



From the Pastor's Desk:

I. There is so much mystery surrounding the three Gentiles from the east who followed a star to find Jesus, that we don't even know what to call them. "Astrologers" says the Gospel today, yet sometimes we hear them called "Wise Men" and even "kings." Obviously, their exact identity wasn't important to the story. What was important? Their status as outsiders, if you will, aliens. Also important: their number - not the exact number three, but the fact that there were more than one of them. In this day of global positioning devices, satellite maps and turn-by-turn transmitted directions, we can't imagine anyone setting out on a journey of hundreds of miles only vaguely guided by a star and an ancient prophecy. In this we are correct - no one should ever do such a foolhardy thing. But three? Three is the number of the Divine. Three is a community, a family. Together these three astrologers could set out on this fantastic journey. If you are following a star, never travel alone.

II. "That this Christmas season afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted, we pray to the Lord," comes from the teaching of an early Church Father. He said, "Christ came to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted." By it he meant that over and above our selfless love for our families, we are to show to those in need a self sacrificing love. Love for them is not always easy. This kind of love is shown by those in our parish involved in Project Achieve and in feeding the homeless on skid row here in Long Beach and in Los Angeles. We in this parish for the most part are comfortable. We are called to comfort the afflicted in ways that require some self sacrifice. Getting involved with the Catholic Worker in San Pedro or in Los Angeles would be another way of showing self sacrificing love. The founder of the Catholic Worker is being considered for sainthood. She is Dorothy Day, a radical voice for the poor. She would become the first saint to have had an abortion. (This was before her conversion to the Church. Venerable Dorothy Day had been an atheist and Marxist.) She deeply repented of this horrendous sin after her conversion.

III. I am grateful to our Liturgical Environment Team, to our Choir, Acolytes, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and all who made this a very beautiful Christmas and Epiphany.

Father William

Rest in Peace
Died in Christ:
Robert Berberet
Cruz Aragon
Maria Shelton



St. Vincent de Paul Bundle Sunday - Just a reminder! Remember to bring any usable items that will help needy individuals next Sunday, **January 13**, to the truck in the parish parking lot from 8 am - 1:30 pm. We need your support! For large items including furniture and large appliances, please phone 800-974-3571 for home pickups.



From Deacon Don's Desk:

Well, the recycle bin has been hauled out to the street and we still have more to go!! Along with "cleaning" out our shelves and closets (and the deacon's garage!), we need to take a new look at our spiritual lives or "refresh" as our computer button says - not the "escape" or "delete" button.

I quote from Fr. Pelligrino: "The greatest gift man has ever received was the gift of the first Christmas, Jesus Christ. His presence continues among us and WITHIN us in the Eucharist."

I'm sure that resolutions abound but one that should be put on your list is that of EUCHARISTIC ADORATION.

Our Christmas "Preface" says, "You fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in Christ the revelation of Your love. No eye can see His glory as our God, yet now He is seen as one like us. Christ is Your Son before all ages, yet now He is born in time. He has come to lift up all things to Himself to restore unity to creation and to lead us from exile into His heavenly kingdom."

This Sunday is the feast of EPIPHANY (manifestation) of our Lord; now His plan is revealed - our eternal salvation which shows Him as the light for all people. It's time for us to reflect and pray about this gift. Why pray? Christ doesn't want you to pray because you have to. He wants you to pray because He loves you and likes talking to you, just as you like talking with others. Sometimes we feel that God doesn't answer our prayers, but He does. His answers are "Yes", "No" or "I have a better plan for you."

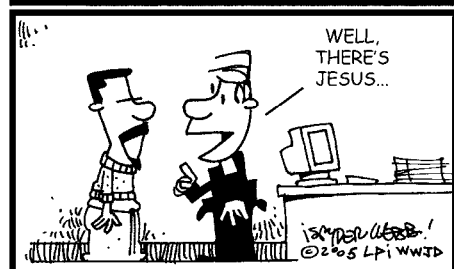
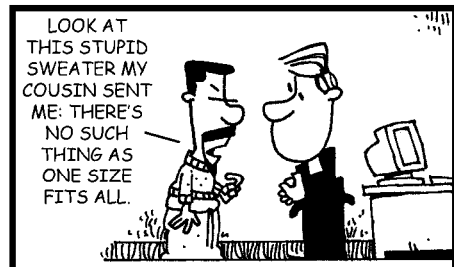
Pray forms can be summarized by A.C.T.S. or Adoration, Contrition (sorrow for sins), Thanksgiving, Supplication (your request of God).

Our Prayer: Oh Lord, the wise men followed a star to find You and we are asked to do the same. Help me to become a better "light" by helping others find Jesus by serving You in them. Amen.

Thank You!

Fr. Ford and Fr. Will thank parishioners who gave them gifts for Christmas. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary: Welcome back!

Next week, **Jan. 13**, our Family Mass and Potluck Brunch will take place starting with Mass at **9:00 am**.

Middle School: Classes resume on Tuesday, **January 8**.

Confirmation: Session for our **Year 1** candidates **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**.

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.

“Processing Our Guilt” - St. Barnabas Church, 3955 Orange Ave., Long Beach, is holding a Parish Mission on **January 28, 29 and 30** with Fr. Tom Allender, a Jesuit priest. Fr. Tom is known for his down-to-earth spiritual presentations. The theme for this mission is “Processing Our Guilt.” The talks will be held after the 8 am Mass and in the evening at 7 pm. Please call our religious education office at 598-0519 for more details.

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 Afghans for Afghans (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.

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.

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. 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



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 and 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.

St. Cecilia's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Jan. 8. Please join us at noon at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant. Questions, please call Ruth, 431-0288.

Married? Great! You're just who we're looking for to help **Engaged Encounter** prepare engaged couples for marriage. Whether you've been married 2 months or 22+ years, we need your help. What better way to start **2008** than with a resolution to share your sacrament of matrimony! Free training is provided based on your busy lifestyle. Call Tom & Diane Krause, 310-316-4857, or visit our website, www.CEEofLA.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.

Small Faith Community

Scripture Focus - Epiphany means “manifestation,” a revelation of Jesus as truly God. Matthew and Luke show this child to be divine through stories of “signs and wonders” when Jesus was an infant. Matthew’s account of the visit of the three magi also shows the Church’s mission to the Gentiles. Matthew’s audience, largely Jewish Christians, was struggling to accept the presence of Gentile Christians in their community. Matthew shows in this Gospel passage that the salvation of Gentiles as well as Jews was indeed God’s plan.

Life Focus - * What helps you stay focused on God’s presence in everyday situations where God is usually not mentioned? * *From your experience, when have you come to appreciate people you used to pass by or not notice?* * How do we reconcile the material gifts we have in our lives with the simple life-style of Jesus? * *The wise men worked hard to find Jesus, and we are asked to do the same. What are some ways you have found Jesus in your life?* * How can you find Christ and worship him? * *What gifts do you bring to the Christ Child?*

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:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 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.

Our  Weekly Offering	Last week: \$11,918 Last year: \$10,218
--	--

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, 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

MONDAY, January 7

8:00 AM - † Simone Constantino

TUESDAY, January 8

8:00 AM - Rita Smith, Thanksgiving

WEDNESDAY, January 9

8:00 AM - † Miss Maisie Farrell

THURSDAY, January 10

8:00 AM - † Christopher & Ashley Cockroft

FRIDAY, January 11

8:00 AM - Lily and Joe Dang and family, living

SATURDAY, January 12

5:00 PM - † Mary Jane Merk

SUNDAY, January 13

7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 AM - † Kellee Murchison-Bennett

10:30 AM - † Severino Rodriguez

12:30 PM - Don and Nancy Miller, Thanksgiving

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: Following the example of the Magi, how do I persevere in following the light of Christ in my own life?

Child: If I were one of the Magi, what gift would I bring to Jesus?

Teen: What could I do to be like a star and lead someone to know about 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, Joseph Eno, Sr, Ginny Kennebeck, Osiries Gonzalez, Nancy Vandrosek and Richard Parent.

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
--------------	----------

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