



From the Pastor's Desk:

Christmas Eve day is filled with anticipation. Harried travelers and hurried shoppers hope to complete their journeys and tasks before the night falls. Those who are preparing the feast strive to complete all the foods that will be enjoyed by the gathered guests. Even today's Gospel has a sense of urgency to it. "Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste" (Luke 1:39).

Like Mary, we are anxious with anticipation. We want Christmas to come. Hopefully, our desire for the feast is not in anticipation of the food or the gifts alone. May our desire also be for the fellowship of friends and family, as well as the hope for peace and salvation for the whole world.

Father William

Christmas 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.

May the love, peace and joy of our infant savior be with you this Christmas and throughout the new year.

St. Joseph parish priests and staff

Parish Library - Our Parish Library will be closed until Sunday, **Jan. 14**. Please come by the Parish Activity Center and choose a book or tape to take home.

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

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
FAITH AND OBEDIENCE OF MARY TO BE FOLLOWED



From the Deacon's Desk:

I have to say our St. Joseph Seniors outdid themselves this Christmas. Their Christmas luncheon was filled with merriment and self-giving. Their generosity towards the Project Achieve was beyond generous. They truly gave of themselves. Thank you Connie, Betty and Olga and all of you who make this season bright.

Kelly and Marissa at the Project Achieve shelter were speechless when they saw all of the bags and bags (59 of them) with Christmas gifts of blankets and other items including handmade scarves for the women. Thanks also to the good people that helped tote them to our car.

By the time you read this your shopping will have been completed - I hope! Have you heard of the Advent Devil? His strategy is to keep a low profile - so low you never notice it. Because you don't notice, doesn't mean it's not there. It means its strategy is working. Its job is to keep you so busy with Christmas shopping, party excitement and holiday activity that you don't take time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. Take time to prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in your heart. Don't let the Advent Devil work his strategy. Take time to prepare for Him. "Why not let Jesus take over your life? He can do far more with it than you can." This is taken from Anonymous and Mark Link's reflections. Here is another from that famous "Anon" person: "Let those love now who never lov'd before; let those who always lov'd now love the more."

Our Prayer: Lord, You have renewed the face of the earth. Your Church throughout the world sings You a new song, announcing Your wonders to all. Through a virgin, You have brought forth a new birth in our world; through Your miracles, a new power; through Your suffering, a new patience; in Your resurrection, a new hope, and in Your ascension, a new majesty. Help us to receive You with eager devotion and keep us always in Your care. Amen.
Merriest of Christmases!

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

Charles Cobleigh
Don Walter



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.

Monday Nights....Take a Stress-free Prayer Break.....

There will be no prayer service Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

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: Merry Christmas! **No Class on Dec. 31.** Classes will resume on **Jan. 7.**

Middle School: There will be **no class on Dec. 26,** and **Jan. 2.** Classes will resume on Tuesday, **January 9.**

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!

**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.**

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.



As a parish family we welcome with great joy the following new members of our community Baptized Dec. 17:

**Logan Christopher Karkanen
Dawson Christopher Zahn
Camille Jane Oteyza
Christopher Joseph Saenz
Phoebe Jane Machan**

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.



May your holiday be blessed with the warmth of home, the light of peace, and the love of friends and family. Merry Christmas & a happy New Year.

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.

Quote from Tradition

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and she was filled with the Holy Spirit. Note the proper meaning: Elizabeth was first to hear the voice, but John first to feel the grace. One heard naturally, the other exulted in a mystery; one sensed Mary's coming, the other the Lord's; the woman perceived a woman, the babe a babe. The women speak of grace, the babes move hiddenly and set this mystery of goodness into motion to the benefit of their mothers. The infant leapt, the mother was filled; the mother was not filled first, but when the son had been filled with the Holy Spirit, it filled his mother as well. Mary's spirit also leapt. Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit because of John; Mary was not filled with the Spirit then, but her spirit leapt, for the Incomprehensible was acting within her in a manner beyond our understanding. ... I perceive the miracle, I acknowledge the mystery: the mother of the Lord is pregnant with the Word, she is full of God. At the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed are you who have believed. Mary did not doubt, but believed, and so her faith bore fruit. But you also are blessed, who hear and believe; for whoever believes also conceives in their spirit, and brings forth the word of God, and knows his works. Mary's spirit is in each of you to magnify the Lord, and in each, to rejoice in God. There is only one mother of Christ according to the flesh, but according to faith, all bear the fruit of Christ.

St. Ambrose of Milan, Commentary on Luke, ca., 340-397.

Greetings from Housing Works and Alexandria House. The anticipation and hope for this season is particularly important in the lives of women & women with children who find themselves homeless. Just as Mary and Joseph searched for a safe & warm place to bring their child into this world, literally thousands of families are doing the same in the County of Los Angeles this Christmas. St. Joseph Church has made a difference in the lives of 4 families this year through your monthly contribution to our program to help families make it through the crises of the times. Eight children in those families are a little safer, a little more secure because of you. You make a difference & we are grateful. May the blessings of this season bring you & your families Christmas joy. If you have any questions about St. Joseph's work through Housing Works & Alexandria House, please call Tom Halliwell, 799-0921.

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: \$12,077
Last year: \$11,947

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!

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, Helen Belli, Dick Ingalls, Cletus Schmidt, Tony Bernardo, David Dresnick, Dorothy Custer, Margaret DeRuyter, Christopher Moore, Lala Rocha, Diane Stowers, Ross Mariano, Tim Clark, Hugo Jorda & John Anselmo.

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.



21st year for Movement For a Better World - Your parish organization!!

Again we want to thank all the parishioners who helped with our Christmas project this year. Your generous donations with the gifts and help with the deliveries was overwhelming. **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.**

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.

Procession and Mass of Reparation for the Sin of Abortion - St. Gregory the Great Church, 13935 Telegraph Rd., Whittier, on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, Thursday, December 28, 7 pm. For more information please call Mark Mottola, 695-2095.

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 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

MONDAY, December 25

9:00 AM - Intention of Priest

10:30 AM - Intention of Priest

12:30 PM - Intention of Priest

TUESDAY, December 26

8:00 AM - Donald Dryer

WEDNESDAY, December 27

8:00 AM - † William Ripley

THURSDAY, December 28

8:00 AM - † Maria & Dominico Dang

FRIDAY, December 29

8:00 AM - † Timothy Matthew O'Donnell

SATURDAY, December 30

5:00 PM - † Botelho & Salvati family

SUNDAY, December 31

7:30 AM - † Robert Uehlin

9:00 AM - Munda-Reyes family, Thanksgiving

10:30 AM - † Steven Durkin

12:30 PM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

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.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Bundle Sunday

Sunday, Jan. 7, is Bundle Sunday for our parish. The St. Vincent de Paul truck will be here 8:00 am to 1:30 pm to receive your donations. Bring usable clothing, shoes, appliances, household items, linens, books, jewelry, etc. They are in desperate need of all furniture and large appliances. For large items please phone 800-974-3571 for a special pickup at your home. Remember your contributions will be helping the needy.

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 Alcorn	594-9407
BOY SCOUTS	Tom Zofrea	493-2940

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