



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

Though the calendar year is almost over, today is the church's liturgical New Year's Day - the first Sunday of Advent. We can tell the church intends today's liturgy to convey a sense of new beginnings - just read the passages from the prophet Isaiah, from St. Paul's letter to the Romans and from the Gospel of Matthew, all filled with anticipation and promise. Isaiah invites us to an amazing new world, and Paul promises us that salvation is at hand. Matthew, on the other hand, sounds a darker tone of foreboding and warning. The Son of Man, he tells us, is coming like a thief, at a time we least expect him. Read in a true Christian spirit, this also is a joyful message. Our surprising Savior steals nothing from us. He comes to rob sin and death of their power. We have to stay awake to see the signs, recognize and welcome him.

Father William

**Advent**

Our parish Advent Reconciliation Liturgy will be held Thursday, December 13, at 7:00 pm. There will also be two visiting priests available for confessions that evening.

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

**Joe Peterson**



**Prayer**

Dr. Victoria Dendinger will be offering a special prayer experience the third Monday of the month beginning this month on December 17. Vickie is the Director of Adult Faith Formation at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, Newport Beach. She is also a psychologist in private practice.

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / BY YOUR PERSEVERANCE YOU WILL SECURE YOUR LIVES



**Immaculate Conception** - Saturday, December 8, is a holy day of obligation, the Immaculate Conception. Mass on Friday, Dec. 7, the Vigil, will be offered at 7 pm. Eucharist on Saturday will be celebrated at 9 am.



**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION**  
Thursday, December 6, 6-8 pm



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

Recently, I mentioned to be alert to the undertones of the author by the name of Pullman who wrote a trilogy beginning with "The Golden Compass." He is an avowed atheist. His two following books lure you into his real intent to draw people into the idea that there is no God. Lo and behold in Monday's (11/27) Times in concert with CNN, an article came out with the large headline, "SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ATHEISTS." An 11 year old girl was interviewed and was asked about God; she said, "It's only a myth."

This Advent season more than ever, we should have family time for prayer focusing on the "Coming of Christ." Most of all, include your children. They are the most vulnerable to those who try to lure us away from our faith.

Ask your children to make up a prayer or ask them to pray for a friend or family member in need of prayers - you've heard me say this before: "children's prayers are very powerful with God." Pray just as hard as you do when you lose your keys or wallet!!

We invite you to a Small Faith Community during Advent. Try it, you'll like it. This is the season to be joyful and Keep Christ in Christmas. Look busy, He's coming!

"Joy is the most infallible evidence of the existence of God." ... Teilhard de Chardin SJ

**Our Prayer:** Lord, where two or three gather in Your name, You promised to be with them and share their fellowship. Look down upon Your family gathered here in Your name, and graciously pour out Your blessing upon us. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

**The Marketplace of Fair Trade Crafts** from Concern America, an international development and refugee aid organization based in Santa Ana, will be here on Sunday, **December 9** - just in time for Christmas shopping! Please choose to purchase gifts that will warm the heart of the recipient and promote justice and fair trade for families in Central America and Bangladesh. Through your generosity, many materially poor artisans will be able to earn a just wage, support their families, and keep alive their cultural heritage. Fair Trade means that trading partnerships are based on reciprocal benefits and mutual respect; that prices paid to producers reflect the work they do; that national health, safety, and wage laws are enforced; and that products are environmentally sustainable and conserve natural resources. You may view a selection of their crafts on the website: [www.concernamerica.org](http://www.concernamerica.org).

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### Elementary:

**Advent Celebration:** Today the children and their families will celebrate Advent with crafts and a prayer service in the hall at **10:30 am**. This is a family participation event - children must be accompanied by a parent.

**Middle School:** Students and families will be Christmas caroling on Tuesday, **December 11**, at the Katella Manor Convalescent Home from **6:30-7:30 pm**.

Please support our Bake Sale on Sunday, **December 16**. We are raising money for the "Food for the Poor" program. We hope to earn enough money to purchase a water pump (maybe 2).

**Confirmation:** Next session for our **Year 1** candidates is **today**. All first-year candidates should attend the **12:30 pm Mass** with either a parent or sponsor. The session for candidates only will follow Mass in the hall until **3:30 pm**.

**Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Next week remember your item for our Movement for a Better World baskets.

**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.



Baptism

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

**Katherine Ann Bivens**  
**Brendan James Carney**

**Bake Sale** - Just in time for the holidays!! Support our service project for "Food for the Poor" and enjoy some scrumptious home-made goodies. Our Religious Education Middle School students will be selling delicious baked goods on Sunday, **December 16**, after all the Masses.

**Retroville** - You can save your marriage! If your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving or uncaring, or if your relationship has grown cold and distant, if you are thinking of separation or divorce, or if you are already separated or divorced, but you want to try again - then the Retroville program can help you. For information call 800-470-2230.

**Awaken the Spirit Within** - Take some quiet time during this busy Advent season with Fr. Carl Arico of Contemplative Outreach International at A Day of Spiritual Enrichment, **Dec. 9**, from **1:30-6:00 pm**, St. Bartholomew Church, 5100 Broadway, Long Beach. For reservations contact Pat Metzger 243-8460. \$30 includes lunch.



**Please remember to bring your photos for our picture contest.**

On Nov. 19 we had a great Thanksgiving Lunch, we served 119 people.

**Dec. 3** - Casino trip is full. Bus leaves at 8:00 am from church parking lot.

**Dec. 10** - Senior meeting. This year instead of our gift exchange, we are buying gifts for Precious Life - we have a list of gifts that are needed. Gifts are for the mothers and children that are living on the premises. These gifts must be **NEW - not used**. Please do not wrap, we will have gift boxes. They will pick up at our Christmas party Dec. 17. We will be collecting for our Christmas Party lunch: \$10 per person. We have some really great entertainment. I'm sure you will enjoy.

**Dec. 17** - Christmas Lunch and Party - final day for Christmas Lunch reservation Is Friday Dec. 14 - Reservation is a must.

**Jan. 9, 10, 11** - Annual Laughlin trip. 3 day, 2 night stay at Riverside Hotel, free buffet of choice, one free breakfast buffet, room taxes & baggage handling. One bag per person. Also our big party with live music & dancing, champagne buffet dinner and drawings for lots of prizes. We have a stop at AVI Indian Casino for lunch. Put on by Carl Andreas, our friendly bus driver. At this time we are taking stand by only - bus leaves promptly at 8 am.

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

**2007 Retirement fund for Religious** - The second collection is being taken next weekend for retired Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters.

### **Adults at Prayer: Personal Prayer & Liturgical Prayer**

Growing in Our Faith - a series addressing adult spiritual formation looking into our relationship with God, alone and with the Church. Prayer is challenging and sometimes anemic on our part. This series is to strengthen our faith by exploring the dimensions of prayer which need to be developed. Each presentation is independent, but the offerings will, in a sense, piggy-back on the previous ones. Friday afternoons 1:30-2:45 pm, St. Joseph High School, 5847 Woodruff, free. If you would like to attend, please call 925-5073x113 so we'll have handouts ready.

**Dec. 7:** *Praying WITH the Church in this Advent Season*  
**Dec. 14:** *Discovering the TRUE Adult Understanding of the Incarnation and How as ADULTS We Grow in Our Faith in Preparing for Christmas*

### **Safeguard the Children - Fingerprinting Schedule**

For all those who still need to be fingerprinted for volunteering with our parish children, here is the list of sites in our San Pedro Region for the upcoming months. Please call for an appointment:

**Dec. 20** - St. James, Redondo Beach 310-372-5228

**St. Barnabas Parish**, 3955 Orange Ave., Long Beach will be hosting the hilarious **"Sister's Christmas Catechism"** on Friday, **December 7** at 7 pm. With the help of audience members creating a living nativity/crime scene, Sister will tackle the mystery, "What ever happened to the Magi's gold?" All are invited to start their holiday season off with a hilarious evening from the creators of the hit comedy "Late Nite Catechism." \$35 regular admission, \$25 seniors (65+) and students (middle and high school). For tickets, please call 424-8595.

**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:

- |                         |                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Vincent Vezzetti</b> | <b>Amy Mann</b>              |
| <b>Glen Warren</b>      | <b>Nick Compton</b>          |
| <b>Joseph Comfort</b>   | <b>Irene Avila</b>           |
| <b>Peter LuPiba</b>     | <b>Scott Williams</b>        |
| <b>Justin Ray</b>       | <b>Justin Christopherson</b> |
| <b>Timothy Ring</b>     | <b>Hoang-Long Tran</b>       |
| <b>Chris Shaw</b>       |                              |

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.



**Christmas** - When you take the **Christmas Envelopes** from the trees, remember that you have **ONE (1) week to return** the packages to church by **12:30 pm, Sunday the 9th**

**of December.** We start sorting packages on Sunday morning, Dec. 9. The envelopes will be for the children from 2 to 17 years old. We have special plans for the babies and the teens. **Call Patty now** to help deliver the Baskets, 425-5964.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**December 1 and 2** - pick up your envelopes on trees in the back of church. Return presents for the children of our Gift Basket Families to church the following Sunday by 12:30 pm. Wrapped packages must be returned by the 12:30 Mass one (only 1) week later on **Dec. 9, by 12:30 pm.**

**December 15** - Christmas Delivery Day, 8:30 am.

Please keep using the **BLUE "Skip-a-Meal" Envelopes.** Your donations are so appreciated! Make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: Skip-A-Meal.

**L.B. Project Achieve.... Call us or Tina Gath for details. Can you help us once a month?**

Thank you again for all you do and share with our needy brothers/sisters!! John & Jan Minter 430-5839.



Last week: \$10,883  
Last year: \$12,110

**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.

**Small Faith Community**

**Scripture Focus** - During Advent we celebrate the coming of Christ two thousand years ago, and also at the end of time. Today's readings emphasize that end time. The Gospel reading is part of Matthew's discourse on the establishment of the Reign of God at the end of time. Jesus tells his followers that they must live their lives so they are ready to enter into this reign at any time.

**Life Focus** - \* Relate an experience that made you stop and reflect on your priorities and on the way you live your life. \* *What are some of the difficulties in staying alert to God everyday?* \* If tomorrow were to be the last day of your life, what might you change? \* *Recall a disruptive experience in your life recently. How did it affect you?* \* Share a time when you were caught unprepared. How do you see God being a part of that experience?

**Commitment of Treasure**

**"Give to the Most High as he has given to you, generously, according to your means, for the Lord is one who always repays, and He will give back to you sevenfold." Sirach 35:9-10**

I understand that St. Joseph Church is asking all parishioners 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 **new** average commitment **per week** for the next 12 months is:

\$100  \$75  \$50  \$40  \$35  \$30  \$25  \$20  \$15  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ I don't receive envelopes but would like to: \_\_\_\_\_

For questions, please call the rectory at **594-4657.** Please drop in the collection basket or rectory mailbox. Thank you!

# Mass Intentions



## SATURDAY, December 1

5:00 PM - † Bernard McCune

## SUNDAY, December 2

7:30 AM - † John DeRuyter

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - Patricia Lowen, living

12:30 PM - † Robert Barclay

## MONDAY, December 3

8:00 AM - † John & Mary Frances Lynch

## TUESDAY, December 4

8:00 AM - † Joseph & Lillian Smith

## WEDNESDAY, December 5

8:00 AM - † John Stewart

## THURSDAY, December 6

8:00 AM - † Cyril & Bernadette Bastable

## FRIDAY, December 7

8:00 AM - † Santiago Perez

7:00 PM - Floriza Rivera

## SATURDAY, December 8

9:00 AM - † Santiago Perez

5:00 PM - Botelho/Salvati Family

## SUNDAY, December 9

7:30 AM - Nelson & Marianna Wescott, living

9:00 AM - Bob Flynn, living

10:30 AM - David & Vivian Doughty & family

12:30 PM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** What specific actions can I take this Advent to invite Christ more fully into my life?

**Child:** What can I do during Advent so that others can see the light of Jesus in me?

**Teen:** If you knew Jesus' coming was going to occur next week, what would you change about your life today?

**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .** Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Irene Risko, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Benjamin Gentry, Vicky Munda, Bert Willis, John Barycki, Phil McCafferty, Mary Mariano, Anna Sharples, Lydia Simpson, 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, Katie Hofkenschaid, Jim Correira, Lucille Heilman, Jovencio Banares, Mary Wiegand, Sharon Conroy, Frank Thornton, William Worthy, Cletus Schmidt, Mary White, Joe Cody, Tanya Chvedine, Jim & Bev Clinton, Jeffrey Waldron, Adra Martz, Jun Piol Cuevas, Rudy Maligaya, Jack Williams, Gilberto Cerna, Tracy Rossello, David Bucklin, David Dominguez, Mary Jane Mulick, Olivia Campbell, Emily Dornford, Mike Scrack, Roy Fletcher, Lynda Stoegbauer Flores, Marlene Muccino, Phyllis Steiner, Blake Browning, Joanne Wilson, Rodolfo Morales, Victoria Gregory, Ron Otamura, Cornelia Piol, Fred Kravitz, Bob Sylvia, Don Miller, Carlos Delgado, Cliff & Patricia Lowen, Odete Salvate, and Joy Mann.

### 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	Ann Crowley	594-7575
	annbakercrowley@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	Nancy Gallegos

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Virginia Young
SECRETARY	Veronica Gibb

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL	Virginia Young	598-0519
CONFIRMATION	Marianna Wescott	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	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	Bob Schallmann	594-0917
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0142
	rely5@verizon.net	
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Mike Santy	799-0660
	msanty@verizon.net	
FAMILY ROUND TABLE MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD	Marianne Schaeffer	594-8678
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	John & Jan Minter	430-5839
RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL	Nancy Miller	429-2546
SENIOR GROUP	Michelle Needham	477-3647
TOGETHER IN MISSION	Betty Maligie	596-8287
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Victoria Higgins	597-6979
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER	Ron Steiner	431-7703
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER	Jim & Theresa Murphy	431-5025
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	Tom & Pat Halliwell	799-0921
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN	Greg & Beth Gath	377-5877
GIRL SCOUTS	Mimi Bloeser	597-0785
CUB SCOUTS	Cynthia Stabelfeldt	421-8492
BOY SCOUTS	Douglas Alchorn	594-9407
	Bill Higbee	425-6124

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