



From the Pastor's Desk:

Did you notice that in today's Gospel story the man is not brought to Jesus? I don't know about you, but in my understanding, it takes two to commit adultery. Yet, only the woman is brought. The Law in both Leviticus and Deuteronomy decreed that both adulterer and adulteress be put to death. Apparently, the man managed to get away!

In the Gospel story, the woman is not condemned, but she is cautioned by Jesus to sin no more. She doesn't "get away" with her sin, but she is forgiven.

Vengefulness may tempt us to act more like the religious leaders in today's Gospel than like Jesus when we are confronted with another's sin. But what happens when we are confronted with our own?

Father William



From the Deacon's Desk:

The history of the St. Joseph "Altar": Dried wheat stalks cracked beneath their feet; farmers faced a life-threatening drought. Famine set in. They pleaded to St. Joseph who brought relief with life-giving rain. An altar was set up in thanksgiving and for petitions. Many graces and favors were received through St. Joseph's intercession. The altar became known as the St. Joseph table. The table was set with ornate and elaborate displays of breads, vegetables and fruit. The "Table" serves as a reminder that those who have enjoyed some measure of good fortune must share it with those who have less.

The St. Joseph Celebration was a smashing success. Community building brought many together. Kudos to the Seckingtons, Stassis, Olga K., Betty, the cooks, bakers, seamstresses, basket makers, decorators, Knights and all of you who gave so generously of your time and talent for the benefit of St. Athanasius. It appears we will be a little short of \$3,000 for them. A donation will also go to St. Joseph School to help with a new sound system for the hall. God bless you all for bringing St. Joseph together!

This past Friday evening the Catechumens had the presentation of the "Lord's Prayer" with emphasis on "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us". How fitting that this Sunday's Gospel is about the adulterous woman about to be stoned. Jesus says, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw the first stone at her."

Our Prayer: Lord, through the intercession of St. Joseph, give us peace among nations, unity among Christians, and reconciliation in quarreling families. We pray for people of every race and creed to become friends with one another and for an overflowing of love for all who suffer. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

Together In Mission

Thank you to all who made a pledge to Together in Mission to help the less fortunate parishes and schools in our Archdiocese. So far, we have had 284 out of our registered 2049 families participate.

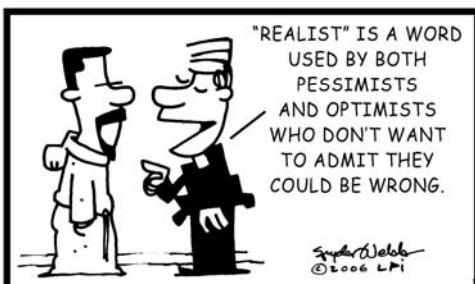
Our Parish Goal: \$54,190
Amount Pledged: \$66,865
Amount Paid to date: \$25,147

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - your new schedules are now available in the sacristy.

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.

Since the bishop is the only minister in the diocese who may consecrate chrim, this Mass highlights his ministry and our union with him. He will not baptize and confirm everyone in the parishes of the diocese, but he will be symbolically present in the chrim which the priests and deacons will use. In recent years, this Mass has also acknowledged the ministry of priests. It invites priests to renew their commitment of service and to receive the prayers and support of the people. The Mass of Chrism gathers the faithful of the diocese at their mother church with their shepherd to prepare for celebrations of Christ in all our churches throughout the year.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT
 RACING TO GRASP THE PRIZE



Monday Night.....Take a Stress-free Prayer Break.....
Rosary PRO-LIFE SERVICE - Just an HOUR
 MONDAY NIGHTS - postponed this week for the Lenten Mission in the church. JOIN US TO PRAY for all human rights, from conception to natural death, in a lay rosary and prayer service next Monday, 7pm. Call for a ride!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary Program:

Stations of the Cross: The children will be reenacting the Stations of the Cross today at 11:00 am on the field. The parish community is invited to attend.

No class on Easter Sunday, **April 8.**

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 Program 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 Easter Baskets. Thank you for bringing your homeless kit items last week. Easter celebration next week! Sign up for item to bring next week & bring 12 filled eggs for hunt.

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

Inquiry Class: This class is for adults interested in learning about the Catholic Faith. Adults who were baptized in the Catholic Church, but have not received other Sacraments are also invited. For more information, please call Olga or Shane Cuda at 493-0541.

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

Please join us for a Soup Dinner before attending our **Parish Mission.** Religious Education is sponsoring a **Soup Dinner Night** on Monday, **March 26.** Dinner will be served from **5:30 - 6:45 pm.** Questions? Please call the Religious Education Office at **598-0519.**

Parish Lenten Calendar

- 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



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.**

April Meetings - April 2 & 16. More info to follow.

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

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.

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. Take some time after Mass to view our library and check out some great reading.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's readings)

Adult: What is the difference between being righteous and being self-righteous?

Child: What will I do this week to be kind to someone?

Teen: Who among your family or friends do you need to ask forgiveness from?

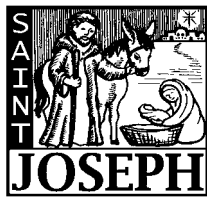
Save the Date - Vacation Bible Camp

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

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.**



MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER - Lent is a time for personal reflection, so what better time to reflect on the rewarding relationship your marriage could be? The Marriage Encounter Weekend gives you the tools to turn your good marriage into a GREAT marriage. The next weekend is scheduled for **April 20-22.** For more information, call Jacob & Sarah Flores, 923-7335 or go online at www.geocities.com/melawest.



Thank You!!!!
 Our parish celebration on St. Joseph Feast Day was a marvelous, happy day enjoyed by all. It took all of us coming together, men, women, and children to make it a beautiful day. Everyone worked hard and this labor enabled us to give with love in our hearts to St. Athanasius, a neighboring school in north Long Beach. Today we are all better people for sharing our donations with them. We celebrated a beautiful Mass. Dear God, we are thankful for all you have bestowed on us.



Call us with your questions - John/
 Jan 430-5839.

March 25 - Homeless kits - take an envelope and return the filled bag to the back of the church next week.

March 29 - Meeting in PAC, 7:30pm.

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.

Please keep using the BLUE "Skip-a-Meal" Envelopes. Make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: Skip-A-Meal.

April Fool's Day Dinner in Long Beach

SPAGHETTI DINNER - Join the Knights of Columbus Council 987 at St. Anthony's for a Spaghetti Dinner with live entertainment for dancing on Sunday, April 1. Dinner served from 1-9 pm in the St. Anthony Hall on 6th St. Call John Minter for tickets @ \$6 each. Yellow flyers are in the back of the church. Call 430-5839 for more information.

St. Cyprian School - an afternoon of fashion and fun, **March 31**, boutiques open at 1 pm, fashion show at 2:30, light refreshments served, tickets \$25, children always welcome. Call Laurel Mungo, 425-7341, for information.

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! ***

Small Church Community

Scripture focus - A woman accused of adultery is dragged before Jesus. She is not condemned for prostitution or promiscuity, but the relational sin of adultery, a violation against marriage and social stability. We know little of her story, nor is Jesus told anything of the circumstances surrounding her transgression. He asks for no explanation. Rather, he notes her humiliation, surrounded by self-righteous men who disregard their own sinfulness.

Jesus is handed the heavy burden of judgment. He is caught between the law which is meant to protect the sanctity of marriage and the vulnerability of the woman who stands before him. He knows the intention of entrapment by those who drag her there. It seems an impossible situation.

Jesus chose mercy as his solution to judgment. Our sins are all around us. Others see what we do not. The challenge is to remain mindful of our own vulnerabilities and, thus, arrest our tendencies to reduce another. We are to judge actions, not persons, as good or evil. Through thoughtful awareness of our own inclination to sin, we discover that we share the same humanness of the ones we judge. If we cultivate compassion and forgiveness toward ourselves, are we not less likely to pick up that stone and throw it?

Life Focus - * Imagine this scene happening in your life. Who are you in this picture? How is Jesus guiding you toward forgiveness and compassion? * Considering our tendency to judge, when do you get hooked into throwing stones? * Are there persons within our community who have been isolated through judgment? * What do you do to keep from judging others as less than yourself? * Tell about a time when your first impression of someone was wrong.

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."

God's grace within me and God's strength behind me can overcome any hurdle ahead of me. —Anonymous

Ministry to and with Lesbian & Gay Catholics

St. Matthew's Comunidad, 672 Temple Ave., Long Beach, meeting 1st Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Mass on 1st Sunday of the month at 10 am, brunch following. Contact David, 439-8067, for information.

Parents Support Group

Los Angeles Group meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Amat House, 649 W. Adams Blvd., L.A., 7pm. Call Robert or Carolyn at 310-835-1481 for information.

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 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
- MONDAY, March 26**
 8:00 AM - † Robert Philen
- TUESDAY, March 27**
 8:00 AM - † Nina Robinson
- WEDNESDAY, March 28**
 8:00 AM - † Vizee Berretta
- THURSDAY, March 29**
 8:00 AM - † Jim Zimmer
- FRIDAY, March 30**
 8:00 AM - Shane & Olga Cuda
- SATURDAY, March 31**
 5:00 PM - † Alberto Garcia
- SUNDAY, April 1**
 7:30 AM - Rev. William Connor
 9:00 AM - † Joseph & Lillian Smith
 10:30 AM - † Cecil Chappell
 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 | 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: \$12,310
 Last year: \$11,843

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Toni Morrison, Irene Risko, Stacey Cormier, Dorthea Bradley, Mary Lovelace, Jeanne Sexton, Christina Knight, Benjamin Gentry, Vicky Munda, Bert Willis, John Barycki, Alexander Crook, Phil McCafferty, Honey Weinstein, Mary Mariano, Anna Sharples, Paul Halliburton, Lydia Simpson, Susan Meicht, Elizabeth Rouse, David Sudakou, 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 & Cliff Lowen.

LITURGY

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------|
| 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 | 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 |
|--------------|----------|

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 |
| 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