

SAINT MEL

Catholic Church

14436 Triskett Road • Cleveland, OH 44111-2263

Reverend Mark Q. Fedor, J.C.D., *Pastor*



SAINT MEL

Mel is said to have been the son of Conis and his wife, Darerca, the sister of Saint Patrick. Mel accompanied his uncle to Ireland and helped to evangelize in that country. Mel is said to have had no fixed diocese, which might be explained by his being a missionary. Saint Patrick himself built the church at Ardagh and to this he appointed his nephew, Mel. The cathedral at Ardagh is dedicated to Saint Mel. Acting upon the counsel of Saint Paul, Mel supported himself by working with his hands, and what he gained beyond bare necessities, he gave to the poor. The Feast of Saint Mel is on February 6th.

PARISH INFORMATION

PHONES

Rectory Office: 216-941-4313
Fax: 216-941-1093
Email: church@stmel.net
Website <http://www.stmelparish.net>

Weddings: Couples need to make arrangements at least six months prior to the wedding date. No date may be reserved until after a discussion with the priest of the parish.

Funerals: Arrangements must be confirmed with the rectory office by the funeral director before any publication in the newspaper.

Baptisms: On the first and third Sundays of the month, following the 11:30 AM Mass. Arrangements should begin to be made about three months before the birth of the child.

Rite of Christian Initiation: Persons interested becoming members of the Catholic Church are asked to call the rectory office for information.

Anointing of the Sick: In the case of an emergency, please call the rectory office immediately. Please notify the rectory office for communion calls to the homebound, or visits to parishioners in the hospital.

Registration: New parishioners are asked to call the rectory office to register. Please call if there is a change in address or when moving out of the parish.

Rectory Office Hours: Monday through Friday: 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Hall available for catered events. Call Catered Affairs of Cleveland at 216-671-9833.

Share-a-Meal Program: Sponsored by St. Ignatius Church and supported by St. Mel Parish. Meal is held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at St. Ignatius Church, 10205 Lorain Avenue, Cleveland. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Dinner is served at 5:30 PM.

MASSES

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 PM
Sunday: 7:00, 9:30, 11:30 AM

Weekday Masses

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 6:45 AM
Thursday 5:45 PM

Holy Day Masses other than Christmas & New Years

Weekday evening before the Holy Day: 5:45 PM
Holy Day: 6:45, 10:00 AM

Confessions: Thursdays 5:00 - 5:30 PM
Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00 PM

MASS INTENTIONS**MONDAY DECEMBER 3 - St. Francis Xavier**

6:45 AM All Souls' Day Intentions

TUESDAY DECEMBER 4 - St. John Damascene

6:45 AM Donna Finnerty - Family

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5

6:45 AM Virginia R. Fickel

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6 - St. Nicholas

5:45 PM Anna Nagy - Family

FRIDAY DECEMBER 7 - St. Ambrose; First Friday

6:45 AM William Scanlon - Tom & Karn Jubeck

- Vigil: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

5:45 PM St. Mel Parishioners

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8**- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

10:00 AM Eleanor Staud - Daughter

- Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

4:30 PM Rebecca Muldoon - Family

SUNDAY DECEMBER 9 - Second Sunday of Advent

7:00 AM St. Mel Parishioners

9:30 AM Kathleen Laurent - Don Bothwell

11:30 AM Loretta Prcela - Uncle, John Prcela



*I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just in the land.
Jeremiah 33:15*

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER Patricia "Tish" Kettel who died on November 17, 2018. *May God grant peace and comfort to her family and friends.*

WEDDING BANNERS

II Kevin N. Nycz (Holy Family)
and Rachel A. Gooding (St. Mel)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17;
Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a;
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4;
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

HYMNS AT ST. MEL**Opening Hymns for Masses**

12/02 #189 The Advent of Our King



Memorial Acclamation We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection, until you come again.

Communion Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

SUNDAY COLLECTION

11/18/18: Offertory	\$3980	11/25/18: Offertory	\$4350
Monthly	\$76	Monthly	\$340
Repairs/Maintenance (Extra Ordinary)	\$4142	Repairs/Maintenance (Extra Ordinary)	\$120

A SERVER IS NEEDED for the Saturday 4:30 PM Mass on December 15 and 22. Any adult or student willing to serve call the rectory.

RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND COLLECTION**December 8-9**

Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others—educating the young, comforting the sick, seeking justice for the oppressed. Today, many are frail, elderly, and in need of assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to furnish medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please give generously. An envelope for this collection was provided in your bi-monthly packet of envelopes. Drop it in with the regular collection next week.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATIONVigil Mass: Friday, December 7 at 5:45 PMMass Schedule: Saturday, December 8 at 10 AM only**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

5:45 Paul Filippi, Pauline Joseph, Teresa Paez

10:00 Doris & John Colombo, Brendan Gilbride

LECTORS: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

5:45 Mary Elizabeth Tinnirello 10:00 Deborah Roscoe

ADVENT PENITENTIAL CELEBRATION

The parishes of Blessed Trinity, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St. Mark, St. Mel, and St. Vincent de Paul, are holding a joint Advent Penitential Celebration (Communal Penance Service) on Tuesday, December 11, 7:00 PM, at St. Mel Church. Priests from the respective parishes will be available for individual confessions during the service. Please set aside this date to help prepare for Christmas by receiving the Sacrament of Penance.

THE RECITATION OF THE ROSARY on Wednesdays has ended for the winter months and will begin again in the Spring.

CHURCH OF SAINT MEL CHRISTMAS CARDS

\$5.00 per box (10 cards/box with envelopes) (2 cards of each style). Available in the St. Mel Card Shop located off the Gathering Area of the church.

SERVERS

5:45 PM Friday, December 7 Michael Prcela

10:00 AM Saturday, December 8 Susan Mitchell

4:30 PM Saturday December 8 Timothy Tinnirello

7:00 AM Sunday December 9 Mary Adkins

9:30 AM Sunday December 9 Jacob Novak

11:30 AM Sunday December 9 Audrey Harrington



PARISH CALENDAR

- TUES. 4 PSR: 6:30-7:30 PM in the church hall.
- THUR. 6 Confessions: 5:00-5:30 PM.
- FRI. 7 First Friday Communion Calls
Holy Day Vigil Mass: 5:45 PM.
- SAT. 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Mass for the Holy Day: 10:00 AM only.
Confessions: 3:00-4:00 PM.



OPLATEK (OPLATKI) CHRISTMAS WAFER
Available in the St. Mel Card Shop located off the Gathering Area of the church. Free Will Donation.

For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek - Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin work oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life.

On the Holiest Night of the year a festive 12 course meatless dinner is prepared for the gathered family and friends. An extra setting is placed for a beggar (our Lord) who may come to the door, or a poor family (the Holy Family) looking for a place to stay. The host or hostess leads the group in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone.

Traditionally at midnight the head of the household takes the pink oplatek and shares it with the animals on his farm or at his home. This custom brings us back to that Holy Night when even animals were able to speak, and to remind us that we are all God's creatures.

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT ST. MEL

As the time before Christmas, the Church's Season of Advent, progresses, the lighting of the St. Mel parish property follows the tradition of the Advent Wreath. During the first week of Advent, trees in front of the school building were lit. For the second week of Advent, lights in trees and shrubs surrounding the rectory were added. For the third week of Advent the area between the church and the school building has been illuminated. The remaining exterior lights, those around the church, will be turned on for the fourth week of Advent.

On Christmas Eve, the interior of the church, visible through the doors on Triskett Road, will be filled with light, completing the parish decorations that mark the remembrance of the birth of the Light of the World, the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ.

Take time during the evening or early morning hours to enjoy this reminder of the world's anticipation for the coming of its Savior. Especially during Christmas week, bring your children and grandchildren to see this expression of Faith by St. Mel parish in the joy and hope radiated by the presence of the Lord with us.

THE WESTSHORE CHORALE

"CAROLS AND CHORUSES OF CHRISTMAS"

Sunday, December 2 7:30 PM Tickets \$15; Students Free
Magnificat Center for the Performing Arts - 216-373-7773
20770 Hilliard Boulevard, Rocky River, OH



Growing in FAITH

Discovering **hope** and **joy** in the Catholic faith

Celebrate Christmas With Child-Like Wonder

There is no greater miracle than the gift of love Christmas represents. We didn't earn it and we can't deserve it. Yet, we get so harried with the holiday rush that we miss the wonder of it. Ever notice how children never do? This year, slow down and celebrate Christmas like a child.

Tie gifts with heartstrings. Instead of boosting credit card balances or draining your checking account, keep what you give simple, meaningful, and from the heart. For example, give a coupon for babysitting to friends with children. Prepare a meal for someone who needs a break from cooking.

Offer your hearth. The holidays can be lonely for people separated from their loved ones by distance, death, or circumstance. Watch for anyone who needs a "home" and invite them to yours.

Choose peace. Instead of enduring the Christmas commercials and bad holiday specials, record the good shows and watch while you relax. Or rent your favorite spiritual movies. Better still, turn off the television, computer, and cell phone, and enjoy the silence.

Greet the Babe with joy. Seek reconciliation in Confession so you can receive the Eucharist at Christmas.

Sing like an angel. Check your local listings for Christmas concerts, Messiah sing-a-longs, or other spiritual songfests. Host a caroling party in your home and sing loud with Christmas joy.

Honor the Spirit of St. Nick

St. Nicholas is one icon of the holiday season that has meaning in both the secular and spiritual celebrations of Christmas.

We know that St. Nicholas was born at the end of the third century in Asia Minor. His parents died when he was young and left him well off. His uncle, the archbishop of Myra (southeast of Turkey), ordained him and upon his uncle's death, Nicholas served as bishop until his own death. Throughout he suffered imprisonment and persecution.

One legend involving St. Nicholas concerns a desperate man on the verge of selling his daughters into slavery to pay his debts. Nicholas secretly threw a bag of gold into an open window (some say down the chimney) in the man's house to stop him.

Our present-day Santa Claus stems from the legends of St. Nicholas, but in the Church he is a saint, a confessor of the faith, and a holy bishop. We can learn from his generosity to the poor, and imitate his acts of kindness to others.

Feasts and Celebrations

December 4 – St. John Damascene (749). A Doctor of the Church and the last of the Greek Fathers, St. John was born in Syria when it was under Muslim rule and was counselor to the caliph. He is known for his writings in favor of the use of sacred images for devotion. These writings brought him into serious conflict with the heretical Christian emperor. He later became a monk under the direction of St. Sabas.