

2 February 2020

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Saint Anne

SEAL BEACH



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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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BIBLE

If you ask people about Catholics, they would say Catholics go to Mass weekly, that Catholics are obedient to the Pope and they have devotions like the rosary and The Stations of the Cross. People aren't likely to note Catholics for their love and knowledge of scripture. Other denominations have "Bible-Thumpers," not Catholics.

Pope Francis wants to change that. Last Sunday was the Word of God Sunday, a Sunday each year which focuses on the scriptures as a gift from God. "The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words," the pope wrote.

A typical "Bible-Thumper" knows his or her chapter and verse but a listener may hear the scriptures used as ammunition to support preconceived views; "proof texting" is what they call it. Hearing the Bible ought to be more like being enchanted by an opera or poetry reading; it's meant to elevate us, to draw us out of ourselves. The theologian, James Alison, highlights this: "Well, one of the things we mean when we say a text is Holy Scripture is that it knows more than we do, and when it doesn't fit into our logic, it is good for us to wrestle with it until it yields its logic to us, until, that is, we can allow its logic to open us up, rather than think that we can dominate it."

The problem is sometimes the opposite; we have heard certain scripture passages repeated so many times that we hear them and automatically think, "Oh that. I already know about that." The U2 singer, Bono, said something very interesting, "I'm not often comfortable in church. It feels pious and so unlike the Christ I read about in the scriptures." Maybe we do well to slow down and read the scriptures with an eye out for what is new, surprising or provocative. Martin Buber, the Austrian thinker, said, "The man of today . . . must read the Scriptures as though they were something entirely

unfamiliar, as though they had not been set before him ready made ... as though he had not been confronted all his life with sham concepts and sham statements which cited the Bible as their authority." Scripture can take your breath away, if you let it.

The passages in the Bible are addressed to each one of us individually. We open the Bible with our questions and problems and circumstances, which it enlightens and reformulates, setting us on unexpected paths. In other words, the scriptures read us as much as we read the scriptures. Read contemplatively, it brings us face to face with who we are.

When I was first ordained, I would read the assigned scriptures for the next weekend with my upcoming homily in mind. What should I tell the parishioners about these readings? I did not preach very well. If I had several Masses on a weekend, I would get bored with what I was saying; you can imagine those hearing me feeling the same way. Somebody must have said something to me because at some point I knew something was missing. Why? If I did not know what the Word of God was saying to me, I was not likely to envision my homily as a "breaking of the Word" that it was supposed to be.

I love something that St. Oscar Romero once said; it inspires all my scripture reading: "The Bible has a very meaningful expression: the Spirit makes all things new. We are those who grow old, and we want everyone made to our aged pattern. The Spirit is never old; the Spirit is always young."

If your Bible is gathering dust on the bookshelf, pull it down and, as Pope Francis said, "experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

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 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3rd. For additional information, please contact Russell Stark at 949-527-0172.

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE RESULTS

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus want to thank all those parishioners that helped make our annual food drive bountiful once again. We were able to provide 30 families each with 100 pounds of food and \$100 cash.

"Help Us Help Those In Need"

WOMEN'S GUILD

All parishioners are invited to attend our next Women's Guild meeting on Monday, February 24th at 6:30 p.m. Our guest speaker is Peggy Normandin, radio host of EWTN's "Call Me Catholic". She will present a light and lively talk on the blessings and perils of embracing our Catholic identity. Come join us! If you have questions call Desiree at 714-906-0996 or Jolinda at 714-655-6348.



Volunteers will be here next weekend after all Masses in the large hall with a Craft Sale featuring unique, quality handcrafts from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico and Bangladesh. Inspired by nature, these items honor indigenous traditions and were selected to be reminders that when a Concern America product is purchased we are providing a source of income to materially poor communities; promoting human scale endeavors; eco-friendly work patterns; and fair working conditions. Concern America is an international development organization based in Santa Ana. www.concernamerica.org



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.

PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

You should have received your letter from our Pastor, Msgr. Mike and a PSA brochure and pledge form in the mail. Our call to action for this year's Pastoral Services Appeal is **Our Faith, Our Future**. By supporting the work of our Church and participating in this appeal we will continue to strengthen Our Faith and Our Future. No gift is too great or too small. Once we have met the goal for our parish's share (\$60,450) for diocesan services, your donation will be returned to our parish and used to improve our sound system as Msgr. Mike has noticed some of you cupping your ears during Mass. There are a few brochures left in the vestibule if you did not receive one. Please stop by or call the office as well so we may check that we have your correct mailing address.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Please join us Friday, February 7th for Eucharistic Adoration from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Please sign up to ensure that every hour is covered. The sign up sheet will be in the vestibule a week before Adoration. All are invited to come pray with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

ROMANS: Gospel of Salvation

Romans: The Gospel of Salvation is a new eight-week Bible study we are offering that will help you make sense of the difficult passages regarding faith, works of the law, and justification. St. Anne will begin Romans on Thursday, February 6th at 7:00 p.m. Participants will meet every week to view an engaging thirty minute video presentation by Swafford/Cavins, followed by a lively group discussion and fellowship. For more information contact Joe Gallo at 562-343-8993. Registration forms are available in the church vestibule and the Parish Office. We hope you can join us!

Dynamic Faith

CAREER RENEWAL MINISTRY

Step into a more productive year in 2020! Come to a Career Renewal Ministry meeting on any Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. Find and give encouragement to fellow job seekers. For more information contact Kathy Keller at 714-206-0885 or Ted Rozolis at 714-330-5067.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

All are invited to participate in the World Day of the Sick Mass in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday, February 8th at Christ Cathedral 13280 Chapman Avenue, Garden Grove at 10:00 a.m. Mass and ceremonies for anointing the sick, laying on of hands, blessing of caregivers and blessing with Lourdes water. Most Rev. Timothy Freyer, will be the Principal Celebrant.

THE POPES INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY 2020

Listen to the Migrants' Cries:

We pray that the cries of our migrant brothers and sisters, victims of criminal trafficking, may be heard and considered.

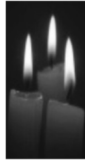


HOLY QUOTES BY POPE FRANCIS

To follow Jesus, mere good works are not enough; we have to listen daily to his call. He, who alone knows us and who loves us fully, leads us to push out into the depth of life. Here there is a message for us: The word of salvation does not go looking for untouched, clean and safe places. Instead, it enters the complex and obscure places in our lives. Now, as then, God wants to visit the very places we think he will never go.

9:00 AM MASS INTENTIONS

- 2/3 Olivia Randalls
 2/4 †Jose & Ramona Agustines &
 Pepe Agustines
 2/5 †Linda Mroz
 2/6 Ilsa Esquivel
 2/7 Seminarians
 2/8 †Paul Duffy
 (†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, 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, Ed Michaud, Bob Dutro.

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." -St. Basil the Great

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.