



From the Pastor's Desk:

John the Baptist, one of the great Advent figures, makes his appearance in today's Gospel. While John's role as herald for Jesus is evident in each of the Gospels, St. Luke gives a much more detailed account of John's role.

In the infancy narrative in Luke (chap. 1-2)

John's annunciation and birth parallels the same events in Jesus' infancy. In today's selection, the Gospel writer puts the words of Isaiah on John as though he is being given a mantle of prophecy: "A voice of one crying in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord.'"

We may ask ourselves, "In what way is the life of John the Baptist like my life? How do I prepare the way of the Lord for my family members, or my neighbors, or those with whom I work?"

Father William

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.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:
Schedules are now available in the sacristy.

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

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**.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ALL MANKIND SHALL SEE
THE SALVATION OF GOD



From the Deacon's Desk:

Why the "Liturgy"? Christ brings perfect WORSHIP to God and He invites us to participate fully which is to join Him in this WORSHIP. We PROCLAIM the Word, and Christ becomes present. We need to know about the REAL presence of Christ. The main goal of the Second Vatican Council was to call all to a "Full, Active, and Conscious" participation in the Liturgy. This means "when you receive worthily, you are what you have received." ...St.

Augustine. We make PRESENT for us: we enter into "God's time"; we enter into His "now". This is why it is so important to be focused (Active and Consciously participating). He loves us, He wants to be with us, He wants us to be one with Him. "When we remove all obstacles to His presence, He will come." ...St. Charles Borromeo, bishop.

St. Joseph's Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion showed an overwhelming presence at the regional workshop at St. Margaret Mary parish in Lomita last Saturday. We had 38 ministers present. It was an awesome sight to see. I was extremely proud of this showing. Thank you Gene and Shirley Ensich, our leaders, who must have bribed each of them (just kidding). It was truly a day of enrichment and grace.

Our Prayer: O Lord, grant that our works of penance may please You and that we may be ready for Your kingdom which is near. Prepare a path in our hearts for the coming of Your Word, and let His glory be revealed among us. Bring low the mountains of our pride, and fill up the valleys of our weakness. Break down the wall of hatred that divides the nations and make level for us all the paths to peace. Amen.

Men's Retreat

All men age 18 & up are invited to participate in a men's retreat **January 5-7** at the Serra Retreat House in Malibu. For information, please call Shane Cuda, 493-0541.

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

**Barbara Cookerly
Marcene Hughes
Joseph Smith
Ann Martin**



Monday Night....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: 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 7:00 - 8:00 pm. There will be no class on Dec. 19, 26, and Jan. 2.

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Thank you for bringing your item for our Baskets. Great job, community helpers! Next week - singing in the hall after Mass! Remember to invite family & friends and bring your cameras and camcorders. Get ready to be moved by the Spirit!

Sunday Nursery: We have caretakers for the 9:00 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.

The History of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Come to the rectory to see this beautiful hardcover book filled with colorful pictures. We have many copies available for sale at only \$40 each. As Cardinal Mahony states, this book is "the most extensive, comprehensive and elegant of any of its kind yet published in our nation." What a unique Christmas gift this would be!

Marketplace of Fair Trade Crafts presented by Concern America - Fair trade coffee, beautiful handmade craft items from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Bangladesh and Ecuador for sale after all the Masses this weekend. By your purchase of these gift items, you support the development work of Concern America and help to provide a fair and just wage for many materially poor families. We invite you to think about honoring your family and friends in a very special way this coming Christmas season by choosing gifts with meaning and purpose. Concern America is an international development and refugee aid organization based in Santa Ana.



New members are welcome, any age!

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.

St. Cecilia's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Dec. 12. Please join us at noon at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant. Questions, please call Ruth, 431-0288.

Attention: The 50+ Singles of St. Pancratius (Divorced, Single, Widowed Catholics), 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lkwd, will meet on Sunday, **Dec. 17 at 2 pm** in the Conference Room (behind Parish Hall). Info: Mary, 596-9449.

Evenings of Quiet Reflection at St. Bartholomew Church, Fridays throughout Advent, 7:30 - 8:00 pm or 8:00 - 8:30 pm. For more information please call Pat Metzger 433-2452 or Barbara Brown, 433-7901.

Ministry Formation Course - Basic faith "formation" is an essential step in developing ourselves as proclaimers of the message of Jesus Christ. It is our belief that ministers, both catechetical and liturgical, nurtured and fed first in an adult fashion in their own faith are then able to minister more effectively. If you are pursuing certification as a Catechist (Early Childhood through Adults), Youth Ministry and Confirmation Team Member, Initiation Team Member, or Liturgical Minister, this course will fulfill the basic requirements of the Theological Phase toward certification. Others seeking adult enrichment are also welcome to attend. Course will be held at St. Cornelius beginning Jan. 4 through Mar. 8. For further information, please call Dorothy Kemeny, 429-7521, or our Religious Education Department, 598-0519.

School News

Please join us Sunday, **Jan. 28** from **2-5pm** for the dedication of our football field to Coach Fitz. If you have any stories, pictures, or memories of Coach Fitz you would like to share, send them to the school office by Jan. 5.

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.

Quote from Tradition

The word of God was given to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. Note that this has more meaning if the desert is considered mystically, and not according to its literal sense. The precursor of Christ and the voice of one crying in the wilderness preach in the desert of the soul that has known no peace. Not only then, but even now a bright and burning lamp first comes and preaches the baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Then the true Light follows: *he must increase, but I must decrease*. The word was given in the desert and came forth to all the country around the Jordan. For to what other places should the Baptist journey unless to those close to the Jordan, so that whoever had the will to repent, would be there near the water of purification? The name of Jordan is interpreted as *descent*, or *coming down*. Coming down and running in a bounteous flood is the river of God, the Lord our Savior, in which we were baptized. This true and life-giving water is, he proclaims in his baptism, for the forgiveness of sins. Come then, Catechumens, do penance that you may receive in baptism the forgiveness of your sins. Let us hear what the voice announces: *Prepare the way of the Lord*. Which way shall we prepare for the Lord? Must we not prepare the way within us, setting up in our hearts a straight and true way? This is the way through which the Word of God enters, and comes to rest within the bounds of the human body. Great indeed is the heart of man, wide and spacious as if it were a world in itself.

Origen, Homily 21, On Luke, ca. 185-254

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.



Thanks for returning your family data sheets! Christmas Delivery will be Dec. 16th, 8:30 am. **We need more drivers! 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. If you took an envelope from the tree, we need the gift wrapped and returned to Church 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! Thank you for helping so many in Long Beach.



Last week: \$15,424
 Last year: \$13,395

Stewardship Commitment

If you have not had the opportunity to send in a pledge for this year, please fill out the Commitment of Treasure below and drop into the collection basket or the mail slot at the rectory.

Contributions which are considered part of your annual pledge include all money which goes directly to the parish and stays in the parish. These would include weekly envelope donations, Easter, Christmas and Holy Day donations. Other collections including Skip A Meal and archdiocesan collections do not stay in the parish and therefore do not go toward your pledge amount. If you should have any questions, please call the rectory, 594-4657.

Commitment of Treasure

All parishioners are asked to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough.

My/Our average commitment **per week** is: \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Envelope #: _____

☐ I would like to receive envelopes.

For questions, please call the rectory at **594-4657**.

Please drop in the collection basket or rectory mailbox.

Mass Intentions



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

MONDAY, December 11

8:00 AM - † Peter Anselmo

TUESDAY, December 12

8:00 AM - † Maria & Dominico Dang

WEDNESDAY, December 13

8:00 AM - † Julia & Floriyan Kocivar

THURSDAY, December 14

8:00 AM - † Bill Copeland

FRIDAY, December 15

8:00 AM - † Patrick Ryan

SATURDAY, December 16

5:00 PM - † Mary Jane Merk

SUNDAY, December 17

7:30 AM - † Frank Blavet

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Maria Payares

12:30 PM - Mass of Thanksgiving

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 & Tim Clark.

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	Raul Carranza
Christopher Ward	William T. Worthy, Jr.
Amy Mann	Glen Warren
Nick Compton	Joseph LaRiccica
Joseph Comfort	Irene Avila
Peter LuPiba	Kevin Roberts
Scott Williams	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,	Virginia Young	598-0519
MIDDLE SCHOOL	Cindy Rodriguez	598-0519
CONFIRMATION	Shannon Carpenter	430-6840
EARLY CHILDHOOD	Virginia Young	598-0519
LITURGY/CHILDREN	Virginia Young	598-0519
RCIC (Children)	Shannon Carpenter	430-6840
SUNDAY NURSERY		
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