



From the Pastor's Desk:

Here we are at perhaps the timeliest Sunday of each church year, the feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. To protect ourselves from this powerful feast day, we sometimes ask, "could a *Holy Family* have anything to do with our families?" This Holy Family has everything to do with us. This feast with its wise and honest readings, speaks of our lives to us. In the first reading from Sirach, good children bring comfort to their mothers; sometimes fathers' minds fail and children are tempted to be inconsiderate or to revile them. In the passage from Colossians, families need kindness, mercy and patience. Spouses have duties toward each other, but can sometimes grow bitter. Children lose heart when parents nag. In the Gospel, Joseph has to uproot his whole world to save his stepson's life. Are these today's Scriptures or today's news stories? What are we to do with a liturgy like this? Pay attention.

Father William

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.

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.

HOLY FAMILY



From Deacon Don's Desk:

Paul Harvey recently quoted the words of Yuri Gagarin, the first Russian to orbit the earth. Yuri's comment was: "I am here above the earth and I look around and I do not see a God." Then Mr. Harvey quoted the American astronaut Lovell, as he later orbited the earth, "I am orbiting the earth and I look around and I see God everywhere!" I am still awe struck by God becoming like us. Lowering Himself to our state. Jesus immerses Himself into our humanity to take on our sins - to help us understand that He transforms us to be saved by His suffering, death and resurrection. "By the power of the Holy Spirit He was born of the Virgin Mary and became man!" It is at this time that we should all bow in humility that God would humble Himself in becoming man. Bishop Fulton Sheen is quoted as saying, "Christmas is the day when the God-Man says to every person in the world, "My mother Mary gave me a human nature like your own in all things but sin. I have shown you how one can overcome the worst of situations and live in joy." He says, what Jesus is saying is "what does it profit Me if I am born in Bethlehem and am not reborn in your hearts?" The four Christmas Masses, feast of the Holy Family, the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, the Epiphany of the Lord, and His Baptism show us the different aspects of God's "self-disclosure in the Lord Jesus, in whom He is really "Emmanuel - God is with us." **Our Prayer:** Lord God, You desired to be born within time and shared our weaknesses and experienced the day-to-day life of men and women, so we ask You to help us grow in Your love that we may share eternal joy in praising Your glory. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

The Parish Office will be closed December 31 and January 1. May Christ bless each of you with a new year full of his peace and love.

Small Faith Community

Scripture Focus - Matthew's story of the "Flight into Egypt": is modeled on the stories of Moses and his escape from the Pharaoh. Matthew's main intent is to say something about who Jesus is. He wants us to make an act of faith in this Jesus. Like the people of Israel escaping from Egypt, Jesus is the new Israel. He is God's son. On a very human level, the Gospel also portrays a "holy" family, in which loving parents go to extreme lengths to protect a threatened child.

Life Focus - * Relate a time in your life when you experienced family unity in the face of danger, difficulty or crisis. Why was there unity? * *Relate a time when you experienced family disunity. Why was there disunity?* * Describe an experience of God guiding you out of danger or difficulty. How did God "speak" to you? Through a friend, family member, a stranger, your feelings, prayer? * What can you do to defend and promote gospel values at home, at work, at church and in society? What keeps you from doing it?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary: No class today! See you next week, **Jan. 6.** The religious education families will come together for Mass on Sunday, **Jan. 13** at **9:00 am.** Following Mass, there will be a potluck brunch in the hall.

Middle School: No class **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 remain closed through Thursday, January 3.

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). 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:

Jan. 9 - St. Pius X, Santa Fe Springs, 929-9494

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



Hope you all had a blessed Christmas! I think we had one of the very best Christmas parties - food was great, entertainment was fantastic, the magician was really entertaining and he held the audience in the palm of his hands. A very special thanks to all the people who set up the tables and did all the decorations and of course the people who helped clean up after. Betty and Olga give a big thank you - many hands make a big job a lot smaller. Have a Happy New Year and a healthy one.

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.

January meetings - first and third Mondays

Jan. 7 - meeting starts at 12:00 noon.

Jan. 21 - regular meeting, fun and games.

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

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.

Training for Discipleship - Young Adults, men and women, 18 years or more, how do you live out your discipleship of Jesus in this world? With life's demands making time so precious, how and where do you find the time or place to discover that answer? A monthly night of spiritual development using prayer, presentation and discussion, hopes to lead you to answer the crucial questions: How am I a disciple of Jesus Christ? Were do I, as a disciple, fit into the Catholic Church? **Jan. 9** at Holy Trinity Church, 209 N. Hanford Ave, San Pedro, 7:30-9 pm, or **Jan. 17** at St. John of God Church, 13819 S. Pioneer Blvd, Norwalk 7-9 pm.

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.

Rachel's Vineyard Retreat Weekend for healing after abortion - for men and women struggling with the emotional and spiritual pain of abortion. Designed to help work through repressed grief and anger in a safe setting. **Jan. 18-20**, San Fernando. For registration or information, please call 866-272-2435, www.rachelsvineyard.org.

St. John Bosco High School Open House Sunday, **January 13**, 12:30 - 2:30 pm, 13640 Bellflower Blvd., 920-1734. Guided tours, curriculum presentations, placement exam registration and refreshments.

Cornelia Connelly School

Tuition Assistance Information Night, **Jan. 16**, 6:30 pm
Open House, **Jan. 16**, 7:00 pm
Entrance Exam, **Jan. 19**, 8:30-1:00 pm

St. Joseph High School Placement Exam, January 26, 8 am - 12 noon, 5825 N. Woodruff, Lakewood, 925-5073.

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:

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|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Vincent Vezzetti | Amy Mann |
| Glen Warren | Nick Compton |
| Joseph Comfort | Irene Avila |
| Peter LuPiba | Scott Williams |
| Justin Ray | 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.



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.

Pathways Volunteer Hospice is beginning volunteer training in January for their Care Giver, Bereavement, and Hospice Programs. To sign up or for more information, please contact Donna, **531-3031**. Pathways is a non profit organization that provides compassionate care to those living with an illness or loss. Join our Volunteer Team!!

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.

	Last week: \$16,828 Last year: \$10,218
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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.

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 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

MONDAY, December 31

8:00 AM - † Ali Syed

5:00 PM - † Ali Syed

TUESDAY, January 1

9:00 AM - Intention of Celebrant

12:00 PM - Intention of Celebrant

WEDNESDAY, January 2

8:00 AM - Jake & Judy DeRuyter, Thanksgiving

THURSDAY, January 3

8:00 AM - The Carpenter family, Thanksgiving

FRIDAY, January 4

8:00 AM - Joe & Lily Dang, living

SATURDAY, January 5

5:00 PM - † John DeRuyter

SUNDAY, January 6

7:30 AM - Don & Cindy Rodriguez & family, living

9:00 AM - † Kellee Murchison Bennett

10:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

12:30 PM - Hugh Van der Linden, living

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: From my experience, why is forgiveness essential to family life?

Child: What good thing will I do this week to show my love for my parent or grandparent?

Teen: What can I do this week to help someone in my family feel more secure and loved?

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