

31 March 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



The Prodigal Son by Liz Lemon Swindle

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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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SINNERS

In one of his homilies, Pope Francis said: "Remember, Jesus never said, 'Worship me,' and he did say, 'Follow me.'...I think it is always easier to worship Jesus than to follow him. That demands care for the supposedly unworthy, the sinners, the outsiders, and 'the non-observers of the law.'"

Everyone who is a Christian knows that the job description of a disciple is to become like Christ. Until I read what Pope Francis said in that homily, I had thought my responsibility was simply to love God with all I've got, and to love my neighbor as myself. But I thought of my neighbor as somebody like me. I hadn't noticed that Jesus had a preferential option for sinners, outsiders, those who do not observe the commandments. Jesus found worthy those who were supposedly unworthy, the kind of people you are unlikely to invite over to your place for dinner. This puts a whole new spin on discipleship.

Someone else who focused on this was Flannery O'Connor. One day her mother Regina asked her why she didn't try to write "something that people liked" instead of the kind of writing she did. Flannery reported that she said, "Do you think...that you are really using the talent that God gave you when you don't write something that a lot, a LOT, of people like?" I forget what she answered at the time, but readers of her fiction know that she is attracted to telling the stories of those who are eccentric and confused. Even a character like Ruby Turpin in the short story, "Revelation," who thought of herself as someone who had "a little of everything and the God-given wit to use it right," is assaulted by a young woman (named, interestingly, Mary Grace) who told her to "Go back to hell where you came from, you old wart hog." Turpin knew those words were a revelation so, later, while hosing down her hogs, she demands that God tell her how she can be both herself and a



hog. In response, she is given a vision of pilgrims processing up to heaven which included all the kinds of people she looked down upon at the head of the line; people like her were way back in the parade, "and she could see by their shocked and altered faces that even their virtues were being burned away." The reason we still read her stories more than fifty years after O'Connor's death is because there's a little of Ruby Turpin in all of us.

We constantly try to prove ourselves, to show that we are good enough, bright enough, competent enough, experienced enough, graceful enough to be admired by others. These days we all want to be noticed, to be a celebrity. The scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day were zealous and fastidious observers of the law; they frequently told Jesus how he was not observant enough. Jesus ate

with sinners, for example, an act that they believed made Jesus ritually impure. (I suspect Jesus ate with sinners not to make a point but because they were more fun to be with. One can't imagine a Pharisee telling a joke or patting someone on the back to tell them that they had done a good job cooking the lamb.)

The worst thing would be to discover that one is just like everyone else. But we are all sinners. Even the pope goes to confession. (In this way we are not like Jesus.) Instead of comparing ourselves with others, we'd do well to "put of Christ" as Saint Paul says, by which he means "clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." A disciple is always a follower.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

MONTHLY MEETING / MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 1st. For more information, contact Paul Pudenz at 657-245-3722.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

MONTHLY MEETING/MEMBERSHIP

General meetings are usually the 4th Monday of each month in the Parish Hall. Our next meeting will be Monday, April 22. To support our ministries and speakers as a member, please contact Kathy Stoddard at 707-477-0104.

ST. ANNE BOOK CLUB

Please join us the first Thursday of each month from Noon to 1 PM in the Parish Center. We learn about the author's background and then discuss different aspects of the book brought up by the participants. Everyone is invited! Our book for April 4th is "Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus" by James Martin.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Anne will have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday, April 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. All are invited to come, pray and spend some time with our Lord. If you can, please volunteer to be present for a specific period of time to ensure that every hour with our Lord is covered by signing up in the vestibule of the church.

ST. ANNE SCHOOL EASTER TREE

Following the 10:00 a.m. mass this Sunday, there will be an Easter tree in the breezeway with names of books the teachers have requested for classroom use (they don't have a library). Please take the name of a book off the tree to purchase and drop off next week in the parish office, or if more convenient you may donate the cost of the book. For more information, please call JoAnn at 562-598-4967.

Scones will be for sale in the Parish Hall, 4 for \$8.



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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN OF THE YEAR

The Catholic Charities Auxiliary, who assist Catholic Charities of Orange County, are holding their Annual Benefit Luncheon honoring outstanding women volunteers who best exemplify the loving spirit of serving others in their church and community. The luncheon will be held on Monday, May 20th at the Delta Hotel in Anaheim. During lunch we will hear about the amazing women nominated from parishes in our Diocese whose volunteerism strengthens our communities.

This year the St. Anne Women's Guild and our parish nominated Kathleen Fox for her generous donation of her time and talents to St. Anne and our community. If you are interested in joining us in honoring Kathleen by attending the luncheon please drop off a check for \$65 made payable to Catholic Charities Auxiliary at the parish office. A limited number of seats remain at our tables.

FAITH FORMATION FOR 19/20

Registration for PreK through 8th grade Faith Formation for 2019/2020 is now open with early bird pricing available until April 19th! Registration packets were sent home in student folders and in an email for those currently enrolled. New families may call the Faith Formation office at 562-431-0721 x 16 to receive the packet. First Communion formation takes two years beginning in 1st grade. Please call the Faith Formation office to arrange for Sacrament preparation for First Communion for children in grades 3–8. Our students participate in the life of the Church by growing to know not only who Jesus is, but growing in love with God and embracing his amazing plan for their lives.

YM STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Please join the Youth Ministry Team in praying the Stations of the Cross on Friday, April 5th from 7:00–8:00 p.m. This will be a powerful night of live music and prayer!



Around the Diocese

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES



Tuesday, April 2—7:00 PM

St. Bonaventure, Huntington Beach

Monday, April 8—7:00 PM

St. Mary by the Sea, Huntington Beach

Thursday, April 11—7:00 PM

Sts. Simon & Jude, Huntington Beach

LENTEN SPEAKER

Essraa Naswar, a noted speaker and Muslim woman living in the U.S., will speak at Sts. Simon & Jude Church on Friday, April 5th at 7:00 p.m. “Make the world a better place, one person at a time” focuses on the values and ethics that people of good faith share.

TALLIS SCHOLARS

The Tallis Scholars, the “Rock Stars of the Renaissance” return to the Christ Cathedral Campus for a special performance of music from the famed Sistine Chapel. This performance coincides with the opening of the Sistine Chapel Exhibit at the Cathedral Cultural Center. The performance will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3rd. For more information about the Tallis Scholars concert go to www.ChristCathedralMusic.org. For information about the Sistine Chapel Exhibit go to <https://chapelsistine.com/event/garden-grove-ca/>

WHAT THE CHURCH SAYS ABOUT

All are invited to attend a series of speakers addressing current/moral issues. On Friday, April 12th, Alzheimer’s of Orange County will provide dinner at 6:30 p.m., a movie screening of the film End Game at 7:00, followed by questions about Suffering and End of Life Ethics. Please RSVP to Norah at ndopudja@christcathedralca.org.

YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS

Join other young Catholic professionals (in their 20s and 30s) for a Networking Happy Hour on Wednesday, April 3rd from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Bar Louie in Tustin. YCP offers an avenue to engage with prominent Catholic executives in a way that is unique among young adult ministries.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

- 4/1 Bruce Hansen
- 4/2 †Andrea Marmitt
- 4/3 †Vincent Luc Dinh
- 4/4 †Ollie Van Hook
- 4/5 Seminarians
- 4/6 †Clyde LaBaron
(†Rest in God's love and peace)



PLEASE PRAY FOR



Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Brenda Malloy, Ken Hammond, Kathy Purcell, Aurora Lavadia, Mike Pendleton, Julia Poirier, Jerome Gendron, Jim Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Steven Lang, Linda Bolt, Bob Wagner, Bob Rattray, Julie Rivera, Jean Barbazette, Pat Giacomi, Ernie Ramirez, Mike Harvey, Mary Kiely, John Barnes, Katherine Irwin, Dcn. Gary Mucho, L. Tanguay, Madeline Watkins

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

“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.” - Pope Francis

“Show me your hands. Do they have scars from giving? Show me your feet. Are they wounded in service? Show me your heart. Have you left a place for divine love?” - Ven. Fulton Sheen

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.

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.