



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

Count them: four. There were four Sundays of Advent before Christmas, and there have been four Sundays of Christmas since December 25. Once our local radio stations stop playing Christmas music, and our stores put up their Valentine displays, it can be easy to miss the rest of Christmas. In the church, the season of Christmas ends today. We find ourselves back on the banks of the Jordan river where once we heard John the Baptist announce the Messiah's imminent arrival. Today the story comes full circle. A man arrives among the crowd John the Baptist always drew. He was different from the others who wanted John's baptism. John had no warnings for him, no call to repentance. This man had no need of this baptism by water, yet he told John that God demanded it. So John took Jesus into the river and pushed him under the water. With this final action from the old law the curtain was opened to the new. Here is God's Son. Salvation has come.

Father William



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

I wish to express Tina's and my gratitude for all that gave homeless "hygiene kits." After going out on the streets two weeks ago, we had only handed out about 30. We still had about 90-100 left. Last Saturday in the local paper, Tina saw a story about the 1st Congregational Church on Cedar Avenue opening its door to the homeless during the heavy rains. She thought that the hygiene kits might be a welcome and useful gift for the homeless who would be in the shelter of the church. We met with Reverend Kit Wilke and he was overwhelmed by St. Joseph Church's generosity. Again thanks to all who gave from their hearts.

More good and not so good news: The O.C. Register reported that the number of Catholics in the U.S. rose 41% from 1965 to 2007, BUT the number of priests dropped 29%. This is our cue to pray more fervently for vocations. The number of priests in Orange County rose 19% since 1970, but O.C. Catholics rose 243%. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta once said, "God keeps on loving the world. He keeps on sending you and me to prove that He loves the world, that He still has that compassion for the world. It is we who have to be His love, His compassion in the world of today. But to be able to love we must have faith, for faith in action is love, and love in action is service... believe that He, Jesus, is in the appearance of Bread and that He, Jesus, is the hungry, naked, sick, lonely, unloved, homeless, helpless and hopeless."

**Our Prayer:** Eternal God, when the Spirit descended upon Jesus at His baptism in the Jordan, you revealed Him as Your own beloved Son. Keep us, Your children born of water and the Spirit faithful to our calling. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

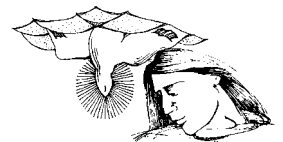
**Adult:** What does your Baptism mean in your own life and how does it change you?

**Child:** What good thing could I do this week that would be pleasing to God?

**Teen:** What can I do this week to start my day by focusing on God?

**Respect Life - Annual Requiem for the Unborn and Memorial Candle Service at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, on Saturday, Jan. 19, 6 pm.** All parishioners and their families are invited to participate. We will car-pool. For more info please call Deacon Don or Tina Gath, 498-6701 or 598-5202.

***A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*** Matthew 3:17

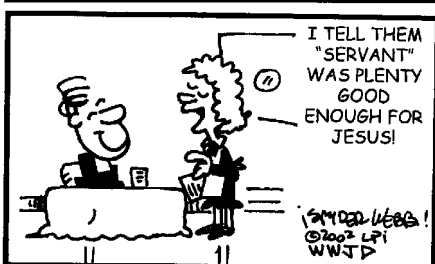


**Small Faith Community**

**Scripture Focus** - Our first reading is one of the four "Servant Songs" in the Book of Isaiah. The "servant" is both an individual and someone who stands for all the people. The servant will triumph - but only after suffering. When Jesus comes to be baptized, John is confused. But Jesus reveals the Father to John and declares himself to be the "son" who alone knows God's will. When Jesus comes from the water, the Spirit comes in visible form. Jesus is revealed as "servant," "beloved," "chosen one" with whom God was "well pleased."

**Life Focus** - \* Give examples from your experience when you expected to be the receiver but turned out to be the giver. \* Describe a time when you experienced God working through you in a way you had not expected. \* Identify a way your understanding and appreciation of God evolved throughout your life. \* Who had been willing to suffer for you? What has been the effect on you? \* When in your life have you found some peace even in time of turmoil and suffering?

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD



### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary:** Family Mass and Potluck Brunch takes place today starting with Mass at **9:00 am**. No regular class session today.

**Sacrament Program:** Sacrament Workshop #2 for our **First Year** families will take place on Sunday, **Jan. 27**, from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the hall. Parents and students need to attend. Childcare will be provided for siblings.

**Confirmation:** Next session for our **Year 1** candidates is **January 20**. All first-year candidates should attend the **12:30 pm Mass** with either a parent or sponsor. The session for candidates only will follow in the hall to **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.

**Seniors’ annual Mini Retreat - February 18** with Bishop Sartoris and catered lunch. **Retreat open to everyone!** Any questions - call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287.

**Mass with a Healing Service** - Tuesday, **Jan. 15**, 7 pm, St. Cyprian Church, 4714 Clark Ave, 421-9487. Celebrant: Fr. Joshua Lee, pastor of St. Hilary Church in Whittier. He is a charismatic priest and a gifted preacher. Come and feel the presence of the living Lord that renews our heart to know God’s love and to live a holy life with God’s goodness and grace.

**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](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).



**Dues are due! Still only \$5 per year.**

**Jan. 21** - regular meeting, fun and games.

**Feb. 4** - meeting, more info to follow.

**Feb. 18** - Yearly mini retreat with Bishop Sartoris sponsored by the Seniors but open to everyone; snack in the morning, lecture, Mass, catered lunch, lecture.

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

We are made in God’s image and are called to act as God acts - to love! Natural family planning will teach you to love as God loves, embracing the beauty of God’s design for our bodies. Take a course from the Couple to Couple League to discover the life-giving virtues of natural family planning and its rich marital benefits. With a newly revised and simplified method, NFP is safe, healthy and 99% effective. For more information, contact Greg and Beth Gath at 377-5877 or [bethandgreg@verizon.net](mailto:bethandgreg@verizon.net).

**Thank You from Concern America** - On Dec. 9, Concern America brought its **Market Place of Fair Trade Crafts**. Once again we found your community to be very generous. Crafts valued at \$1,704 were purchased. We are very grateful! Your purchases promote Fair Trade and allow materially poor peoples in the cooperatives we serve in Central America to improve their lifestyles and promote their indigenous handcrafts. **They thank you and Concern America thanks you.**

**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](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org).

**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.

**St. Joseph T-Ball** - Sign up your son and/or daughter for a fun filled season! Registration is on Saturday, January 26, from 9 to 11 am in front of Father Martin Hall. All children pre-K to 1st grade are welcome to play. Cost is \$65 per player. This year’s season runs from March 1 to May 17. All games and practices will be at St. Joseph’s on Saturdays at 9 am and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. Volunteers are needed for coaches, team parents, or snack shack helpers. For information see <http://stjosephball.googlepages.com>, email [stjosephball@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephball@gmail.com), or call Dave Bierman 430-4493 or Bob Bond 412-1193.

**St. Joseph School News**

St. Joseph Elementary School is accepting applications for our Kindergarten program for the 2008 - 2009 school year. Applicants must be 5 years old by September 1, 2008. Please call the school office at (562)596-6115 for an application.

We celebrate Catholic Schools Week beginning on Sunday, Jan. 27 to Friday, Feb. 1. Our Open House will be Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6:00 pm. We cordially invite the parish community to come and take a look at what we are all about. Each classroom displays their current projects and curriculum. Please stop by the table outside the gym for a personal tour of our campus. We also have a book faire in the library after the Masses on Sunday and after school during the week. Everyone is invited to attend. Visit our website at [www.saintjosephelementary.com](http://www.saintjosephelementary.com) for further information.

We would like to thank all the parishioners who have supported our school throughout the year and humbly ask you again to support us by contributing in our School Support envelope that is included with the Jan. 20 offering. This year with your help we were able to increase salaries for our teachers and install air-conditioning in our day care room. We have also used part of the funds for tuition assistance for our families in need. Thank you again for your continued support.



**Happy New Year!**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

7:30 pm Wednesday in the PAC on **Jan. 23**, all are welcome to review last year.

Please keep using the **BLUE** "Skip-a-Meal" Envelopes. Your donations are so appreciated, they fund our programs! 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.

**Come to the St. Joseph 7th Grade FISH FRY** Friday, **February 8**, 5:30 to 9:00 pm, in the parish hall. Serving plenty of fish and chips, nacho bar, lots of cheese pizza slices and cookies. Also available: drinks for sale or bring your own, 50/50 raffle, and surprise entertainment. Bring your family for a fun evening with your parish community on the first Friday of Lent. All donations go to the 8th grade graduation breakfast.

**Saint Anthony High School Open House January 23**

St. Anthony High School in Long Beach continues its 88 year tradition of co-ed, college preparatory, faith-based education. Come experience this caring community first-hand and discover the opportunities available for your child at our Open House on Wednesday, January 23 with two sessions of tours and information: 5-6:30 pm and 6:30-8 pm, 620 Olive Ave. For additional information please call 435-4496 x1213 or x1214. Log onto the Saints' website at [www.longbeachsaints.org](http://www.longbeachsaints.org) for application and testing dates plus much more exciting information about the Home of the Saints!

**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 and Open House, **Jan. 16**, 6:30 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.

**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, 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
- MONDAY, January 14**  
 8:00 AM - † Botelho Salvati family
- TUESDAY, January 15**  
 8:00 AM - Rita Smith, Thanksgiving
- WEDNESDAY, January 16**  
 8:00 AM - † Helen Bonsol Castillo
- THURSDAY, January 17**  
 8:00 AM - † Mr. & Mrs. First Vu Ba Hau
- FRIDAY, January 18**  
 8:00 AM - Mary Jelnick, Thanksgiving
- SATURDAY, January 19**  
 5:00 PM - † Betty Jo Zack
- SUNDAY, January 20**  
 7:30 AM - Gene & Shirley Ensched, Thanksgiving  
 9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners  
 10:30 AM - † Michael Howard  
 12:30 PM - † Helen Bonsol Castillo

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.

 <p>Our Weekly Offering</p>	Last week: \$14,939 Last year: \$15,952
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**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .** Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Tony Bernardo, Margaret DeRuyter, Hugo Jorda, Jim Correia, Sharon Conroy, Jeffrey Waldron, Cliff & Patricia Lowen, Joy Mann, Joseph Eno, Sr., Ginny Kennebeck, Osiries Gonzalez, Nancy Vandrosek, Richard Parent and John Williams.

If you would like to place a family member on our "Please Pray For" list, please call the rectory office, 594-4657.

## LITURGY

DIRECTOR of LITURGY	Fr. William	594-4657
ALTAR CARE	Mary Jelnick	429-2529
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION	Gene Ensched	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