

23 September 2018
Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Grace of God by Jay Bryant Ward

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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

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YOUR GOD IS TOO SMALL

Many years ago, I picked up a book entitled, "Your God is Too Small," mostly because the title intrigued me. As a Catholic, I believed that God was a trinity of three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. How can the author tell me that my God was too small? What I can remember of his argument was that, though we may hold an orthodox belief in God, on the functioning level of prayer we can reduce God to something else, something less.

Jesus told us that at the end of time, "when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates sheep from goats." Until then Jesus can be thought of as a "**Resident Policeman**," someone who keeps track of who's good and who's not. Jesus is seen as just, but this image does little to express his forgiveness and mercy.

If you are in the habit of watching *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*, you will have witnessed occasions when God appears on the ceiling of the theater to comment on current events. He looks like a "**Grand Old Man**," with a robe, flowing hair and a deep resonating voice. He doesn't look very different from the way God the Father was pictured in the catechism and simple religious books I saw in my youth. God, being divine, is beyond old, of course, but seeing him in this way can give the impression that he is distant from us, which he is not.

Jesus preached, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land." One could infer that he was himself "**Meek-and-Mild**," and wanted his disciples to be nice

too. But I don't think that tells the whole story. The author, Philip Yancey, has asked, "How would telling people to be nice to one another get a man crucified? What government would execute Mister Rogers or

Captain Kangaroo?" Jesus is also the one who "cleansed" the Temple, overturning tables with violence and a whip. Jesus was determined and courageous.

I can imagine God as a "**Managing Director**." I can see him seated at his heavenly control panel, looking down to earth through the lenses of a huge set of binoculars, barking orders to his

attending angels, determining who lives and who dies, who gets grace and how much and who goes without. An archangel oversees the weather but doesn't do a great job; some places are deserts and other places are flooded. Saints come and go, interceding for this or that person or group. He is the nexus of all this activity. True, God is in charge, but I can't imagine him doing it as a control freak.

If you think of the Bible as the account of a love story between the creator and his creatures, you will want to read it to find out who this God is really is. You will read to see God in all his moods and dreams and purposes. You will want to find out why he did what he did, and you will discover the variety of ways in which his creatures have responded to his love. If we don't want to be accused of having a God who is too small, we should read the story closely to catch the endless manifestations of his nature and life. Only such a God is big enough to command our highest admiration and respect.

Msgr. Mike



Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Please join our Knights of Columbus on Sunday, Oct. 7th following the 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM masses for our Parish Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall. The Knights will be serving their "world famous" homemade buttermilk pancakes (blueberry or chocolate chip pancake options available) along with eggs, sausage and fruit. The suggested donation is \$6 per person and \$20 per family. All proceeds go towards supporting local charities. For additional information, please contact Steve Bradt at 714-418-7041.

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, Oct. 1st. For additional information, please contact Paul Pudenz at 562-370-5341.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

SALAD SUPPER

All women of the parish are invited to our Salad Supper on Monday, Sept. 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Kathleen Fox at 562-794-9020.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry is at maximum capacity in all programs: 118 confirmation students, 75 lighthouse leaders (juniors & seniors) and 27 core team members (young adults). The C1 and C2 kick off meetings, mass and BBQ (Shout out to our Knights of Columbus and confirmation parents!) on Sept. 9th brought this vibrant and energetic faith community together to start the new year. Small groups facilitate discussion of the curriculum component of the classes.



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.

SINGERS NEEDED

Come join the St. Anne Adult Choir and praise the Lord through song! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7:30–9:00 p.m. We sing at the 10 a.m. mass on Sundays. It is a great opportunity for fellowship and service—no previous experience is necessary. Please contact John Glaudini at 714-883-9041, email him at jungledini@me.com, or see John after morning mass upstairs in the choir loft.



ADORATION



We are hoping that all parishioners will come for an evening of Adoration on Friday, Oct. 5th from 7:00-8:00 p.m. We will only have one Adoration evening this fall due to our Confirmation 1 retreat and the Seal Beach Christmas parade falling on first Fridays. This will be an evening filled with prayer, reflection, and worship!

FAITH FORMATION



Another great year is under way for our PreK-8th grade faith formation program! We have 74 students enrolled in our classes. Diocesan speaker Pam Hurwitz began our first day with a talk to parents about creating lasting family traditions and slowing down to enjoy the quiet small moments of family life. Our 2nd grade is has 17 students already busy preparing for first reconciliation in December. We have two new catechists this year: Mrs. Enriquez and Mrs. Carl. Returning catechists and aides are Mr. Silver, Mrs. Fiori, Mrs. Souza, Mrs. Scandura, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Gotoski, and Mrs. Littleford. Please pray for our students and their families as they make their faith journey with Jesus.

Around the Diocese

HOLY HOUR FOR HOPE & HEALING

A Holy Hour for Hope and Healing will be held from 7:00-8:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Arboretum on the Christ Cathedral Campus. The Holy Hour is being offered for all those who have experienced abuse of any form in their lives, all victims of abuse in our Church, and the lay and clerical leaders guiding the rebuilding of our Church.

DIVORCE RECOVERY

Divorced? Separated? Find healing, hope and help with the divorce recovery program offered at St. Irenaeus Parish in Cypress on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Hall Conference Room. Newcomers are welcome at any time during the sessions. For more information and to sign up, email phansmeyer@gmail.com

CHRIST'S HEALING PRESENCE

"Christ's Healing Presence" is the theme Fr. Ben Tran will address at the Healing Eucharist he will celebrate Monday, September 24th at 7:15 p.m. at St. Angela Merici Catholic Church in Brea. All those suffering physically, emotionally, spiritually, psychologically, or know others who are, are encouraged to come.



WHEN WOMEN PRAY

When Women Pray invites all women to their 9th annual Women's Prayer Breakfast "Prosper, Hope and a Future" on Saturday, October 6th from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church in Irvine. This is a free event but you must register to attend at whenwomenpraystm.org.

CHRIST CATHEDRAL CONCERT

The Westminster Choir, established in 1901, is the second most significant Catholic Choir in the world, behind only the Sistine Chapel Choir. When not touring and recording internationally, the Westminster Choir sings at the famed cathedral. Along with Westminster Choir, the Tallis Scholars, one of the foremost Renaissance vocal groups in the world, will perform their entire program of music from the Sistine Chapel. The concert will be held on Tuesday, October 9th at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Cathedral. Tickets are \$25 for general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students by calling 714-971-2141 ext. 5529 or online at christcathedralmusic.org/Christ-cathedral-concerts.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

9/24	Michele Cave
9/25	✠Noemi Baeza
9/26	✠Gerald Roche
9/27	✠Hap Pudewa
9/28	✠Noemi Baeza
9/29	In Thanksgiving to St. Joseph (✠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, Tim Prangley, Pat Giacomi, Janet Tedesco, Mike Maloney, Ernie Ramirez

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

KNOW THE ANGELS

Make yourself familiar with the angels, and behold them frequently in spirit. Without being seen, they are present with you. —St. Francis de Sales

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.

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