

24 June 2018
Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Saint John the Baptist Preaching by Mattia Preti

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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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IS WHAT GOD WANTS WHAT I WANT?

I was raised with an overly romantic and very unrealistic notion of the spiritual life: If I said my prayers sincerely and often, I believed God would draw near and grant my heart's desire. My life was uncomplicated then. I'd pray to pass my spelling test but, just in case, I also studied hard the night before. I passed many spelling tests in this way. I had less success with math and science.

At a certain point it dawned on me that God was not a candy store; he was not primarily in the business of my wish-fulfillment. This came as a disappointment. Perhaps, instead of sitting there listening to my prayers, he expected something *from* me. This was when I started to consider and then nurture a sense that God might have a particular calling for me.

This scared me a bit. If God wanted me to become an infantryman and go to Vietnam, for example, in theory, I believed I better do what God wanted. Every night on the news there was graphic footage of fire fights and carpet bombing. There were soldiers coming home in coffins and people immolating themselves in the streets. Knowing myself and my strengths and weaknesses at least a little, I was sure I would be the worst soldier ever. I'd mention this view to God every now and again, humbly I hoped, just so he would know where I stood on the idea. But then I would pray like Jesus prayed, "But not my will but your will be done." I was no Jesus and so that part of my prayer fooled nobody.

This was all magical thinking. Although there were some dramatic moments in the Bible where God did ask a person to do a specific thing—remember Mary with the angel Gabriel—but even in those cases, the one being asked had the freedom to answer as he or she wished: "Let it be done unto me according to your will." God does not limit his relationship with us to giving out orders and seeing if we obey them or not. He liked to be our companion, like he was at the very beginning with Adam and Eve in the cool of each evening.

One of the ways I started to figure out what to do with my life was to compare my talents to the job at hand. My father had been an accountant; I would sometimes go in with him when he had to work on a Saturday

and I marveled at the way he could add up a line of figures on the adding machine without even looking at the keyboard. His fingers danced over the keys quickly and soon he had his sum. I did not inherit a lot of those particular talents. I didn't want to be an accountant and my excuse was that I was no good at it.

I was good with reading and writing and, especially, religion class. The things of the church fascinated me like sports fascinated my brother. I couldn't get enough of it. I was an altar server, starting in the fifth grade, graduating little by little until I reached the exalted status of Grand Knight.

So, it came as no surprise when I told my parents I wanted to go to the seminary to see if I could be found worthy of being ordained a priest. It would take years and the people in charge were very strict in those days. They knew what kind of a person they were looking for and it was up to you to meet their standard. The things I was required to do, I believed were forming me into the kind of person who would know how to help people spiritually with preaching, the sacraments and drawing parishioners into a community.

The mood in the nation at that time was, however, to suspect all forms of authority. Rather one should be cool and find his or her own groove, follow his own conscience. That was a helpful contrast for me. The Church leadership had a rarified role for a priest to play: be dutiful, be orthodox, follow canon law, obey your bishop, show up on time and whatever you do, do not think for yourself. The bishops were to do the thinking for you, got it? But bishops knew that it was the Pope who was to do the thinking for the bishops. One of the things Vatican II was trying to do was change that way of thinking.

My classmates who were too tightly wound didn't last. Nobody excels by fulfilling a role, no matter how admired. God did not make us to just meet expectations but to give all the various gifts we find inside ourselves and others to be the best, most eccentric and sacrificing people we can be. Life before God was best played all out. Use everything you've been given. Hold nothing back. Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ANNUAL PARISH BLOOD DRIVE



This weekend, St. Anne Knights of Columbus will begin scheduling blood donors for their Annual Blood Drive taking place in the Parish Hall on Thursday, July 12 from 1:00–7:00 PM.

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, July 9th. For more information, please contact J. Jones at 562.936.0164.

“Help Us Help Those In Need”

WOMEN’S GUILD

BUNCO

Please join the Women’s Guild on Monday, June 25th in the Parish Hall for our annual night of Bunco—a fun game of dice and chance. No skills or prior experience is necessary! Women’s Guild members will be outside at all masses this weekend taking sign-ups of those who want to play. The suggested donation is \$5.00 per player. Check in is at 6:00 p.m. and the dice will roll at 6:30 p.m. All women of the parish are invited. For more information, please contact Sheryl Moore at 562-594-0631.



MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. To support our events and speakers as a member, please contact Kathy Stoddard at 707-477-0104.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH COLLECTION

(Combines Peter’s Pence and Catholic Relief Services)

Today is the Peter’s Pence Collection, a worldwide collection which supports the charitable works of Pope Francis. This collection is taken up by Catholics around the globe and helps the Holy Father reach out to people suffering in our world, especially those enduring the effects of war, oppression, religious persecution and natural disasters. Take this opportunity to join with Pope Francis and be a witness of charity to our suffering brothers and sisters. The mission of Catholic Relief Services is to assist the poor and disadvantaged by alleviating human suffering, promoting development of all people, and fostering charity and justice internationally. CRS aids the poor by first providing direct assistance where needed, and then encouraging these people to help with their own development.



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.

ST. ANNE BOOK CLUB

Please join us the first Thursday of each month from Noon to 1 PM in the Parish Center. At our book club we learn about the author’s background and discuss different aspects of the book. Everyone is invited! Our book for July 5th is *Barking to the Choir* by Fr. Greg Boyle. In a moving example of unconditional love in difficult times, the Jesuit priest and bestselling author of *Tattoos on the Heart*, Fr. Greg shares what three decades of working with gang members in Los Angeles has taught him about faith, compassion, and the enduring power of kinship. *Barking to the Choir* offers a snapshot into the challenges and joys of life on the margins as former gang members uplift the soul and reveal how bright life can be when filled with unconditional love and kindness. This book is guaranteed to shake up our ideas about God and about people with a glimpse at a world defined by more compassion and fewer barriers. Gently and humorously, *Barking to the Choir* invites us to find kinship with one another and reconvinces us all of our own goodness.

YOUTH MINISTRY MISSION TRIP

Please keep our 45 St. Anne Missionaries in your prayers June 28 to July 2! This will be our third consecutive Summer Mission Training Camp (MTC) for our teens. MTC is an opportunity for teens to grow in their faith through service, formation, and fellowship. Think of MTC as a Mission Trip, but instead of traveling to another state or country to serve, we stay in Orange County and work with those in need close to home, allowing us to develop relationships with people and organizations that are in our local area. During the day, we go out and help different service organizations and those whom they serve. A few of the organizations we will be partnering with are: Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Worker, Trails 4 All, Someone Cares Soup Kitchen, Ronald McDonald House, and Harvest Partners LB of City Heart. Each evening, a different youth minister will lead us in retreat and reflection activities designed to deepen our connection to the mission in which God has called us. We appreciate all of your prayers and support! A special thank you to the Knights of Columbus who put together a Pancake Breakfast benefiting our Mission Trip project and those who supported us by purchasing food at our CPK fundraiser!

Around the Diocese

ST. ANNE SCHOOL IN SANTA ANA



Many events and projects are being planned with our sister school, St. Anne School in Santa Ana. One project is the Saints Club. It is a program to sponsor a St. Anne student needing financial assistance to continue their education. These students have compelling life stories. Some have known homelessness, many hunger. Others deal with incarcerated family members and domestic violence. Despite these challenging backgrounds, the majority of these students become high achievers. If you would like more information about the Saints Club, please call JoAnn Rossi at 562-598-4967.

EXCERPTS FROM BISHOP VANN'S LETTER ON ASSISTED SUICIDE

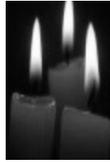
Recently, a Superior Court judge in Riverside County issued a ruling overturning California's assisted-suicide law. As expected, the ruling has been challenged. Still, I am grateful because it offers us an opportunity to revisit important questions about what constitutes healthcare – especially at the end of life – and about good governance. Acknowledging the strong emotions from deeply personal stories that accompany discussions about end of life, we nonetheless have a duty to develop policy based on the integrity of the human person and the common good. In Orange County, we join with the statewide Whole Person Care Initiative between Catholic health care ministries, dioceses, and parishes in moving forward the conversations and actions to help our loved ones know that they are loved, wanted, and worthy as they contemplate the end of their lives.

We are hosting **“Care, Prepare, and Connect”** on **Wednesday, June 27th from 6:00–8:30 p.m.** at St. Irenaeus in Cypress to help parish leaders and communities continue to improve our accompaniment of families and individuals in need, address access across the continuum of care, Advance Care Planning, and how to start the conversations.

As you all know, building a culture of life requires many components – legal and legislative to name a few. But it also means changing hearts and minds. That starts with our own personal prayer and conversion which should manifest itself in the way that we treat others, particularly those who are suffering the most. I am grateful for your continued support and efforts in these many facets required to build a culture of life.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

6/25 Jeff & Sarah Diulio
 6/26 †Eloise Cave
 6/27 †Richard Aptaker
 6/28 †Hap Pudewa
 6/29 †Howard Knott
 6/30 †Candelaria Javellana
 (†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,
 Gary Rousselo, Bob Rattray, Julie Rivera, Jean Barbazette,
 Noemi Baeza, Robert Dutro, Pat Giacomi, Janet Tedesco,
 Mike Maloney

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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18; Ps 60:3-5, 12-13; Mt 7:1-5
 Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36;
 Ps 48:2-4, 10-11; Mt 7:6, 12-14
 Wednesday: 2 Kgs 22:8-13; 23:1-3; Ps 119:33-37, 40; Mt 7:15-20
 Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17; Ps 79:1b-5, 8, 9; Mt 7:21-29
 Friday: Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18;
 Mt 16:13-19

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 preparations classes for parents and Godparents are held once a month on a Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

PreK-8 Faith Formation: Applications for enrollment in next year's faith formation programs are now available.

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.

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