



From the Pastor's Desk:

Today's Gospel is one of the best known and most loved of all of the parables of Jesus. The story of "The Forgiving Father" or "The Prodigal Son" (depending on which name you want to use) is so much a part of our Christian milieu

that even the youngest members of our faith can share some aspect of the story if asked.

What is often missed about the parables is that the listeners can be any (and at some point all) of the characters. This is true of today's Gospel parable as well. We can be the prodigal son. We can be the elder son. We can be the servant who answers to the father's commands. And we can also be the loving father who forgives.

The roles are ours at different points in our lives. We shouldn't hesitate to see ourselves in this story.

Father William



From the Deacon's Desk: With the passing of Father Lawrence Signey, we need to be more fervent in our prayers for vocations to the priesthood. What a loss of the only priestly vocation from St. Joseph Parish. Somewhere in our parish there must be a spark that needs our

prayers and encouragement. Let us pray for the Holy spirit to enlighten the generous hearts to serve Him.

Joe Peterson has been spearheading the "Angelus" within one of the Knights of Columbus councils. It's a worthwhile endeavor. The Angelus is a short devotion in honor of the Incarnation and is repeated at morning (Resurrection is honored) then at noon (Passion is honored) then at evening (the Incarnation). For those who do not know the prayers by heart or are not able to read them, they may say 5 Hail Marys instead. In the evening (about sunset) 3 Hail Marys were said throughout Europe around the 14th century. The title "Angelus" came from *Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae* - "The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary".

Our Wednesday evening "Exploring the Catechism" is drawing to a conclusion. We explored the Creed, its origin and characteristics of faith, that free gift from God. The 2nd session explored the Sacraments, the joyful action where we come together to share our story, the symbol of God's love for us. Last Wednesday was the 10 Commandments, and our last session will be Prayer. Tertullian says the Lord's Prayer is "the summary of the whole Gospel", and St. Thomas Aquinas calls it the "perfect prayer". Each evening begins with the "Liturgy of Hours".



**St. Joseph Table
Please Join in the Celebration
March 18
Table Viewing ~ 1:00 pm
Fr. Martin Hall
Celebration Mass ~ 3:00 pm
Enjoy Dinner immediately following Mass.**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's readings)

Adult: How have I been welcoming to a family member who has been distant or absent?

Child: When I hurt someone, how quickly and sincerely do I say I am sorry?

Teen: Jesus welcomed sinners. Do you find this comforting or challenging? Why?

Just As I Have Done, So You Must Do (John 13:15)

Volunteers - men, women, youth, children - are needed for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday night. If you would like to participate, please call Deacon Don at 498-6701 or 598-5202.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT / GOD HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST



Annual Lenten Pilgrimage to the Cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass - April 2. Bus leaves St. Joseph at 5 pm, boxed dinner \$5. Seats are limited, call Olga Kocivar to sign up, 596-6981.

During the Mass of Chrism, Cardinal Mahony will bless the three oils which are used in all parishes throughout the diocese as an important part of the sacramental life of our communities during the coming year. The first is the **Oil of Catechumens** which is used to bless catechumens and infants. The **Oil of the Sick** is used for the anointing of the sick, and the **Sacred Oil of Chrism** is used in baptism, confirmation, the ordination of priests and the consecration of altars. All three oils are basically olive oil. Chrism is traditionally perfumed with balsam.

More information about this special Mass next week.

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

Rosary PRO-LIFE SERVICE - Just an HOUR

MONDAY NIGHTS - 7:00 - 8:00 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:**

Stations of the Cross: The children will be reenacting the Stations of the Cross on Sunday, **March 25**, at **11 am** on the field. The parish community is invited to attend.

Parent Meeting: There will be a meeting on **March 29** at **7:00 pm** in the hall for all parents in our Religious Education Program with children in our Early Childhood kindergarten through Confirmation. This meeting is an information meeting regarding the Teaching Touching Safety Program which has been mandated by the Archdiocese to be established in parishes for children/youth (kindergarten - high school).

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Turn in your item for Homeless Kits today. Thank you for bringing your item for Feed a Baby Sunday last week. St. Joseph's table at 10 am in the hall. Community Helpers Alert! Next week bring a box of cereal for Easter Baskets.

Sunday Nursery: We have caretakers for the 9:00 am and 10:30 am Masses, holidays included!



The retreat was great, very spiritual. Thank you to all who attended.

March 26 - Regular meeting, games & travel info.

Cruise Info - Oct 12-21, fall foliage, Canada & New England, 9 nites, Royal Caribbean "Explorer of the Seas".

Flight leaves out of Long Beach Airport, great prices. Call for more info. **Cruise open to everyone.**

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

Attention: The 50+ Singles of St. Pancratius (divorced, single, widowed Catholics), 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lkwd, will meet on Sunday, **Mar. 18** at **2 pm** in the conference room (behind the parish hall). Info: Mary, 596-9449.

LENTEN SPIRITUALITY - We are entering the third week of Lent. Looking for some inspiration or ideas to increase your spirituality? Need help with spiritual reading or listening tapes? Please come to our **Parish Library** in the Parish Activity Center **after the 9:00 am Mass**. Muffins and coffee will be served for the next two weeks - **March 18 and 25**. Take some time after Mass to view our library, have a snack, and check out some great reading.

A Memorial Mass for Father Lawrence Signey will be celebrated here at St. Joseph Church at **7:00 pm** on Monday, **March 19**. All are invited to attend.

Save the Date - Vacation Bible Camp

This year's Vacation Bible Camp, The Great Bible Reef, will be held at St. Cornelius from **July 9 - 13**, 9 am - noon.

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 and 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.

Soup's On!!! Save the Date

In conjunction with our upcoming **Parish Mission**, Religious Education is sponsoring a **Soup Dinner Night** on Monday, **March 26**. Dinner will be served from **5:30 - 6:45 pm**. Anyone interested in making soup, please call Ann Crowley, 594-7575.

Parish Lenten Calendar

- Mar. 18 Fourth Sunday of Lent - St. Joseph Day Celebration, 1pm in hall St. Joseph Table and Procession, 3 pm Mass, 5 - 7pm dinner in hall w/ raffle & entertainment
- Mar. 21 Exploring the Catechism 7 pm in the PAC
- Mar. 23 Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm
- Mar. 25 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Parish Mission Begins
- Mar. 26 Parish Mission - after 8 am Mass and 7-8:30 pm
- Mar. 27 Parish Mission - after 8 am Mass and 7-8:30 pm
- Mar. 28 Parish Mission and Reconciliation Liturgy
- Mar. 30 Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm
- Apr. 1 Palm Sunday
- Apr. 2 Chrism Mass - Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels
- Apr. 5 Holy Thursday - Morning prayer 8 am
Mass of the Lord's Supper 8 pm
- Apr. 6 Good Friday - Morning prayer 8 am,
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death 1:30 pm
Stations of the Cross 7:30 pm
- Apr. 7 Holy Saturday - Morning prayer 8 am
Great Vigil and Eucharist of Easter 8 pm
- Apr. 8 EASTER SUNDAY - regular Mass schedule

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

Rev. Lawrence Signey
Ruth Jameson

**Save the Date! Lenten Parish Mission - March 26-28.**

Two times available - Morning after the 8 am Mass, and Evening from 7-8:30 pm. Speaker: Fr. Gavin Griffith. Fr. Griffith is a Franciscan Priest. He is an advocate of practical spirituality and the healing power of humor.

Prayer for Vocations - Father, give us priestly vocations so that we can continue to be a truly Eucharistic church, strengthened in our discipleship of Jesus Christ, Your only son. Raise up, we pray, men who are generous in their service, willing to offer their lives and all their gifts for Your great glory and for the good of Your people. We make our prayer in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



SpringMusicFest 2007 is right around the corner. Save Saturday, **March 24th** for a lovely dinner and an exciting musical variety show prepared by your own St. Joseph Music Ministry Team and friends. Tickets are \$25.00/ person. Proceeds are to be earmarked for upgrading our sound system. Watch for a listing of performers! Please direct questions to Vivian Doughty.

LITURGICAL DANCING – Are you a dancer? Do you have any background in dancing? Would you like to be involved in special liturgies? We are in the process of forming a group to learn Liturgical Dancing. If you have some background in dancing & would like more information, please call the religious ed office at **598-0519**.

Small Church Community

Scripture focus - “Come home, please, just come home. Forget the transgressions and the mistakes you have made along the way. Don’t let them separate us anymore.” What parent, who deeply loves his or her child, would not echo this sentiment of the prodigal father who heartily welcomes the return of his wayward son? Jealousy and resentment lock up the older son, who has generously given so much to his father in daily fidelity. But the father sees the errant young man and simply goes to the heart of the issue: welcome home!

We resonate with different characters of this story throughout our lives. In youth, we may understand the gambling young man who experiments with life and risks it all. Later, after years of toil, we identify with the older son, critical of others. Finally, we stand in the shoes of a seasoned parent, who puts aside obstacles & merely wants loved ones close. God asks us to love always, regardless of circumstance.

Our experience of God may go through similar transitions. Gradually, we discover the generosity of God, the hospitality of one who yearns for us to come home. This can affect the way we treat ourselves, too. The experience will bring us to forgive ourselves of shortsightedness, resistance to reconciliation, and of distance from God. We want to rest in the arms of our Father, that is what matters. All we desire is to be at home with God.

Life Focus - * At this time of my life, with whom in the story do I most identify? Why? * What does “welcome” feel like? Tell of feeling “welcome”. * Are there persons I know that are estranged from me? How will I welcome them and be reconciled?

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.”



Our next meeting is **March 29**, at 7:30 pm at the PAC. **FEED-A-BABY** Collection totaled 16 thirteen gallon bags of supplies plus \$1,140. Thanks to all!!

March 17 - Begin Homeless Kit Collection: envelopes on the cross in back of church. Take an envelope and follow the instructions. We collect items to help the homeless, male or female. Return items in 1 gallon bag to the back of church.

March 24 - Return homeless kits to back of church.

March 31 - Easter Food Basket Delivery. Call Patty to deliver, 425-5964. At 8:30 am, we gather in the hall for guidelines and a prayer. Delivery is between 9 and noon.

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 soooo appreciated! Thank you for helping so many neighbors in Long Beach.

Gambler’s Delight - The Knights of Columbus invite parishioners, 21 years & older, to a 2 day, 1 night bus trip to Stateline - Whiskey Pete’s Hotel & Casino. Cost - \$40 per person, double occ. This includes transportation, room, and 1 free buffet. The dates are Wednesday - Thursday, **April 18 & 19**. For more information, please call Manny Veyra, 425-8811. Remember, first come, first served.

Congratulations to Thomas Brown and Michael Ohde for attaining top academic honors at St. John Bosco High School. Thomas & Michael are in the top 25 of the class.

SAVE THE DATES!!

April 27, 28, and 29

The St. Joseph Parish Fair is coming. Loads of fun: rides, games, prizes and lots of food!
* **JOIN US FOR THE FIESTA!** *

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, March 17**
 5:00 PM - † Rosemary Rondeau
- SUNDAY, March 18**
 7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners
 9:00 AM - Tom & Pat Halliwell
 10:30 AM - † Pierre Gloria
 12:30 PM - † Don Wiltz
- MONDAY, March 19**
 8:00 AM - † Stanley S. Przybylowicz
- TUESDAY, March 20**
 8:00 AM - † Lucy Corsetti
- WEDNESDAY, March 21**
 8:00 AM - † Heather Choppin
- THURSDAY, March 22**
 8:00 AM - † Michael Lichon
- FRIDAY, March 23**
 8:00 AM - † Stanley S. Przybylowicz
- SATURDAY, March 24**
 5:00 PM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners
- SUNDAY, March 25**
 7:30 AM - † John Anselmo
 9:00 AM - † Carlos Sifuentes
 10:30 AM - † Stephen Durkin
 12:30 PM - † Anna Robinson

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:

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| Vincent Vezzetti | Amy Mann |
| Glen Warren | Nick Compton |
| Joseph LaRiccia | Joseph Comfort |
| Irene Avila | Peter LuPiba |
| Scott Williams | Justin Ray |
| Rob Black | |

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.



Last week: \$12,503
 Last year: \$12,200

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Toni Morrison, Irene Risko, Stacey Cormier, Dorthea Bradley, Mary Lovelace, Jeanne Sexton, Christina Knight, Benjamin Gentry, Vicky Munda, Bernard & Jan Carpenter, Bert Willis, John Barycki, Alexander Crook, Phil McCafferty, Honey Weinstein, Mary Mariano, Anna Sharples, Paul Halliburton, Lydia Simpson, Susan Meicht, Elizabeth Rouse, David Suda-kou, Jesse Torres, Helen Belli, Dick Ingalls, Cletus Schmidt, Tony Bernardo, David Dresnick, Margaret DeRuyter, Christopher Moore, Lala Rocha, Diane Stowers, Hugo Jorda, Bobby Lovett, Katie Hofkenschaid, Jim Carrera, Lucille Heilman, Jovencio Banares, Mary Wiegand, Sharon Conroy, Frank Thornton, William Worthy, Cletus Schmidt, Evelyn Thies, Mary White, Joe Cody, Chuck Dixon, & Kathleen Miller.

LITURGY

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

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL

562-596-6115

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

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|---------------------------------|----------------|
| DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | Virginia Young |
| SECRETARY | Veronica Gibb |

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 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
Terri Traucht | 425-4834 |
| 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
rely5@verizon.net | 430-0143 |
| WEBSITE COORDINATOR | Mike Santy
msanty@verizon.net | 799-0660 |
| 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 |
| TOGETHER IN MISSION | Victoria Higgins | 597-6979 |
| 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