

15 December 2019
Third Sunday in Advent

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



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

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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EMPATHETIC OPENNESS

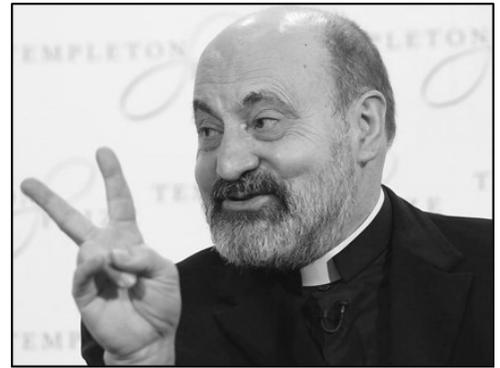
Msgr. Tomáš Halík is a parish priest and author in the Czech Republic. I was reading an English translation of his latest book recently and was confronted by this line: “The openness of the human heart and the openness of the Kingdom of God are one and the same openness.”

As we draw near to the feast of the Incarnation, what we contemplate is the Son of God as a tender newborn. We think back to the openness that Mary had to the message announced to her by the angel Gabriel. “May it be done unto me according to your word,” she said. When invited, nearby shepherds go to see this baby and congratulate the new mother; this comes as no surprise, as what else do they have to do on a cold night? I suspect they brought their sheep with them in order to continue to protect them against any hungry predators prowling in the fields. I wonder how Jesus reacted to all those sheep, “Baa, baa, baa, baa...”

Many years later Jesus, after asking for John's baptism and coming out of the waters, is told, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am pleased.” According to St. Mark's gospel, Jesus then immediately announced that the kingdom of God was at hand for all who were open to hearing the gospel by repenting. Those that were open to the kingdom of God came out to hear him preach on the hills and plains of Galilee. When the scribes and the Pharisees finally came out to see him, they were only watching for Jesus to make a mistake, to utter the wrong thing, to break the Law, so he could be condemned, which they will ultimately accomplish at a later date in Jerusalem.

Attitude is important. If you are not looking for anything, you certainly won't find anything. People who could have become your good friends will have to look for others to get to know. Ideas will be passed over

because you already judge them to be wrong. You'd be a lousy artist or scientist because you will have no inspiration. It's always the same old thing.



Msgr. Tomáš Halík

The novelist, Colum McCann, has another word for this needed openness: “The only true way to expand your world is to inhabit an otherness beyond yourselves. There is one simple word for this: empathy. Don't let them fool you. Empathy is violent. Empathy is tough. Empathy can rip you open. Once you go there, you can be changed.”

We settle for the same old, same old, because we are not inclined to change; we like ourselves just the way we are, if you don't mind. I'm fine.

One person can be too open and another can be not open enough. Where's the middle ground? Pope Francis draws the line for us: “True openness involves remaining steadfast in one's deepest convictions, clear and joyful in one's own identity, while at the same time being ‘open to understanding those of the other party’ and ‘knowing that dialogue can enrich each side.’”

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

KINGHTS OF COLUMBUS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus are collecting canned and boxed food donations (please, no perishables), and cash or checks at all masses **this weekend only**.

All donations will go towards assisting local disadvantaged families at Christmas.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come join our Knights of Columbus this Sunday, Dec. 15th following the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Masses for a Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall. The Knight's will be serving their almost "world famous" homemade buttermilk pancakes (blueberry and chocolate chip options also available) along with eggs, sausage and fruit. The suggested donation is \$6 per person and \$20 per family. All proceeds go toward the Isaiah House Blanket Project.

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 January 6th. For more information, please contact Russell at 949-527-0172.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

ISAIAH HOUSE BLANKET PROJECT

Chad Berlinghieri is making an appeal for donations to benefit the Isaiah House Blanket Project at all masses this weekend. Please consider supporting those in need of warmth during Southern California's coldest season of the year. If you'd like information about the project, or wish to make a tax-deductible donation online, go to CatherdralProductions.org

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

If you would like to donate a potted poinsettia plant to add to the glory of our Christmas decorations, please bring them to the Parish Office during the week, or drop them off at Coffee & Donuts on Sundays.

DAILY CHRISTMAS PRAYER

That I will grow in faith during these days of joy.
 That my hope will increase during these days of grace.
 That I will be a living sign of love during these days of glory. Grant me this gift, O Lord.



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.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND

Thank you hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to retired religious to receive financial assistance from the Retirement Fund for Religious. They offer prayer-filled thanks for your donations to last week's second collection of \$8,759.

ST. PADRE PIO HEALING MASS

Please join us on Monday, December 16th 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, call Janice at 562-537-4526.

CLEANING THE CHURCH

If you are handy with a dust rag or vacuum, please join other parishioners to help prepare our church for Christmas liturgies! Cleaning will begin after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Wednesday, December 18th. The more the merrier so please lend a hand!



ANGELS AND SHEPHERDS NEEDED

Calling all little (ages 4-7) angels and shepherds to be a part of our Christmas Story on December 24th at the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Angels and shepherds should wear a costume, their own or one borrowed from the Faith Formation office.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CONFESSIONS:

December 16-21 8:30-8:50 AM
 December 21 4:00-4:45 PM
 December 23-24 8:30-8:50 AM

MASSES:

December 24 4:00 PM, Children's Mass
 4:00 PM, Youth Mass (Hall)
 6:00 PM
 9:00 PM
 December 25 9:00 AM
 12:00 Noon



Dynamic Faith

REASON TO REJOICE

Dark violet is used throughout Advent to express its character as a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas and “the coming of the Lord.” But on the Third Sunday of Advent, formerly known as *Gaudete* (Latin for “rejoice”) Sunday, rose may be added to the liturgical environment. The entire liturgy is infused with a spirit of rejoicing.

Today’s first reading and Gospel proclaim the reality of God’s saving work in our midst. Isaiah exuberantly describes the idyllic transformation of all creation as a result of God’s presence in the midst of the people.

In the Gospel, Jesus connects Isaiah’s prophecy with what is happening in his own ministry. In addition to the list of healings from Isaiah (the blind, the lame, lepers, and the deaf), Jesus’ presence brings two other reasons for rejoicing: “The dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them”

(Matthew 11:5). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

VALENTINE DATE NIGHT

Register now for “Couples Sweetheart Date Night with The Lord” featuring guest speaker Fr. Christopher Smith on Saturday, Feb. 8th at the Cathedral Cultural Center. The event will begin with Mass at 4:30 p.m. and include a prayer, dinner and dancing. For more information email Sr. Mai at amailhc@christcathedralparish.org or call 714-971-2141.



NEW HOPE CRISIS HOTLINE

The New Hope Crisis Hotline provides telephone crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Orange County. Trained crisis workers provide counseling to those who are struggling to cope. Free services are available 24/7 by calling 714-639-4673.

THE LOOK OF LOVE

What does love look like?

It has feet to go to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

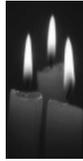
It has ears to hear

the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

12/16 †Mike Porter
 12/17 †Jim McArdle
 12/18 †Cathal Flood
 12/19 †Dan Leahy
 12/20 John & Rita Agustines
 12/20 †Bill Matheus
 12/21 †Truong Ancestors
 (†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 Redfearn, Beverly Maybrier, Cathy Oliver, John Holland, Dorothy Ceballos, L. Tanguay, Leo Zuvich, Ed Michaud

"If you do not hope, you will not find what is beyond your hopes." — St. Clement of Alexandria

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 Faith Formation programs, please call 562-431-0721 ext. 16 or email faithformation@stannesealbeach.org.

Confirmation: For information about our Youth Ministry programs, please call 562-431-0721 ext. 15 or email 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.

Sacrament of the Sick: In case of serious illness, contact the Parish Office.

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.