



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

Today's Gospel ends with a stunning assertion from Jesus: "The least born into the kingdom of God" is greater than John the Baptizer. How could that be? What can that possibly mean? Here is part of the mystery of salvation: salvation is a gift given to us, not a personal accomplishment or a thing we've earned. It is God who comes "with vindication," says Isaiah in the first reading, to save us. It is God who strengthens feeble hands, gives sight to the blind & strength to those who are frightened. All we have to do is be born into God's kingdom by baptism in Jesus Christ and we become greater than anyone only measured by worldly standards. Amazing. Yes, amazing grace.

John could rest relieved in his prison cell when Jesus reminded him of this: It is God who gives sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and life to those who have died. If these things are happening, who do you suppose is hear with you then?

Father William

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

**Christmas Vigil** - Monday, December 24  
4:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 9:00 pm

**Christmas Day** - Tuesday, December 25  
9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:30 pm  
(No 7:30 am Mass Christmas Day)  
(No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

**New Year's Eve** - Monday, December 31  
5:00 pm

**New Year's Day** - Tuesday, January 1  
9:00 am, and 12:00 noon

**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.



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

We have recently celebrated the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec 12), both feasts honoring Our Lady. I found this hymn/poem in our Liturgy of the Hours that speaks beautiful words asking for blessings and praise and protection for our homes and children:

"On this day we sing your praises  
Purest Maid of all the earth  
While the beauty of the springtime  
Tells your joy at Jesus' birth.

Glorious Queen, look down in kindness  
While before your throne we stand;  
Bring God's blessing to your children;  
Watch our homes and guard our land.

Gate of Heaven, you were Mother  
To the Kings of heaven and earth;  
Now be Mother to your subjects,  
In our souls give Jesus birth.

Queen of Mankind, while creation  
Speaks the grandeur of God's love,  
Mold our hearts to seek His glory  
Till we reach our home above."

**Our Prayer:** Oh Lord, You are our redeemer, who made the Immaculate Virgin Mary Your purest home and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, make us temples of your Spirit forever. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

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.

32 SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Small Faith Community**

**Scripture Focus** - Prophets such as Isaiah brought a message of hope that things could be different. John the Baptist, too, proclaimed the coming of a new age. But now, John is in prison and his followers wonder if Jesus is the promised one. They may have been expecting a "fire and brimstone" preacher who would lead the people out of their oppression, Instead, Jesus gives them a different image, an image of healing, forgiveness and tender concern for all people.

**Life Focus** - \* Describe a false or faulty image you once had of how your life, the world or the Church was supposed to be. What changed your image? \* *Relate an experience when it was easy for you to recognize God in a person, situation or event, and another when it was difficult.* \* What obstacles do you have in your life that keep you from following Christ today? Describe an experience in your life when you removed an obstacle. \* *Describe an experience when you felt hemmed in by your small world. Relate who or what helped to free you from this situation.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

**Middle School:** Please support our Bake Sale today after all the Masses. 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 **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. Singing in the hall after Mass! No class Dec. 23 or 30. 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!

**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 today after all the Masses.

**Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord!**

An evening of prayer and scripture - Being ready for Christmas involves spiritual readiness, openness, and receptiveness. Advent is a time to examine what goes on inside ourselves and in our relationships, and to deepen our prayer and understanding of the Bible.

Dr. Victoria Dendinger will be offering a special prayer experience **December 17, 7:30-9 pm**, in the PAC. Adults, teens, and mature younger students are invited. Bring a Bible. Questions? Call the parish office, 594-4657. 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.

**St. Vincent de Paul - Bundle Sunday - January 13**

On Jan. 13 our parish is having a Bundle Sunday for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Please bring your usable clothing and usable household items to their truck here in our church parking lot by the hall. Help them in their endless efforts to assist the needy. They are in desperate need of furniture and large appliances. Call them for pick up of heavy items, 323-224-6280 or 800-974-3571.



**Dec. 17** - Christmas Lunch and Party - remember to bring your unwrapped gift.

**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.**

**Men's Retreat - January 4-6, Serra Retreat, Malibu**

Is That All There Is? Asking Questions While on the Spiritual Path. Deepen your understanding of your spiritual journey as you spend time with God in a weekend of prayer, reflection and sharing in the beauty of God's creation. For questions, please call 310-456-6631 or visit the website: [www.serraretreat.com](http://www.serraretreat.com).

**Adult Confirmation** - course begins **January 6** through April, 9:15-11:15 am, Our Lady of Refuge Auditorium. To sign up, contact our Religious Education Office, 598-0519. There is a \$30 registration fee, and copies of Baptismal and First Communion Certificates are also needed. The Rite of Confirmation will take place in May at St. Margaret Mary Church, Lomita.

**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](http://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](mailto: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

**Attention:** The 50+ Catholic Singles (divorced, separated, single, widowed), will meet on Sunday, **Dec. 23** at **2 pm** in the conference room of St. Pancratius Church, 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lakewood. Info: Mary, 596-9449.

**The Preacher to the Pope - Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa**  
 Sunday, **Jan. 6**, 11:30-4:00, Alemany High School, Mission Hills. Appointed as the official preacher to the papal household. Two presentations plus Mass. Limited seating available. For more information, call SCRC 818-771-1361, [www.scr.org](http://www.scr.org).

**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>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.

**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!



Thanks to the founding families who started MFBW 21 years ago!  
 Thank you for returning the **BEAUTIFUL presents** to church. Bringing them before the 12:30 Mass really makes a difference for the volunteers doing the sorting!

Thanks to our sorting volunteers, though you know who you are: Fran, Wendy, Terry, Harriet, Kim, Madeline, Hayley, Mark, Amber, Marilyn, Tim, Mary Lou, Roger, Jan, and Brid Considine & the 'B' girls basketball team.

Thanks to the parishioner shoppers who brought so many, many brightly wrapped packages to church last Sunday. We delivered them to our families, right here in Long Beach, with the improved Food Baskets! We estimate 200 large trash bags full of presents were delivered. **This IS a very generous parish.**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**


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](mailto:vocations_naz@yahoo.com).

	Last week: \$12,219 Last year: \$13,513
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**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 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

## MONDAY, December 17

8:00 AM - † Robert Preston

## TUESDAY, December 18

8:00 AM - Carlos Delgado, living

## WEDNESDAY, December 19

8:00 AM - † Andy Andriole

## THURSDAY, December 20

8:00 AM - † Florencio Alalay, Sr.

## FRIDAY, December 21

8:00 AM - † Diosdado Garcia

## SATURDAY, December 22

5:00 PM - † James Andrew Ciriacks

## SUNDAY, December 23

7:30 AM - † Cristina Egealon

9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Sgt. Michael J. Tetreault, Jr.

12:30 PM - † Domingo Dizon

### QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** What is the source of my Christmas joy? How will I share that joy with my family, friends, and perhaps even the cashier at a store checkout?

**Child:** What are the things I do every day that show others I am a follower of Jesus?

**Teen:** What good things have I done so far during Advent to be like Jesus?

**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, Joy Mann and Joseph Eno, Sr.

### 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