



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

You might be inclined to feel sorry for Ahaz in the first reading and to wonder why God was so angry that this king wouldn't ask for a sign. The prophet Isaiah had come with a message from God when Ahaz and his kingdom of Judah were under attack. God wanted to reassure Ahaz; he told him not to let his courage fail. Then he offered to give him a sign. The reason Ahaz wouldn't ask for a sign was because he didn't think God would be of much help. He had decided to rely on the strength of Assyria instead. No wonder God sounds so annoyed! God wants to give a sign, and certainly Ahaz and all of Judah need one that is "deep as the nether world or high as the sky." So he gives it anyway - to Ahaz and to all of us who have come after him. God gives us the sign of the Virgin giving birth to Immanuel. It was a sign Ahaz felt he didn't need. We do.

Father William



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

From our family to yours we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas. May the Christ Child live in you and keep you close to His heart.

I was going to leave you with some "left-overs" from last week's homily, but then I reflected on last evening (Monday) when our parishioners brought a ham dinner with all the trimmings and a plethora of ice cream to PROJECT ACHIEVE. I could not count the number of times many of the men & women came back for 2nds and 3rds! That was enough of a thank you from them to us.

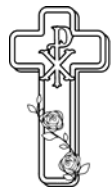
There have been many sad stories of late in the papers, and we ask, "Is this the kingdom of which God speaks?" Well, as I try to emphasize, we need to accentuate the positive; Marisa at Project Achieve informed us that this year of 2007 they were successful in placing 194 men and women in jobs!! That is a God sighting! That is the positive side that our local papers did not print - and it should have been on the front page!

Remember, prayer has to be "rooted" early in our lives so that it can withstand the "dry spells" in lives. For that reason, the "tap root" of prayer has to reach the faith level or it will wither and dry. When we pray we will find time for the important things in our lives. St. Frances de Sales says, "Faith is like a bright ray of sunlight. It enables us to see God in all things as well as all things in God."

**Our Prayer:** Lord, grant that our works of penance may please you and that we may be ready for Your kingdom which is so near. Prepare a path in our hearts for the coming of Your Word, and let His glory be revealed among us. Break down the walls of hatred that divide the nations, and make level for mankind the paths of peace. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

*Rest in Peace*

*Died in Christ:*  
**Louis Clark**  
**Andy Andriole**  
**David Brown**



**Christmas Mass Schedule**

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

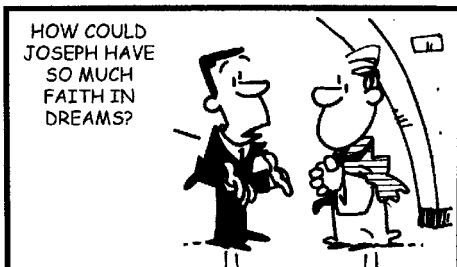
**Christmas Day** - Tuesday, December 25  
 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:30 pm  
 (No 7:30 am Mass Christmas Day)  
 (No evening Mass on Christmas Day)

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

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

**The Parish Office** will be closed December 24 and 25 for Christmas. Christmas blessings to all from your pastor and parish staff!

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Small Faith Community**

**Scripture Focus** - Matthew's version of Jesus' conception is a statement of Christian faith in Jesus as the Son of God. It begins with Joseph's confusion over Mary's pregnancy. They were engaged to be married but had not yet lived together. Sexual relations with anyone except the engaged person were considered adultery, and punishment was severe. God reassures Joseph in a dream that the child has been conceived by "the power of the Holy Spirit." Matthew sees Joseph as a model of faith. He recognizes the power of God working in ways he cannot understand. The child's destiny is indicated by his name: The name *Jesus* means "Yahweh helps" or "Yahweh saves." Matthew stresses the meaning of *Emmanuel*, "God-With-Us," to emphasize Jesus' divine Sonship.

**Life Focus** - \* Describe a time when you felt your trust had been betrayed by someone you loved. \* Describe a time when you had to struggle to trust God in a difficult situation. \* When did you change a decision of yours after prayer and reflection?

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary:** No class today or next week! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Middle School:** No class on **Dec. 25, and Jan. 1.**

Classes resume on Tuesday, **January 8.**

**Confirmation:** Next session for our **Year 1** candidates is **January 6.** 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:** No class today. Enjoy your holiday and remember to be aware of Christ in your heart! See you on January 6.

**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.

The Religious Education Office will be closed from Friday, Dec. 21 through Thursday, January 3.

***The Religious Education staff and volunteers would like to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and happy and healthy New Year!***

**St. Vincent de Paul - Bundle Sunday - January 13**  
Sunday, **January 13**, is Bundle Sunday for our parish. The St. Vincent de Paul truck will be here 8:00 am to 1:30 pm to receive your donations. Bring usable clothing, shoes, appliances, household items, linen, books, jewelry, etc. They are in desperate need of all furniture and large appliances. For large items, please phone 323-224-6280 or 800-974-3571 for a special pickup at your home. Remember your contributions will be helping the needy.

**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.

**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).



**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.

**Thank You! Thank You!**

The religious education **Middle School** students, catechists, and parents would like to thank all those who contributed by either donating or purchasing baked goods for last Sunday's bake sale. We realized a profit of **\$388.05** which will help provide water pumps for the Food for the Poor organization. The students have also collected \$78 from collecting aluminum cans and water bottles.

**Procession and Mass of Reparation for the Sin of Abortion** - Please join Fr. John S. Schiavone on Friday night, **December 28** (Feast of the Holy Innocents), at St. Gregory the Great, 13935 Telegraph Rd., Whittier. Gather in the church patio at 6 pm for free refreshments, at 6:30 we will assemble in the church parking lot. Procession will begin at 7 pm during which time we will be reciting the rosary. At 7:30 the Mass will begin. Following the Mass there will be the enrollment of the Brown Scapular. *Raining or not, yet we march!!!* For more information, please call Mark, 695-2095 or 256-6076.

**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:

**Jan. 6** - St. Pius X, Santa Fe Springs, 929-9494

**Jan. 11** - St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, 920-7796 ex. 247

**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.



Thanks to the founding families who started MFBW 21 years ago!

**Thank you to all of the parishioners who joined and/or participated in the Christmas Food and Gift Delivery.**

**This year went the smoothest of any. We delivered food and presents to all of the children of our 65 families, and to their families, right here in Long Beach. We estimate 200 large trash bags full of presents were delivered. This IS a very generous parish. St. Joseph Parish has made many people MERRY this Christmas.**

**If you missed out, call and join us and all of the selfless parishioners that you work and pray with every day.**

**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.

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

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.

**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).

 Our Weekly Offering	Last week: \$10,274
	Last year: \$12,077

**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.

**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!

# Mass Intentions



**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

**MONDAY, December 24**

8:00 AM - † Dan Foley  
 4:00 PM - Intention of Celebrant  
 6:00 PM - Intention of Celebrant  
 9:00 PM - Intention of Celebrant

**TUESDAY, December 25**

9:00 AM - Intention of Celebrant  
 10:30 AM - Intention of Celebrant  
 12:30 PM - Intention of Celebrant

**WEDNESDAY, December 26**

8:00 AM - † Ali Syed

**THURSDAY, December 27**

8:00 AM - † Bob Uehlin

**FRIDAY, December 28**

8:00 AM - † Maria & Dominico Dang

**SATURDAY, December 29**

5:00 PM - † Mary Jane Merk

**SUNDAY, December 30**

7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners  
 9:00 AM - † Timothy O'Donnell  
 10:30 AM - † Andy Andriole  
 12:30 PM - Josephine Osborn, living

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** How is St. Joseph a model of faith for me?

**Child:** What could I do this week to make someone feel welcome, as Joseph welcomed Mary?

**Teen:** Whom do I find difficult to welcome in my life? What can I do to overcome that?

**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