



From the Pastor's Desk:

Isaiah so graphically describes "that day" when the Messiah will come, and Matthew paints such a detailed picture of John the Baptist calling everyone to prepare the way of the Lord, that it is easy to miss the power of St.

Paul's words in today's passage from his letter to the Romans. As so often happens, this second reading speaks to both the first reading and the Gospel and serves as a sort of "hinge" for them. Paul writes that everything written in Scripture is for our instruction, hope and encouragement. Isaiah's description of a perfect world may be a little fantastic, but Paul also writes with longing of a world where everyone lives in perfect harmony. In both his world and John the Baptist's it is not wolves visiting lambs or babies playing with snakes that will be the sign of God's salvation. Rather, it will be Jew and Gentile praising God together, accepting each other and acknowledging that Jesus Christ is the savior of all.

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.

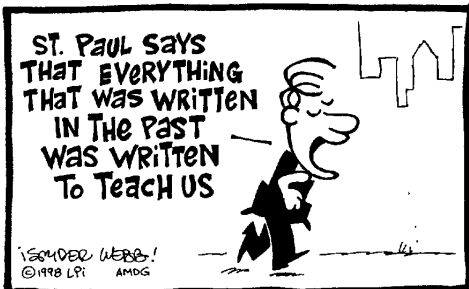
Prayer

Dr. Victoria Dendinger will be offering a special prayer experience the third Monday of each 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.

2007 Retirement Fund for Religious

The second collection is being taken this weekend for retired Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters.

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



From Deacon Don's Desk:

In the Scripture Focus it tells us that "Isaiah presents a picture of an ideal king and kingdom." John the Baptist performs a "ceremonial Baptism" which helps the followers to express their intention of conversion (away from sin). He

attacks their insincerity, their religion is only for others to see.

Advent 2007 - It's easy to be distracted during Advent by things that seem important - like people to please, parties to attend, shopping, decorating home & trees. The social calendar can control our lives at this time of year. It's easy to forget that God may be at work away from the glitz and bright lights and floats and ball games and other events.

As we shop and celebrate and prepare for the season we need to be aware - keeping our eyes and ears open for the presence of God in the little things that seem obscure. We need to be transformed to become the means by which God might speak to others through us.

Advent is a time of joyful expectation - a remembrance that becomes a preparation for that second coming.

Our Prayer: Lord our God, King of peace, turn hatred into love and grievances into forgiveness and grant that we may be ready to receive Christ when He comes in glory and to share in the banquet of heaven, where He lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Small Faith Community

Scripture Focus - In the first reading Isaiah presents a picture of an ideal king and an ideal kingdom. The people's lives would send a message to the world *that God's kingdom is here to stay*. John tells his followers that the time has come for them to reform their lives. His baptism was a ceremony for followers to express their intention of conversion. And John promises that the one to follow him would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire, a baptism that would carry the power of God. John confronts the religious leaders of his day and attacks their insincerity. Their religion is only on the outside for people to see. He says that their lives don't show evidence of conversion.

Life Focus - * Think of when your life was a desert place. What did you hear? How did you respond? * *In what way do you want to reform your life? What does it mean to reform? How will you know that reform is taking place?* * Who are the people in your life who seem to lead fruitful lives? In what ways have they affected you? * *What in your life needs to be improved to prepare for Christ?* * How does it feel to have your way of life questioned?

Concern America - The Marketplace of Fair Trade

Crafts - Beautiful handmade craft items from El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Bangladesh and Ecuador are on sale after Mass today. By your purchase of these gift items, you support the development work of Concern America and help to provide a fair just wage for many materially poor families. We invite you to think about honoring your family and friends in a very special way this coming Christmas season by choosing gifts with meaning and purpose. Website: www.concernamerica.org.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary: The Christmas vacation schedule is as follows: No class **December 23 and 30**. Classes resume on Sunday, **January 6**.

Middle School: Students and families will be Christmas caroling on Tuesday, **December 11**, at the Katella Senior Living 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).

No class on **Dec. 18, 25, and Jan. 1**. Classes resume on Tuesday, **January 8**.

Confirmation: Next session for our **Year 1** candidates is **December 16**. 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. Thank you for bringing your item for our baskets. Great job, community helpers! Next week - Singing in the hall after Mass! Remember to invite family and friends and bring your cameras & camcorders. Get ready to be moved by the Spirit!

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.

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.

An **easel and table** are missing from the church. Whoever borrowed these items, please return them ASAP. The bereavement ministry needs them for funerals. Thank you.

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. 14: *Discovering the TRUE Adult Understanding of the Incarnation and How as ADULTS We Grow in Our Faith in Preparing for Christmas*



Please remember to bring your photos for our picture contest.

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.

St. Cecilia's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11. Please join us at noon at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant. Questions, please call Ruth, 431-0288.

St. Joseph 5th Grade Religious Ed Class needs your help!

We will be collecting knitted or crocheted squares (or scarves) over the next couple of months to make Afgans for Afgans (www.afghansforafghans.org/index.html). We will be asking all the knitters and crocheters in the parish community (and their friends and family members) to make and donate 12 inch by 12 inch squares that the kids can sew together. Please use wool and wool blends that offer the most warmth and durability in harsh conditions. There is no preference on the colors; however, it is more practicable if we avoid light colors. See the web site for specific guidelines. Thanks!

We will be collecting the squares (and scarves) through the end of January/February 2008. Please place finished squares in the box in the church entrance. Any questions, contact Wendy Gentry, 754-8546 or gentryrb@aol.com.

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

Thank you all for the prayer support for Don and I during his illness. Special thanks to the school children for their prayers. Thanks to the eighth grade also for your pictures and messages over Halloween and Thanksgiving. Don is well on his way to complete recovery.

Don & Nancy Miller

Alone for Christmas? You are invited to St. Hedwig's Annual free Christmas Dinner, Tuesday, Dec. 25, 1 pm. Reservations required. Please contact Mary 430-9052.

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 Comfort, Irene Avila, Peter LuPiba, Scott Williams, Justin Ray, Justin Christopherson, Timothy Ring, Hoang-Long Tran, Chris Shaw

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.

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.

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!



Drivers: Thank you for returning the Thanksgiving family data sheets. We received over 80%. This makes shopping for these children 80% easier!

We thank all those drivers!!!!

We need the wrapped packages returned 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 9 - Volunteers sort presents. Wrapped packages must be returned by 12:30 pm.

December 15 - Christmas Delivery Day, 8:30 am. Delivery time is 9-12.

Have a Blessed and family Christmas, Family Counts.

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.

Vocation Retreat Day for Young Women at Nazareth House, 3333 Manning Ave., Los Angeles, Sunday, January 13, from 9 am to 4 pm. Call Sister Fintan, 310-216-8170, or Sister Celine, 310-839-2361, email vocations_naz@yahoo.com.

Awaken to the Spirit Within 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. Contact Pat Metzger 243-8460 or Barbara Brown Thompson barbmcbrown@charter.net. \$30 includes lunch.

Prayer Retreats in Silence - Deepen Your Spiritual Life Open to all Catholics searching for deeper spirituality. Fr. Datus OCD is an experienced teacher of religious and laity alike. Jan. 21-25, or Feb. 18-22, Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside. Info: Steve or Mary 909-790-9243.

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, December 8

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

MONDAY, December 10

8:00 AM - † John Stewart

TUESDAY, December 11

8:00 AM - † Peter Anselmo

WEDNESDAY, December 12

8:00 AM - † Jeanette D'Amico

THURSDAY, December 13

8:00 AM - † Arthur Cugro

FRIDAY, December 14

8:00 AM - † Dominico Vu-Dang

SATURDAY, December 15

5:00 PM - † John Anselmo

SUNDAY, December 16

7:30 AM - † Bill Condon

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Michael Lowen

12:30 PM - † Joe Peterson

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: John the Baptist calls the people to repent. What place does repenting have in your Advent?

Child: What would the world be like if everyone did what God wanted us to do?

Teen: How can I treat my family and friends so that they come to know Jesus?



Last week: \$13,554

Last year: \$15,424

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Irene Risko, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, John Barycki, Phil McCafferty, Mary Mariano, Anna Sharples, Lydia Simpson, Elizabeth Rouse, David Sudakou, Helen Belli, Dick Ingalls, Cletus Schmidt, Tony Bernardo, David Dresnick, Margaret DeRuyter, Christopher Moore, Lala Rocha, Diane Stowers, Hugo Jorda, Katie Hofkenschied, Jim Correira, Lucille Heilman, Jovencio Banares, Mary Wiegand, Sharon Conroy, Frank Thornton, William Worthy, 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, Bob Sylvia, Carlos Delgado, Cliff & Patricia Lowen, 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	Marianne Schaeffer	594-8678
MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD	John & Jan Minter	430-5839
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	Nancy Miller	429-2546
RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL	Michelle Needham	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	Mimi Bloeser	597-0785
GIRL SCOUTS	Cynthia Stabelfeldt	421-8492
CUB SCOUTS	Douglas Alchorn	594-9407
BOY SCOUTS	Bill Higbee	425-6124

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