



### From the Pastor's Desk:

The moral charges that John the Baptist gives in today's Gospel can be good examples for all of us as we prepare for Christmas. Many parishes offer some way of fostering charitable giving during this season, some opportunity to assist the poor.

Advent is more than preparation for the Christmas feast. Advent also prepares us for the end of time, when Christ will come again in glory. While we may feel good about our charitable giving before Christmas - and there's no reason we shouldn't - this is not the only time to share.

John the Baptist encouraged the people to be just in preparation for the coming of the Messiah. We are called to be just as we prepare for Christ's return at the end of time.

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.

### 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.

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION:**  
New schedules are available in the sacristy.

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

**Parish Library** - Our Parish Library will be closed today, December 24, 31, and January 7 due to painting in the Parish Activity Center and Christmas vacation. Please join us again on Sunday, **January 14**.

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
GOD IS INDEED MY SAVIOR:  
I AM CONFIDENT AND UNAFRAID



### From the Deacon's Desk:

It's not easy to follow the Lord. St. John says it is most urgent that we NOT yield to the sensual desires of the world. Never give your love to the world, or to anything in it. We cannot love the Father and love the world at the same time. St.

Cyprian in his sermon says, "The world hates Christians, so why give your love to it instead of following Christ, who loves you and had redeemed you?" He goes on to say, "We ought never to forget, beloved, that we have renounced the world. We are living here now as aliens and only for a time. What man, stationed in a foreign land, would not want to return to his own country as soon as possible? Well, look upon paradise as our country and a great crown of our loved ones awaits us there, a countless throng of parents, brothers, sisters and children longs for us to join them. Oh the delight of that heavenly kingdom where there is no fear of death! Oh the supreme and endless bliss of everlasting life!"

The true Advent (the coming) is not Christmas but the Second coming when our Lord will take us to that place He has prepared for us. Sometimes it is not an easy road and often the road less traveled but the right road. "Our obligation is to do God's will not our own. How unreasonable it is to pray the Lord's Prayer that God's will be done, and then not promptly obey it when He calls us from this world!" ... St. Cyprian

"Following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked." ... Anonymous.

**Our Prayer:** O God, as Your prophet John the Baptist instructs us, we ask not only Your forgiveness but Your loving help that we may turn away from being satisfied and complacent with our present lives, and make our every living day a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to You by our attitudes and by our actions. We ask this in Your Son's name in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

**Jane Mais  
Carl Saum**



### Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Bundle Sunday

On **Jan. 7**, our parish is having a Bundle Sunday. Please bring your usable clothing and usable household items to their truck here in our church parking lot. Help them in their endless efforts to assist the needy. They are in desperate need of furniture and large appliances. Call them for pick up of heavy items, 800-974-3571.

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

**Rosary PRO-LIFE SERVICE** - Join us for **just 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:** There will be no class on Dec. 19, 26, and Jan. 2.

**Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Singing in the hall after Mass! No class Dec. 24 or Dec. 31. Have the merriest of Christmas celebrations and a joyous New Year secure in the love of our Lord.

**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.

**ATTENTION FAMILIES WHO ATTEND THE 9 AM MASS**

We are in great need for more help with our **Liturgy of the Word with Children** at the **9:00 am Mass!!** This is a wonderful ministry and requires little training or time. Please feel free to observe when the children are dismissed. The catechists love extra help. We want this ministry to continue on an every week basis, but need more volunteers to make this happen! For information, please contact the Religious Education Office at **598-0519**.

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

**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!

**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 Kemery, 429-7521, or our Religious Education Department, 598-0519.

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

**Dec. 18** - Christmas party - 11:00 am - wine will be served. Lunch is served at 12.

**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. Trip full, stand by only.

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

**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.**

1 Corinthians 13 - A Christmas Version

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Author unknown

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**, December 24, regular Sunday Mass schedule.

**Christmas Vigil**, Sunday, December 24  
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 9:00 pm.

**Christmas Day**, Monday, December 25  
9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:30 pm. No evening Mass.

**New Year's Eve**, Sunday, December 31, regular Sunday Mass schedule. No evening Mass on Sunday.

**New Year's Day**, Monday, January 1  
9:00 am and 12:30 pm.

### 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.

St. Joseph parish school is having a **"Casino Night"** Fundraiser, Saturday, **Feb. 3**, from **6:30 to 11:00 pm**. Proceeds will be used to purchase books. Tickets are \$25 which includes dinner & \$100 funny money chip given to each guest to play blackjack, roulette & 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.



Last week: \$13,513  
Last year: \$13,487

### Quote from Tradition

John teaches us the reverence that is due to Christ by his own humility, saying, *whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie*. It was a custom of the ancients, that if a man were not willing to accept a woman as his wife, he should untie the shoes of the one who came by right of kinship to claim her as bride. How has Christ appeared among men, except as the Bridegroom of the church? John also says of him, *He that has the bride is the bridegroom*. But because the people believed that John was the Christ, which he denied, he rightly makes it plain that he is unworthy to untie his shoes. It is as if he were to say openly: I am not worthy to uncover the feet of the Redeemer, and I will not usurp the title of Bridegroom, which is not mine. This may be understood in another way. Who does not know that sandals are made from the skins of dead animals? The Lord, in becoming incarnate, appears among men, as though shod; because over his Divinity, he has put on, as it were, the mortal covering of our corruptibility. But the human eye cannot penetrate the mystery of the Incarnation. For in no way may we search out how the Word became embodied; how the supreme life-giving Spirit was quickened within the womb of the mother; how that which has no beginning was both conceived and came into existence. The latches of his shoe are therefore the seals of a mystery. John was not worthy to loosen his shoe, because he was unable to search into the mystery of the incarnation.

*St. Gregory the Great, On the Gospels, Homily 7, ca. 540-604*

### 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.



### ***Our 21st year for the Movement For a Better World - Your parish organization!!***

Christmas Delivery was Dec. 16th. So many volunteers made this huge Christmas Gift Basket delivery a beautifully smooth event. SPECIAL thanks to Patty Brio, Debbie Faris, and Rose Melville for getting the food and setting up the deliveries.

And one "we will miss you" to our favorite Christmas gift sorter. She is heading for the other coast next year. "Go with God and our hearts, Maryann Bartell." Also thank you to our Boy Scouts who earned money to buy presents for all of the teens of the families, in addition to helping the drivers load the boxes into their vehicles.

Thanks to our parishioners who brought the beautiful packages in on time. The sorting team really appreciated your cooperation. Call us with your comments about this Gift Basket event.

**L. B. Project Achieve...** Our newest mission. Call us 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.

### 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 it 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 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

## MONDAY, December 18

8:00 AM - † Frank McGee

## TUESDAY, December 19

8:00 AM - Santos Family, living, Thanksgiving

## WEDNESDAY, December 20

8:00 AM - † Mary Laboranti

## THURSDAY, December 21

8:00 AM - † Steven Durkin

## FRIDAY, December 22

8:00 AM - † Domingo Tinio

## SATURDAY, December 23

5:00 PM - † Dan Foley

## SUNDAY, December 24

7:30 AM - † Scot Mattox

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Cristina Jaszczak

12:30 PM - Shannon Smith, living

4:00 PM - Intention of Priest

6:00 PM - Intention of Priest

9:00 PM - Intention of Priest

**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 & Tyler Schneider.

**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,	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