



### From the Pastor's Desk:

We begin with the end. As we enter into a new liturgical year, our first Scriptures are about the end of time. Every Advent begins with references to the coming of Christ in glory when all creation is witness to the completion of salvation history.

We are redeemed in Christ. We await his return. We not only wait, we even look for him to come again. One of our acclamations during the Eucharistic prayer even has us cry out, "Lord Jesus, come in glory!"

We'll expend a lot of energy in the next few weeks to prepare for Christmas. Are we prepared for the coming of the Lord at the end of time?

Father William

### Holy Day of Obligation

#### Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Thursday, December 8

Vigil, December 7, Wednesday, 7:00 pm

Feast day, December 8, 6:30 and 9:00 am, and 7:00 pm

**Parish Library** - Do you have questions about your Faith? Would you like to develop spirituality? Please visit our Parish Library each Sunday **after the 9:00 am Mass** in the Parish Activity Center. There are many books, tapes and periodicals available on topics such as, spirituality, theology, lives of the saints, sacraments, and family issues. Questions? Please call religious ed. at **598-0519**.

**Safeguard the Children Fingerprinting** - All parish staff, catechists, and volunteers who work with our children are required by the Archdiocese to be fingerprinted. There will be an opportunity to be fingerprinted here at St. Joseph's on Friday, **December 8**, in the Parish Activity Center. The hours are **12:00 to 4:00 pm and 5:20 to 7:20 pm**. Please call the religious education office at **598-0519** to **schedule an appointment**.



### From the Deacon's Desk:

My, my, I am still eating turkey leftovers and it's the First Sunday of Advent!!

We cannot live without HOPE. We hope for success in our endeavors. Hope is that quality of looking forward with expectation. As Webster's puts it: to believe, to look with desire to which expectations are centered. The Hebrew Scripture (Old Testament) is read during Advent to learn what to hope for. These readings give the "people of the Book" courage to hope for big things: the desert to be made fertile, their scattered people will gather again, the blind will see, the deaf will hear, the lame will walk in everlasting peace.

We hope for the same things but we differ with the "people of the Book" in that we believe (1) in the coming of Jesus in history as a partial fulfillment of God's promises that bolsters our hope, and (2) we differ because we believe that Jesus has revealed to us that God is not far off, but in our midst.

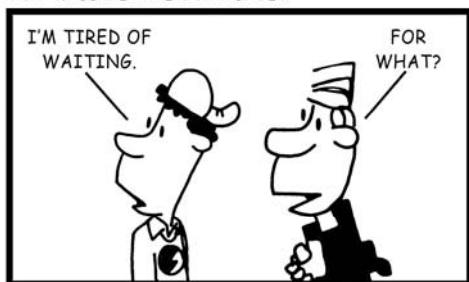
We owe a lot to Mary, our mother, for saying "yes" to the Angel Gabriel nine months ago. The joyful period of expectation calls us to listen to the Gospel and be attentive to the Word and make our "yes" to it.

Be sure to include your children in your prayers: children's prayers are very powerful with God.

Remember: Friday, December 8 is the IMMACULATE CONCEPTION feast day, a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION.

**Our Prayer:** Jesus, You honored us with Your presence in this world during Your life. You will honor us with Your presence again at the end of this life. You nurtured us in Word and Eucharist in the Church, which is Your body. During this season when we prepare to celebrate Your birth long ago, teach us that we can also celebrate Your coming every day. We believe that You are truly present in the people around us especially the poor, the forgotten, the sick and imprisoned and those who are alone. Help us to be with You when we are with them in spirit, in prayer, in helping hands that lift them up and comfort them. We humbly ask You to walk with us during this Advent. In the quiet of our hearts, allow us to discover You. Whenever and wherever we meet You, may we honor You by whatever we can give in return for the great gift of Your coming on that first Christmas. Amen

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / BY YOUR PERSEVERANCE  
YOU WILL SECURE YOUR LIVES



### Advent Reconciliation Liturgy

Please note that our Reconciliation Liturgy will be **Thursday, December 21 at 7:30 pm, not Dec. 14** as listed in our Christmas mailing.

**Collection for Retired Religious** - this coming weekend, **December 9 & 10**, please give generously to the Retirement Fund for Religious. These funds go toward the care of our elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and order priests. The retired religious will remember you in their prayers. God bless you for your generosity.

### Take a Stress-free Prayer Break.....

**Rosary PRO-LIFE SERVICE** - Join us for an hour to pray and say a rosary with the PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT. **MONDAY NIGHTS at 7:00 pm in the CHURCH. JOIN US** to pray for all human rights, from conception to natural death, in a lay rosary and prayer service. Bring your special intentions. CALL John, 430-5839, for a ride.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary Program:** Our **Advent Celebration** for our families takes place today at **10:15 am** in the hall. **No Class on Dec. 24 and 31** for the Christmas Holiday. Classes will resume on **Jan. 7**.

**Middle School:** Students and families will be caroling for the residents of Bellvista Convalescent Home on Tuesday, **Dec. 12**, from 7-8 pm. There will be **no class on Dec. 19, 26, and Jan. 2**.

**Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Next week, remember your item for our Movement for a Better World Baskets.

**Sunday Nursery:** We have caretakers for the 9 am and 10:30 am Masses, holidays included!

**Jesus is Lord!!** *St. Joseph Bible Study - The Gospel of John* begins with an amazing truth: the Word of God, God the Son, who existed before creation and by which everything was created, became human and lived with us. Come & stay awhile as we dwell in the mystery of our faith. Be transformed by the WORD. Christ in you, the hope of glory. Call Rita 714-761-4376 or the Religion Ed. Office for info.

**Calling all Married Couples** - The Office of Family Life's Marriage Preparation Program is looking for married couples (married in the Catholic Church) to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony through our One Day Marriage Preparation Classes. If you are interested, please call Candy Metoyer, 213-637-7250.

**Children's Beginning Experience** - ages 8-16, a weekend camp-like setting. The goal of each weekend is to help sort out and begin working through feelings of children who have experienced their parent's separation, divorce or death. For more information and registration, please call Dick Van Dusen, 310-216-8075.

**Concern America** - After all the Masses next weekend, **Dec. 9 and 10**, Concern America returns with **The Marketplace of Fair Trade Crafts**. Please consider purchasing gifts that will warm the heart of the recipient and promote justice and fair trade for the families in Central America and Bangladesh who produce the crafts. Through your appreciation of their crafts and your generosity, many materially poor artisans will be able to earn a just wage, support their families, and keep alive their cultural heritage.

Concern America, is an international development and refugee aid organization based in Santa Ana, CA, 714-953-8575. You may view a selection of their crafts on the website: [www.concernamerica.org](http://www.concernamerica.org).

**What is fair trade?** Fair trade means trading partnerships based on reciprocal benefits and mutual respect; that prices paid to producers reflect the work they do; that national health, safety, and wage laws are enforced; and the products are environmentally sustainable and conserve natural resources.



**New members are welcome, any age!**

Hall is closed Dec. 4.

**Dec. 11** - **Please bring your gifts for Project Achieve** to this meeting so we can get them together & ready for delivery on Dec. 18. If you have not purchased anything, donations are accepted so we can get what is needed - we have a group of people to do this. Thanks.

**Dec. 18** - Christmas party - catered lunch and great entertainment. This year we are doing gifts for **Project Achieve**. We will issue you a list of what is needed! Cost of Christmas lunch is \$10. Checks only please.

**Jan. 8-10** - Our annual Laughlin trip includes our big party champagne buffet, music & dancing. Call Olga or Betty for more info. Cost is \$83 per person double occ, \$97 per person single. Please note: **one bag per person** and one carry on. Price includes bus driver tip. Laughlin bus trip leaves at 9:00 am.

**Jan. Meeting Information:**

**Jan. 1** - New Years - no meeting

**Jan. 8** - Most of us will be in Laughlin

**Jan. 15** - First meeting of the new year. Dues will be collected - \$5 a year.

**Any questions - call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287.**

**LECTORS: Please come to the rectory to pick up your new Lector Workbook as soon as possible.**

**Quote from Tradition**

The Lord speaks words of comfort to the elect. For he says, When these things come to pass, look up, and lift up your heads, because your redemption is at hand. It is as if the Truth openly says, be joyful in your hearts, because the world, of which you are not friends, is drawing to its end; the redemption you have been seeking is coming close. To lift up your heads means to raise the heart to the joys of the heavenly fatherland. They who love God are told to be glad, and to rejoice, because of the end of the world; since soon they will meet him whom they love, and that which they have never loved is passing away. Far be it from any of the faithful who desire to see God to grieve over the stricken world, which we must know will end in these catastrophes. Whoever is a friend of this world, becomes an enemy of God. Whoever does not rejoice at the approaching end of the world testifies that he is its friend, and by this he is revealed as an enemy of God. But let this be far from the faithful, far from the hearts of those who believe through their faith that there is another life, and who love it in every deed. Let they who have planted the roots of their hearts deep in the love of the world grieve over its ruin, they who neither look for the life to come, nor are even aware that it exists. But we who know the joys of our heavenly home must hasten to it as speedily as we can.

*St. Gregory the Great, On the Gospels, Homily 1, ca. 540-604*

### School News

Please join us on Sunday, **Jan. 28** from **2:00 to 5:00 pm** for the dedication of our football field to Coach Fitz. Come and help us honor this St. Matthew boy who made it to the top at St. Joseph School. If you have any stories, pictures, or memories of Coach Fitz you would like to share, please send them to the school office by Jan. 5.

St. Joseph's 18th Annual Basketball Tournament is from **Dec. 5 - Dec. 9**. Please come and join us for some great basketball.

Once again, St. Joseph parish school is having a **"Casino Night"** Fundraiser. The proceeds will be used to purchase new books for the school. Mark your calendars for Saturday, **February 3**, from **6:30 to 11:00 pm**. Tickets are \$25 which includes dinner and \$100 funny money chip given to each guest to play blackjack, roulette and craps. Winnings can be turned in for a chance to win prizes. We are looking for table sponsors and donations for the event. Tickets can be purchased at the school office or the rectory.

**Congratulations** to graduates of St. Joseph Elementary for achieving honors for the first quarter:

**Lauren Terrebrood, Connelly High School**  
**Rachel Nguyen, Rosary High School**

**Parish Fair:** Please join us on **Dec. 6** at **7 pm** in the PAC for our first planning meeting. We encourage those interested in helping to attend. The fair dates are April 27 - 29. Any questions, you can call Isabel Schleeter at 597-3992 or Chris Knight at 594-6447.

### Small Faith Community

**Invitation to Reflect:** Salvation is coming to the world and it is coming through the Son of Man. Pay attention, we are warned, for he comes when you least expect him. Ears opened, cast your eyes to what is going on around you so that you recognize him when he is near.

As we begin our preparation for the celebration of Christmas, these words remind us that Advent is a time for peace and quiet. This is an ironic contrast to the way the season is celebrated in our culture. Why is Advent a time meant for peace and quiet? So that we can detect those hints or signals of God's presence in our lives; so that we can hear when God knocks on the door of our consciousness; so that we may respond "Yes" to God's call. The call may come in the guise of our suffering neighbor. God often calls us to pay attention to those whose needs we can attend. Our need to be still and listen opens in us opportunities to see, hear and respond. Otherwise, the stranger will pass by us unnoticed; Jesus will not be born in our hearts.

**Invitation to Sharing:** \* How can I structure "listening time" to hear God's call during this busy season? \* How can Mary's openness to God's call serve as a model for me? To what insight or action might Jesus be leading me? \* Realizing that Jesus is present in the people and places we least expect, what can I do for someone less fortunate?



Thanksgiving Food Delivery - if you haven't turned your family data sheet in, CALL ME to PICK IT UP. These are very **critical**, call 430-5839!

Christmas Delivery will be Dec. 16th.

**Call Patty Brio to help deliver, 425-**

**5964.** Our Christmas delivery is MAJOR. We will be delivering beautiful presents and food. Our volunteers have 64 families to help this year. Watch for the envelopes on the Christmas Trees in back of church. If you take an envelope from the tree, we need the gift wrapped and returned to Church the following weekend by 12:30 pm on the 10th of December for sorting. **This is all the time we can give you.** Please understand that this is a HUGE sorting commitment for one day.

**L. B. Project Achieve...** Our newest mission. Call John/Jan or Tina Gath. Many of our parishioners have helped already. We, as a parish, are trying to provide three meals each month. Can you help us once a month?

Please keep using the **BLUE "Skip-a-Meal" Envelopes** to help us. Make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: Skip-A-Meal. Your **blue envelope donations** are sooo appreciated! Our balance is about \$4,500 now and we need to be at \$6,000 by Christmas for the Christmas Food Gift Baskets, including funds for Wednesday lunches & Concern America donations. Thank you for helping so many in Long Beach.

### Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

**Allyne Bond**  
**Michael Lowen**  
**Louie Rocha**  
**Henri Coultas**

**Sr. Carmel Mary McCarthy, SSL**



Our  
Weekly Offering



Last week: \$12,110

Last year: \$13,205

### Welcome to St. Joseph Parish

**Whether you are a long-time resident, newly arrived, or a visitor, we wish you the Peace, Joy and Love of Christ.**

Everyone 18 years and older is invited to register and become a member of our parish community. If we can help you in any way, please call us at **562-594-4657**.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like to register  
☐ This is a change of address and/or phone  
☐ I am moving out of the parish

Please drop in the collection basket or rectory mailbox.

# Mass Intentions



## SATURDAY, December 2

5:00 PM - † Botelho and Salvati family

## SUNDAY, December 3

7:30 AM - † Scot Mattox

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Lourdes Hemady

12:30 PM - † Edna Figueroa

## MONDAY, December 4

8:00 AM - † Mike Keller

## TUESDAY, December 5

8:00 AM - † John DeRuyter

## WEDNESDAY, December 6

8:00 AM - Salvador Valdez, Special Intention

## THURSDAY, December 7

8:00 AM - Salvador Valdez, Special Intention

7:00 PM - † Maria Lan Dang

## FRIDAY, December 8

6:30 AM - † Dorotea Cruz

9:00 AM - † Hildegard Hennesey

7:00 PM - † Richard Dole

## SATURDAY, December 9

5:00 PM - † Henry O'Brien

## SUNDAY, December 10

7:30 AM - † Patricia Elliott Woods

9:00 AM - † Robert Chaffee

10:30 AM - † Sgt. Michael J. Tetreault Jr.

12:30 PM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .** Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Toni Morrison, Irene Risko, Stacey Cormier, Dortha Bradley, Mary Lovelace, Jeanne Sexton, Christina Knight, Benjamin Gentry, Vicky Munda, Bernard & Jan Carpenter, Bert Willis, John Barycki, Alexander Crook, Becky Fremgen, Phil McCafferty, Honey Weinstein, Mary Mariano, Anna Sharples, Paul Halliburton, Heather Choppin, Lydia Simpson, Susan Meicht, Elizabeth Rouse, David Sudakou, Jesse Torres, Mike Lowen, Helen Belli, Dick Ingalls, Cletus Schmidt, Tony Bernardo, David Dresnick, Dorothy Custer, Margaret DeRuyter, Christopher Moore, Lala Rocha, Diane Stowers & Ross Mariano.

**Please remember in your prayers** the men and women of the Armed Forces who are currently serving our country in the Middle East and elsewhere, especially those of our parish families, including:

Vincent Vezzetti  
Christopher Ward  
Amy Mann  
Nick Compton  
Joseph Comfort  
Peter LuPiba  
Scott Williams

Raul Carranza  
William T. Worthy, Jr.  
Glen Warren  
Joseph LaRiccica  
Irene Avila  
Kevin Roberts  
Justin Ray

We would like to have a framed picture of your loved one serving in the Service to display in the back of the church. Please include a number so we can contact you.

To add a name to the list, please call the rectory, 594-4657.

## LITURGY

DIRECTOR of LITURGY	Fr. William	594-4657
ALTAR CARE	Mary Jelnick	429-2529
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION	Gene Ensich	421-0147
LECTORS	Bill Smith	431-2495
USHERS	Ron Steiner	431-7703
ALTAR SERVERS	Craig Lawrence	430-0913
	craigslawrence@yahoo.com	
DIRECTOR of MUSIC	Vivian Doughty	422-5430
CHURCH SACRISTANS	Lily & Joe Dang	493-2198

## ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

562-596-6115

PRINCIPAL	Brid Considine
VICE-PRINCIPAL	Carole Dellavalle
SECRETARIES	Vera Feliciani & Bridget Paluska
PTO PRESIDENT	Linda Smith

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Virginia Young
SECRETARY	Veronica Gibb

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL	Virginia Young	598-0519
CONFIRMATION	Cindy Rodriguez	598-0519
EARLY CHILDHOOD	Shannon Carpenter	430-6840
LITURGY/CHILDREN	Virginia Young	598-0519
RCIC (Children)	Virginia Young	598-0519
SUNDAY NURSERY	Shannon Carpenter	430-6840
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN	Mimi Bloeser	597-0785

## ADULT MINISTRY

RCIA INQUIRY	Shane & Olga Cuda	594-4657
RCIA	Peter Baine	598-4130
BIBLE STUDY	Rita Smith	714-761-4376
BAPTISM PREPARATION	Roman & Julia Escoto	425-4834
	Terri Traucht	
SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES	Don & Tina Gath	598-5202

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE SICK

Nancy Miller	429-2546
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## PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PASTORAL COUNCIL	Peter Baine	598-4130
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0143
	rely5@verizon.net	
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Mike Santy	799-0660
	msanty@verizon.net	
FAMILY ROUND TABLE	Marianne Schaeffer	594-8678
MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD	John & Jan Minter	430-5839
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	Nancy Miller	429-2546
RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL	Michelle Parize	477-3647
SENIOR GROUP	Betty Maligie	596-8287
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Ron Steiner	431-7703
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER	Jim & Theresa Murphy	431-5025
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER	Tom & Pat Halliwell	799-0921
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	Greg & Beth Gath	377-5877
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN	Shannon Carpenter	430-6840
GIRL SCOUTS	Cynthia Stabelfeldt	421-8492
CAMP FIRE GIRLS	Cyndy Diaz	421-2006
CUB SCOUTS	Douglas Alchorn	594-9407
BOY SCOUTS	Tom Zofrea	493-2940

**BULLETIN NOTICES DEADLINE - MONDAY 1:00 PM**  
PLEASE SUBMIT NOTICES IN WRITING WITH NAME & PHONE