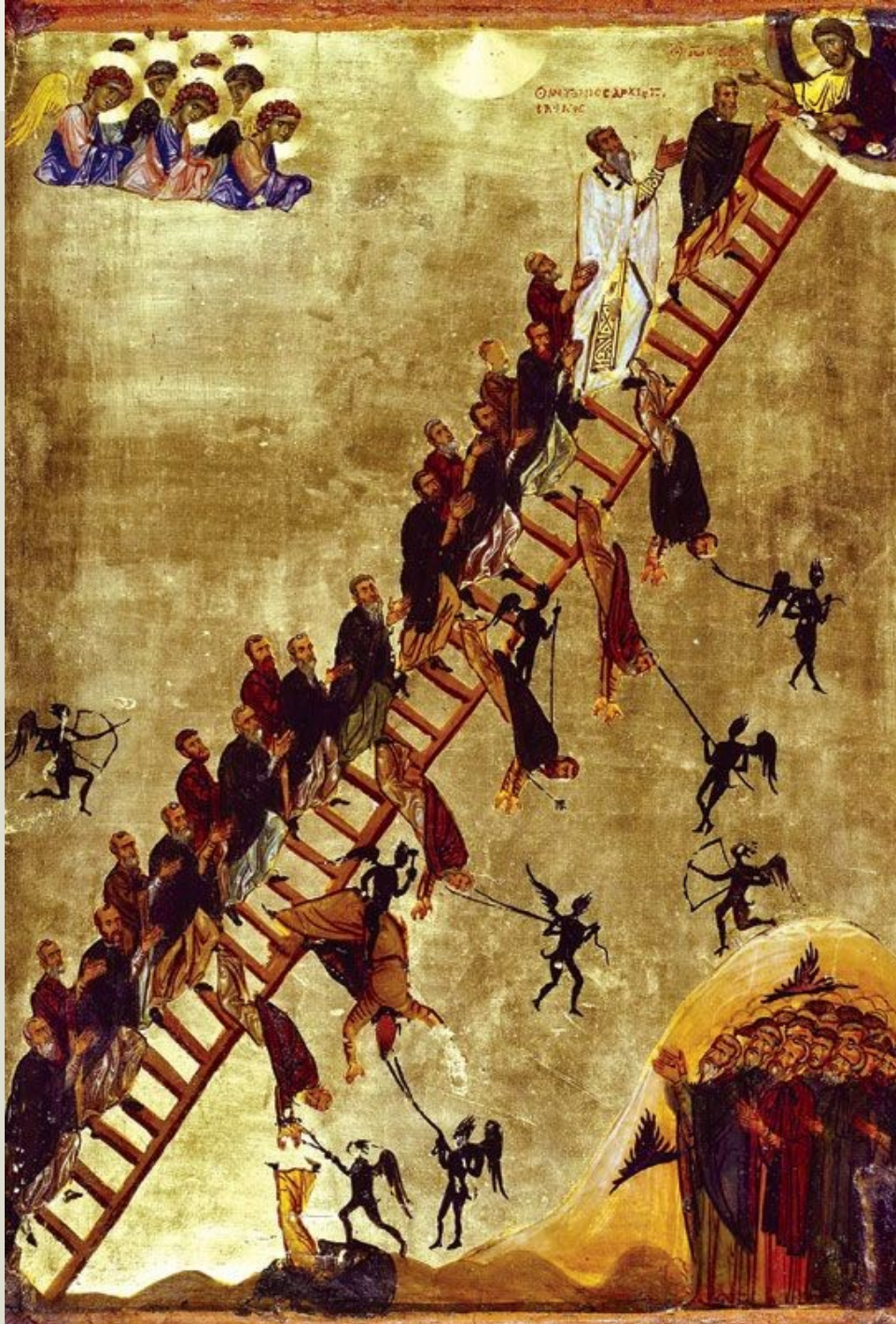


10 November 2019

Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



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

Fr. Timothy Nguyen  
Parochial Vicar  
pv@stannesealbeach.org  
562-431-0721 Ext. 11

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

Deacon Peter Nguyen  
dcn.peter@stannesealbeach.org

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

Rhea Garalde  
Youth Ministry/Confirmation  
ym@stannesealbeach.org  
562-431-0721 Ext. 15

Jan Cooper  
Front Office  
office@stannesealbeach.org  
Mon.—Fri. 8:00am to 4:00 pm

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

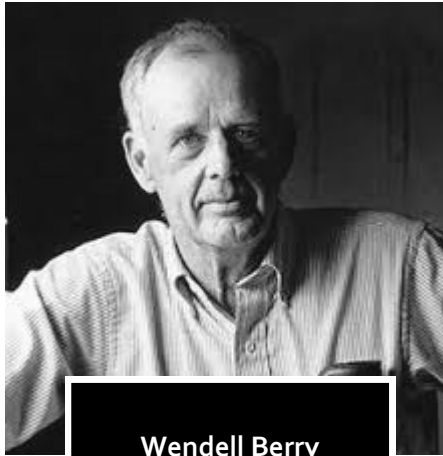
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## EXPERIENCE I

Yesterday evening as I was driving back to the parish for our pastoral council meeting, the sun had just set and the whole horizon was painted with bright orange on top and pacific blue on the bottom. At such times, I thank God not only for being our Creator but for doing such a beautiful job of it. True the Sahara may have too much sand (as camels know) and according to navigators, the Pacific didn't have to be quite so big, but those are small points when confronted by a breathtaking sunset.

God discloses himself in all the workmanship of the universe. A Jewish astronomer looking through his telescope can tell you that, but so can a Muslim researcher studying the DNA of a tiger. For all of us who believe, we are grateful for this manifestation of what John Calvin called an innate "awareness of divinity." But even an unbeliever can perceive the wonder in our lives.

Flannery O'Connor wrote, "The way to despair is to refuse to have any kind of experience." But what kind of experiences? Metropolitan Anthony said "It is not only with our hearts but with the totality of our experience that we know him day by day as the Apostles knew [Christ]." Even or perhaps especially reading can be such a moment, as Elizabeth Hardwick believes, "The greatest gift is the passion for reading. It is cheap, it consoles, it distracts, it excites, it gives you knowledge of the world and experience of a wide kind. It is a moral illumination." David Brooks finds "I connect more with a smaller group of people who struggle with faith, who wrestle with all the ridiculous unlikelihood of faith. I experienced grace before I experienced God, and sometimes I still have trouble getting back to the source."



Wendell Berry

It is important to remember that the mixture of faith and doubt can be particularly grace-filled. The great novelist Colm McCann has written, "My responsibility, I think ... is to talk about the dark, anonymous corners of human experience and about the value of those dark, anonymous corners. And intersecting with those dark, anonymous corners you have these famous lives, these big desires, and big issues." We find it in the beautiful complexity of art of any kind: "Complexity lifts art beyond entertainment and 'pleases' in the sense that it provides an encounter, a challenge, an awakening. It places demands on one to be a witness, to take a stand, to consider historical alternatives. It presumes a disposition to be engaged emotionally in the human turmoil. An art that engages and pleases has the multiple effect of an emotional, intellectual and spiritual experience," as David M. Leder has written.

The Buddhist spiritual writer Pema Chodron highlights the powerful grace that even pain can offer: "The message here is that the only way to ease our pain is to experience it fully. Learn to stay. Learn to stay with uneasiness, learn to stay with the tightening ... so that the habitual chain reaction doesn't rule our lives, and the patterns that we consider unhelpful don't get stronger as the days and months and years go by." We notice this when we meet someone and believe the encounter was the answer to our prayers. Maybe *all* experience is an answer to our prayers. This topic will be continued next week but, for now, Wendell Berry gets the last word: "To experience [life] is not to figure it out to even to understand it, but to suffer it and rejoice in it as it is....To treat life as less than a miracle is to give up on it."

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. For more information, please contact Russell Stark at 949-527-0172.

*"Help Us Help Those In Need"*

## WOMEN'S GUILD

### MEMBERSHIP

For membership information, please pickup a Women's Guild brochure and membership application from the back of the church. For more information, please call Kathy Stoddard at 707-477-0104.

## VOCATIONS AWARENESS

National Vocations Awareness Week was celebrated in the United States last week. It is dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education, and to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these vocations.



Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women and that they are inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community and respond generously to God's gift of vocation.

### PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving God, You speak to us and nourish us through the life of this Church community.

In the name of Jesus, we ask you to send your Spirit to us so that men and women among us, young and old, will respond to your call to service and leadership in the Church. We pray especially, in our day, for those who hear your invitation to be a priest, sister, or brother.

May those who are opening their hearts and minds to your call be encouraged and strengthened through our enthusiasm in your service. Amen.

We have a poster on our bulletin board of our Diocese of Orange 2019-2020 Seminarians. Each Seminarian has bookmarks that are available in the vestibule of the church. Please take one, or some, and pray for them to always feel God's love.



### 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.

## VETERANS DAY MASS



On Monday, November 11th, our 9:00 a.m. Mass will be celebrated in the memory, honor and appreciation of our Veterans, Active Duty Military, Reservists, and their families.

Please join us!

## FLU SEASON IS HERE

It takes about two weeks after receiving your flu shot to build up immunity so the sooner you get your shot, the better.

Flu vaccines have been updated for the flu viruses expected in the U.S. this year. All vaccines are quadrivalent and have been grown in cells, not eggs, a previous concern for those allergic to eggs. Stay well- In addition to getting your annual flu vaccine, the best way to prevent getting the flu is to wash your hands and stay away from people who are sick. If you do get the flu, stay home to prevent spreading the flu to others.

## NIMBLE FINGERS NEEDED

Nimble fingers are needed on Wednesday, November 13th, after the 9:00 a.m. mass to gently remove the plastic covers from our missals in preparation for the new liturgical year. Please join us in the church if you are able to help.



## MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Ministry to the Sick will have a meeting in the Parish Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 12th.

## THANK YOU

Many thanks to our Bereavement Ministry for preparing such a beautiful All Souls Mass. The members kindness to all who grieve and attentiveness to their needs are truly appreciated.

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## Around the Diocese

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### **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

The thought of facing the Thanksgiving and Christmas season can be overwhelming for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one. St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 5100. E. Broadway in Long Beach, is hosting an event to help participants cope with emotions, deal with traditions, survive social events and find hope for the future. The program will be held on Thursday, November 14th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in their Parish Hall. To register, please contact Sr. Dean at [MDPfahlerSND@la-archdiocese.org](mailto:MDPfahlerSND@la-archdiocese.org).

### **SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

The holidays are stressful enough without the added changes divorce creates. The Diocese of Orange will host a discussion evening at the Pastoral Center on November 21st from 7:00-8:30 PM. Topics will include expectations, managing emotions, and ideas to make the holidays special for every member of the family including you. All are welcome. For more information please contact Kelly Klaus at 949-292-7281.

### **WITNESS TO MERCY**

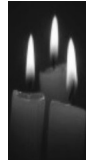
Come celebrate with Bishop Vann at the Diocesan Day of Service and Justice on Saturday, November 16th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at Christ Cathedral. This day will be a visible sign—a proclamation through people—of Christ's News for the poor and vulnerable and an expression of our commitment to walk as missionary disciples in charity and justice. For information, go to [witnessmercy.eventbrite.com](http://witnessmercy.eventbrite.com).

### **ODCCW GATHERING**

Please join the ODCCW at the Tuesday, November 19th General Gathering of Catholic Women at the Christ Cathedral Campus, Cultural Center Atrium to find out what is behind "The Culture Project" and the future for our young people. The donation is \$20 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Mass begins at 8:00 AM in the Arboretum, registration at 8:45 AM, and opening prayer at 9:15 AM. All catholic women are invited to attend! Reservations must be received by phone or email no later than Nov. 15th. For reservations, email [jimandpatmartin@gmail.com](mailto:jimandpatmartin@gmail.com) or call Pat at 714-892-5219.

## 9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

11/11 †Burke & Keating Families  
 11/12 †Marie Roudine  
 11/13 †Daisy Toor  
 11/14 †Maria Ruhmel  
 11/15 †Wendy Gillen  
 11/16 †Anthony Truong



(†Rest in God's love and peace)

## PLEASE PRAY FOR



Fr. Bob Vidal, Katia Bergstrom, Juanita Kho, Kathy Purcell, Julia Poirier, Jerome Gendron, Jim Ferguson, Mary Maskell, Mary Kiely, Steven Lang, Linda Bolt, Marlene Blackford, Bob Wagner, Bob Rattray, Julie Rivera, Pat Giacomi, Ernie Ramirez, Mike Harvey, John Barnes, Mary Kunz, Katherine Irwin, Dixie Redfean, Beverly Maybrier, Cathy Oliver, John Holland, Dorothy Ceballos, L. Tanguay, Leo Zuvich

"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God."

— St. Vincent de Paul

## 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 about our Faith Formation programs, please call 562-431-0721, ext.16 or email [faithformation@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:faithformation@stannesealbeach.org).

**Confirmation:** For information about Youth Ministry programs, please call 562-431-0721, ext. 15 or email [ym@stannesealbeach.org](mailto:ym@stannesealbeach.org).

**Marriage:** An appointment with one of our priests to begin marriage preparation must be made at least six 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.