

8 December 2019

Second Sunday in Advent

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



Saint John the Baptist Preaching

Msgr. Mike Heher, Pastor
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Fr. Timothy Nguyen, Parochial Vicar
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Fr. Robert Vidal, Pastor Emeritus | Fr.bob@stannesealbeach.org

Deacon Peter Nguyen | dcn.peter@stannesealbeach.org

Amy Papageorges, Faith Formation
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Rhea Garalde, Youth Ministry/Confirmation
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Jan Cooper, Front Office
office@stannesealbeach.org | Mon.—Fri. 8:00am to 4:00 pm

Tim Kimminau, Cleaning & Maintenance

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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MARTYRS

In 2015, 21 Egyptian Christians were beheaded on the beach in Sirte, Libya by members of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant. The murderers put photos and a video of their gruesome massacre up on YouTube to shock the world, and the world was indeed shocked. The video entitled, “a message signed with blood to the nation of the cross,” was a clear call to arms of Muslims against Christians.

A new book about the deaths has been written by a German author, Martin Mosebach, but his focus is on the slain, not the slaying. It's entitled, “The 21, A journey into the Land of Coptic Martyrs.” Mosebach visited the martyrs' families in El-Aour, Egypt. He discovered that the first response to the news about their fathers and husbands was not a desire for revenge or a call for government action. Mosebach reported that their grief was mitigated by joy. The video gave them closure for they had not known what had happened to them when they disappeared forty three days before, but “we now have a martyr in heaven and must rejoice,” he was told. They built shrines in their homes, gathered relics, composed hymns and depicted the deceased wearing crowns. Then, with help from the government and the support of their bishop, they constructed a vast pilgrimage church to which the martyrs' bodies

returned and could be venerated by visitors.

These men had been construction workers. Their lives were as ordinary as any of ours are. But their families attest that long before their loved ones were murdered, their lives were marked by prayer, devotions, and bible memorizations. Some in the West thought of them as victims, men in the wrong place at the wrong time, people used for political advantage. That is not how the Copts felt about it. Seeing the video, Coptic Christians witnessed the sacrifice of martyrs. On 21 February 2015 the pope of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Tawadros II (yes, there is more than one pope in the world!) announced that the 21 murdered Copts would be commemorated as martyr saints on the 8th Amshir of the Coptic calendar, which is February 15 in ours.

Pope Francis has pointed out that while they were being slain, “They only said 'Jesus help me ...' The blood of our Christian brothers is testimony that cries out. Be they Catholic, Orthodox, Copts, Lutherans, it doesn't matter: They're Christian!”

Msgr. Mike

Around our Parish

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will be collecting canned and boxed food donations (please, no perishables), and cash or checks at all masses through the weekend of Dec. 15th. All donations will go towards assisting local disadvantaged families. For more information, contact Brian Taylor at 949-378-7454.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Come join our Knights of Columbus on Sunday, December 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. 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 January 6th. For more information, please contact Russell at 949-527-0172.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

POINSETTIA DONATIONS



If you would like to donate a potted (6" diameter or larger) poinsettia plant to add to the glory of our Christmas decorations, please bring them to the Parish Center during the week, or drop them off at Coffee and Donuts on Sundays.

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 will be called up to sit on the steps approaching the altar during the gospel reading. Visiting guests are welcome, there aren't any rehearsals! Angels and shepherds should wear a costume; their own or borrowed from the Faith Formation office. To borrow a costume please email faithformation@stannesealbeach.org or call 562-431-0721 x 16.



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

Our second collection today is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in Catholic schools, hospitals, and agencies for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement and eldercare needs. Your gift today helps provide medications, nursing care and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please give generously.

ST. ANNE SCHOOL

St. Anne's School in Santa Ana has a wonderful celebration for Our Lady of Guadalupe feast day on Thursday, December 12th. Mass is at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch and then visits to classrooms. We will have carpools leaving St. Anne's parking lot at 10:00. Please contact JoAnn Rossi at 562 598-4967 or jarossi@verizon.net if you plan to attend.

ADVENT CLASSICAL CONCERT

Our parish will host an Advent Classical Concert on Monday, Dec. 9th at 7:00 p.m. Professional classical musicians will present an hour repertoire of classical and Christmas music in our sanctuary. Please plan to attend and invite your friends. This free concert is an early Christmas gift to our parishioners and the Community of Seal Beach.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR

A Children's Christmas Choir will perform at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve mass. All children ages 6-14 are invited to participate. Practices, led by Mr. Von Kolen, will be held on Tuesday, December 10th and 17th from 2:40-3:00 p.m. Different school dismissal times will be accommodated.



Snacks and beverages will be provided. Sign up at faithformation@stannesealbeach.org.

Dynamic Faith

SAINT JUAN DIEGO (1474-1548)

DECEMBER 9

How well Mary's own words describe Juan Diego: "God has cast down the mighty from their thrones and lifted up the lowly" (Luke 1:52). Through him, for the diverse peoples of the Americas, indigenous and immigrant, the Mother of God became known as their Mother, too. Cuauhtlatzin, his given name, means "One Who Speaks Like an Eagle," and Juan Diego faithfully delivered the Virgin's request that a church be built at Tepeyac where she had appeared to him. To the skeptical bishop's request for a sign, Our Lady showed Juan Diego roses blooming through stony ground, despite winter's cold. When he unfolded his *tilma* to present them to the bishop, imprinted there was Mary's image! Her blue sash and the flower over her womb were traditional Aztec symbols of pregnancy and new life. But her features were those of a *mestiza*, indicating mixed Aztec-European heritage. Thus to peoples too easily prone to a "clash of cultures," Our Lady of Guadalupe remains the enduring icon of unity-in-diversity, the fruit of our one baptism into Jesus, her Son. —Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING – He shall bring justice for the afflicted; the earth shall overflow with the knowledge of the LORD (Isaiah 11:1-10).

PSALM – Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever (Psalm 72).

SECOND READING – Glorify God by living in harmony with one another, welcoming each other as Christ welcomed you (Romans 15:4-9).

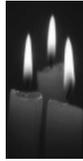
GOSPEL – Produce good fruit worthy of your baptism; repent, for the reign of God is near (Mt. 3:1-12).

EUROPEAN CATHEDRAL PILGRIMAGE

You are invited to join the Diocese of Orange on a pilgrimage to Prague, Austria and Germany led by Bishop Timothy Freyer, Auxiliary Bishop Fr. Christopher Smith and accompanied by the Diocesan Choir, Cathedral Choir and Dr. John Romeri, Music Director on June 14-23, 2020. For more information, go to www.petersway.com, call 800-225-7662 or email angela@petersway.com.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

12/9 Immaculate Conception
 12/10 †Burke & Keating Families
 12/11 †Ken Howe
 12/12 †For the People
 12/13 †Jackie Galang
 12/14 †Marie Roudine
 (†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, Ed Michaud

"O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me."
 — St. Benedicta of the Cross

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.