ages.



CAREER RENEWAL MINISTRY

Can this ministry help you in your job search? Career Renewal meetings are held on Thursdays from 7:00–9:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. There will not be meetings on March 29th and April 5 for Easter break. All are welcome to attend!



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.

ZOETER PLAZA

We have received complaints from Zoeter Plaza that our parishioners are using their parking lot and the alley behind their businesses to park for mass. Please respect their property as we expect our neighbors to do for us.

ST. PADRE PIO HEALING MASS

Please join us on Monday, March 19th at 1:00 p.m. for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Holy Rosary and Healing Mass. Individuals may receive personal blessings after the Mass. All are welcome! For more information, please call Janice Herlihy at 562-594-6357.

2018	As of 3/12/18	
	Registered Families	750
	Family Pledge Goal	200
	Families Pledged	139
PSA	Amount Pledged Goal	\$120,000.
	Amount Pledged	\$92,077.
	Thank you to all who have prayerfully and generously made a pledge in support of our Church!	

HOME MISSION APPEAL

Last weekend we collected donations for the Catholic Home Mission Appeal. Through your generous support we raised \$3,564.00 to strengthen the Church at home and ensure the Gospel is spread across the United States.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Sunday Offertory—3/11/18 \$9,922.
Online Giving week ending —3/11/18 \$4,320.

Its easy to set up online giving by visiting our website (www.stannesealbeach.org) and clicking on "Give Online."

CONFIRMATION 2 RETREAT



Thank you to all who prayed for us during our retreat last weekend.

Around our Diocese

OUR LADY OF LA VANG SHRINE

A new exhibit highlighting the future Our Lady of La Vang Shrine has been unveiled at the Christ Cathedral Cultural Center. The shrine, designed by architects Aaron Torrence and Trung Quoc Tran, will be located in the northeastern portion of the Christ Cathedral Campus and honors an apparition in 1798 of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus. The exhibit details the history of Vietnamese-American Catholics in Orange County. It includes historical photos, shrine renderings and a red brick from the bell tower of the original Our Lady of La Vang Church in Vietnam, constructed in 1901. Orange County is home to the largest Vietnamese community outside of Vietnam. There are more than 100,000 Vietnamese Catholics in our Diocese.

SPECIAL DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS

Here is the special collection calendar for the year to help inform and guide your giving decisions. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to these remaining Diocesan-mandated collections on these scheduled weekends.

- March 30 Holy Land Collection (Good Friday)
- April 15 Black & Indian Mission/Solidarity Fund—
Church in Africa
- May 20 Parishes in Collaboration
- June 24 Universal Church Collection

*The Mission Cooperative Appeals are coordinated by the Propagation of the Faith/Mission office and are scheduled between June 1 - August 31.

- October 21 World Mission Sunday
- November 18 National Needs Collection (Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic University of America, Catholic Communications Campaign)
- December 9 Retirement Fund for Religious



“A LITTLE BIT OF MERCY MAKES THE WORLD LESS COLD AND MORE JUST.” POPE FRANCIS

Together we can create a diverse, vibrant community with many different ministries reaching out to our parish and greater community. If you want information about any of our ministries with opportunities to touch lives and hearts, please pick up a brochure from the vestibule.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

3/19	For the Parish
3/20	✠ Paul Ringer
3/21	✠ Pops
3/22	✠ Madalena Ty Bui
3/23	Thanksgiving (✠ 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, Jim & Julie Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Merrill Butler, Steven Lang, Kay Lang, Linda Bolt, Bob Wagner, Greg Rousselo, Sylvia Bartolomucci, Bob Rattray, Joel Rivera, Jean Barbazette

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

MORNING MASS—MARCH 24

 Morning Mass on Saturday, March 24th has been canceled. PCH will be closed to through traffic in the morning for the Seal Beach 10K.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

We still need Eucharistic Ministers to serve on Easter Sunday at the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. masses. If you are able to help, please call the Parish Office.



BULLETIN DEADLINES

The Easter holiday has effected deadlines for ministries to submit bulletin content. Please submit items at least two weeks before the weekend you hope to see your article in print.

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.

PreK-8 Faith Formation: Applications for enrollment in next year's faith formation programs will be available in April.

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. Please do not wait until death is imminent.