

19 May 2019

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



The Visitation by Käthe Kollwitz

Msgr. Mike Heher, Pastor | pastor@stannesealbeach.org | 562-431-0721 Ext. 14

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

Fr. Robert Vidal, Pastor Emeritus | Fr.bob@stannesealbeach.org

Deacon Peter Nguyen | dcnpeter@stannesealbeach.org

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

Jyllian Rhodes, Youth Ministry, Confirmation | ym@stannesealbeach.org | 562-431-0721 Ext. 15

Jan Cooper, Front Office | office@stannesealbeach.org | M—F, 8:00AM—4:00PM

Tim Kimminau, Cleaning & Maintenance | tim@stannesealbeach.org | 562-431-0721 Ext. 17

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

340 10TH ST. | SEAL BEACH CA 90740 | 562-431-0721 | WWW.STANNESEALBEACH.ORG

A HISTORY OF HELL

In the center of Florence, Italy, in front of its famous *duomo*, stands a baptistry. The walls inside of the baptistry are covered with mosaics. Foremost among them is Christ, as judge of the living and the dead. On one side of him are the saved, saints seated in orderly fashion like patrons in boxes waiting for the opera to begin. On the other side one finds hell with Satan at the center apparently eating one of the damned while torturing two others, one in his right hand and the other in his left. He is surrounded by lesser demons also punishing the damned in various ways. The scene is frightening and surely accomplished what was its obvious goal: to give those coming for baptism an awareness of what would be their lot if they continued to live a sinful life.

At the end of Matthew's gospel, the last judgement is portrayed as sending the cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. (Look to Genesis to see the earlier rebellion.) Mark also imagines hell as unquenchable fire. The author of the Book of Revelation paints the image more vividly: "for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

An earlier image of the afterlife was *sheol*, whose inhabitants were "shades," creatures lacking personality or strength. Originally, all the deceased went there indiscriminately; later there was a distinction between the just and the wicked, separated into their respective sections, much like the compartments on an airplane, business class in front with plush seats, much fawned over by the angels, with the rest of the folk packed tightly together in the back with little leg room. Imagine that for all eternity! In a further development, the just were upgraded to heaven, *sheol* being thereafter reserved only for the wicked.

The larger scenario of the New Testament describes God's mercy. Jesus came as savior of all, though it took

the people of God some time to believe that. First, they thought it was only for the faithful children of Israel, then salvation was reserved for faithful Jews and Jewish disciples of Jesus. It took a Saint Paul to break down the barriers so that Jesus was understood as a universal savior, including Gentiles.

This did not take place without a fight. There seems always to be a temptation toward exclusivity. "Here is my God and no one else's." We Catholics had a dose of this over the centuries. St. Cyprian of Carthage articulated the ancient saying, "outside the Church there is no salvation." He was saying this at a time of great turbulence, persecution and confusion, aiming at keeping the various factions of believers united. Later on, the maxim was used in a narrower way, suggesting that none but those baptized in union with the Holy See were permitted. Your neighbor the Buddhist would not be your neighbor in heaven, not even the heretical Presbyterian you play tennis with. Heaven will certainly be spacious since none but Catholics will be allowed.

To believe that would be to put limits on God's mercy, something no creature should do. Jesus died on a cross to save us, all of us, and who is to say how he judges? Remember on the cross he welcomed into paradise the thief crucified beside him; he did not first ask to see his baptismal certificate. Who is to say that God does not also inspire to greater or lesser degrees the faith of believers of all kinds, not to mention to bless the lives of non-believers?

This is not to say that baptism is unimportant. Baptism is the doorway to all the graces of the sacraments. It is God's invitation to eternal life with him. Each year on the anniversary of my baptism, January 20th, I do something to celebrate, considering it just as important as my birthday. But I am also sure that God has many other ways of extending his love—even his salvation—to his varied and beloved creatures.

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER

All parishioners are invited to attend a dinner honoring **Fr. Bob, Fr. Ben, Msgr. Mike and Dcn. Peter** on Saturday, June 1st at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Please join our Knights of Columbus for this fabulous BBQ Tri-tip dinner with a no host bar. Tickets will be on sale for a suggested donation of \$15 per person after all masses this weekend and next weekend. For additional information, contact Tom Ryan at 714-679-5300.



MONTHLY MEETING / MEMBERSHIP

All interested Catholic men are invited to attend our Council meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3rd. For more information, contact Paul Pudenz at 657-245-3722.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

ST. PADRE PIO HEALING MASS

Please join us on Monday, May 20th 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 562-537-4526.

WILLS AND TRUSTS

St. Anne will be hosting a Wills and Trust session on Wednesday, May 22nd from 9:30–11:30 a.m. Please pick up a flyer from the vestibule for additional locations and times in our Diocese. All presenters are local Catholic estate planning professionals who will answer questions regarding estate taxes, probate, trusts, guardianship, selecting a personal representative, and steps on how to create or update your plans.

CATECHIST APPRECIATION

Prek-8 Faith Formation Catechists are a special gift from heaven to our parish. They answer God's call and volunteer their personal time each week to shepherd our children along the paths of light toward a fuller friendship with Jesus. Our heartfelt thanks to Lynn Campbell, Lisa Carl, Juli Enriquez, Lorraine Fiori, Cindy Gostoski, Jaya Krishnan, Christy Littleford, Denise Scandura, Ray Silver and Diana Souza.



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.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, May 20th from 10 AM–3 PM. Priests and staff will be attending the Catholic Women of the Year luncheon with our St. Anne nomination, Kathleen Fox.

THANK YOU, JYLLIAN RHODES

Our Youth Minister and Confirmation Coordinator, Jyllian, has started a ministry called Faith + Family Collective (faithandfamilycollective.com) with her mother, Pam Hurwitz. They provide resources, presentations, and workshops for parents and families. The two of them will be providing much appreciated formation as they empower, support, and resource the domestic church and we wish them all the best.

The thing people from other parishes are surprised to find here at St. Anne's is a thriving youth ministry. They imagine Seal Beach as a kind of retirement community. But this is not the whole story; this year we had to turn away applicants because there was no more room for any additional participants; our parish center, our hall and even the backyard of our parish center were packed full. The teens come to St. Anne's because they know they will get something important out of it, both in the teaching and the fellowship. Many teens, after their own Confirmation, decide to move up to the leadership team to help facilitate the next year's confirmation groups.

All of this has been overseen brilliantly and with much enthusiasm by Jyllian for the last four years. Particularly she and her team are to be commended for the retreats they put together for our Confirmation participants each year, truly Herculean efforts. We are grateful for her service, her example and her faith. Go forth, good and faithful Jyllian, with our thanks and love.



Around the Diocese

MENTAL HEALTH FORUM

The Heart of God and His Church have always been with those who suffer. The Church is a natural refuge for those seeking comfort, guidance, and practical help. Our Lady Queen of Angels in Newport Beach is hosting a mental health forum on Thursday, May 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in their Parish Hall. “Anxiety and Depression—Realizing Solutions and Building Coping Skills” will be lead by Dr. Jeannie Loughhead, professor of psychiatry at UC Riverside. Participants will learn solid techniques and strategies and hear stories of hope and inspiration. All are welcome. For more information, email mholzmann@namioc.org or call 949-689-7400.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

Join Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Assyrian and Coptic parishes from across Orange County at the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity on Friday, May 31st at St. Paul’s Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine. The service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

SCOTT HAHN

ST. PAUL CENTER BIBLICAL THEOLOGY EVENT

Renowned author and biblical scholar Scott Hahn will be speaking at Christ Cathedral in Garden Grove on Saturday, June 8th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

He will explore the importance of Scripture in our lives today. Learn how Scripture illuminates our faith and how we can discover God’s plans for us by reading the Bible from the heart of the Church.

Registration is \$20 and open to all. Register at St.PaulCenter.com/Christ-cathedral-2019

AUTHOR FOCUS SERIES

In “The First Society—The Sacrament of Matrimony and the Restoration of the Social Order” Scott Hahn makes the startling claim that our society’s ills and its cures are rooted in whether we reject or accept the divine graces made available through the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony. On Wednesday, June 5th at the Freed Theatre, Christ Cathedral Campus, Mr. Hahn will speak about his book. A reception begins at 6:00 p.m., the Panel Discussion at 7:00 p.m. and a Book Signing at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person, available online at eventbrite.com/scotthahntalk.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

5/20 †Jullien Smith
 5/21 †Harry Spillane
 5/22 Trang Hall
 5/23 †Chris Schaal
 5/24 †Elizabeth Purtell
 5/25 †Ryan Delfosse
 (†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, Pat Giacomi, Ernie Ramirez, Mike Harvey, Mary Kiely, John Barnes, Katherine Irwin, Dcn. Gary Mucho, L. Tanguay, Mary Ann McCabe, Mary Kunz, Patrick Gallagher, Dewey Linehan

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

"Help me to journey beyond the familiar and into the unknown. Give me the faith to leave old ways and break fresh ground with You."

— St. Brendan

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. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

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.