



From the Pastor's Desk:

Today's second reading, from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, sums up the core message of today's liturgy. Everything we are is because of Christ Jesus. We can't boast about ourselves; we can only boast about Jesus and what he has done. All three readings describe one paradox: The prophet Zephaniah writes of a remnant of people who remain faithful to the Lord. They are humble, lowly and honest. Jesus describes the people who will see God in the kingdom of heaven - poor in spirit, meek, merciful, clean of heart. Paul tells us that these humble, lowly people are God's choice. God chose the foolish to shame the wise, the weak to shame the strong and the "nobodies" to shame those who think they are "somebodies." When we scramble to better ourselves, reach the top, or grab it all, we're losers, not winners.

Father William



From Deacon Don's Desk:

Last Sunday, I was blessed to baptize three children of God. I extend a "thank you" to the parents who received the "call" to have their child brought into the Church but more importantly accepted the invitation to baptize them into another life - a life that will continue through all eternity. BUT that is just the beginning - we now need to nurture these children and bring them up to keep God's Commandments. Most of us need to refresh ourselves and reflect on the basic Ten Commandments.

Last Sunday was important as in the past this Sunday (when Jesus CALLED Peter, Andrew, James and John to follow Him) was traditionally when we would PRAY for VOCATIONS to the priesthood and religious life.

A priest once said that when we discourage anyone from a vocation "we do ourselves a disservice - and Satan loves this gimmick: of consistently disqualifying ourselves from even considering ourselves to be called by God to be His instrument."

"The measure of a person's CALL to love God depends on how deeply aware we are of God's love for us. Every prompting to share something good is a CALL."

THIS SUNDAY is the "Sermon on the Mount" considered to be Jesus' finest sermon. On reflecting on the Gospel, our Small Church Community felt that we should consider more fervently to be the light of the world through our actions as a Catholic - to take time with people; to be a peacemaker; to increase our patience and leave judging to God; and to encourage enthusiasm for our Faith.

Our Prayer: Lord Jesus, You have revealed Your justice to all nations. We stood condemned and You came to be judged in our place. Send Your saving power on us and instill lively sentiments of faith, hope and love, and when You come in glory, bring Your mercy to those of us for whom You were condemned. Amen.

Parish Mission - Our annual parish mission will begin at the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, **February 16 & 17** and continue through Wednesday **February 20**. It will be conducted by Fr. Michael Crosby, O.F.M. Capuchin. Fr. Crosby is a noted speaker at the annual Religious Education Congress in Anaheim. Father has also written several books, among them, The Prayer that Jesus Taught and The Seven Last Words. Sessions will be after the 8 am Mass and at 7:30 pm.

Rest in Peace

Died in Christ:

Frank Russo
Joe Cody

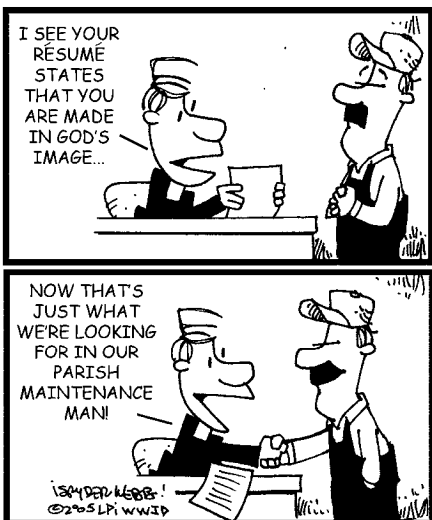


Bishop Joseph Sartoris Mini Retreat - February 18
Open to all friends and parishioners. Reservations required by Feb. 15. Catered lunch will be served - \$10. Call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287 with questions.

Lent - Making Our Faith Stronger

Have you decided on what you will be giving up for Lent? Besides sacrificing eating a favorite food or participating in a favorite activity, how about working on increasing your faith and relationship with God? We have several opportunities for spiritual enrichments by attending our Parish Mission, a spiritual evening with Dr. Dendinger, or the Religious Education Congress. Don't have time to attend these events? Come to our parish library and find a book, CD, tape, or video to enrich your spirituality. We have many wonderful items to choose from and you can use them in the comfort of your home. Please feel free to come by and browse on Sunday mornings after the 9 am Mass.

4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:
(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: Which one of the beatitudes is most meaningful for me? Why?

Child: Which one of the beatitudes is my favorite? Why?

Teen: Do the things that make me happiest also lead me towards God? Do they follow God's plan?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary: Orders due today for the Yankee Candle Fund-raiser!

No class on Sunday, **February 17**, due to the President's Day Holiday.

Middle School: Our **Mardi Gras** Celebration will take place on this Tuesday, **Feb.5!** Come and join in the fun and preparation for Lent.

Sacrament Program: First Penance Workshop for our **Second Year** families will take place **February 24** from **2:00 - 4:30 pm** in the hall. This is a required workshop for parents and children from both the school and religious education program. Childcare will be provided for siblings.

Confirmation: Next session for our **Year 1** candidates is **Feb. 10**. 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.



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

Feb. 4 - picture contest - regular games, announcements.

Feb. 18 - Mini Retreat guest speaker Bishop Sartoris.

Reservations are a must. Last day to sign up: Feb. 15.

9:30: Coffee, tea, juice & snack will be served

10:00: Lecture by the bishop

11:30: Mass in the church

12:30: Catered lunch

1:15: Lecture and question and answer period

2:30-3: closing prayer

Note: Times are approximate. **Retreat is open to all!**

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

Religious Education Congress

Excellent speakers from all over the United States will be featured at this year's Religious Education Congress taking place on **February 29**, and **March 1 and 2**. Topics cover a variety of areas from personal spirituality to parenting, liturgy, and current church issues. Popular speaker, Matthew Kelly, will be featured on both Friday and Saturday. For further information, please contact our religious education office or go online to www.RECongress.org.



As a parish family we welcome with great joy the following new members of our community Baptized Jan. 27:

Veranika Antoinette Coates
James Garcia Mendoza
Connor William Patton

Small Faith Community

Scripture Focus - The Beatitudes, which we hear in this Gospel passage, are the heart of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus says that the ones who will be "happy" are those whom society has judged unhappy, even wretched. "The poor in spirit" see through the illusion of wealth and, with nothing else to rely on, come to depend on God. The sorrowing bemoan the sad state of the world that neglects God's wishes. The meek and lowly do not presume to act independently of God. Christians seek happiness by striving to imitate God's readiness to forgive. They are called to be single-hearted in doing God's will rather than making self-interest their primary motivation. They must make peace, doing everything in their power to bring this blessing that God holds out to people.

Life Focus - * Which of the Beatitudes had the most impact on you as they were read? Why? * *Who or what experience has helped you to value what money can't buy?* * What does society say makes people happy? What really makes people happy? What makes you happy? * *In Matthew, Jesus' recipe for happiness differs from the world's. Share a time when you tried to live according to one of the Beatitudes. How did it affect you?*

Parish Lenten Calendar

- Feb. 6 Ash Wednesday - Masses at 8 am and 7pm
- Feb. 8 Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 10 First Sunday of Lent
- Feb. 15 Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 17 Second Sunday of Lent - Parish Mission at Mass
- Feb. 18 Mini Retreat with Bishop Sartoris 9:30 am - 3 pm
Parish Mission 7:30 pm
- Feb. 19 Parish Mission 7:30 pm
- Feb. 20 Parish Mission and Penance Service - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 22 Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Feb. 24 Third Sunday of Lent
- Feb. 25 Dr. Vicki Dendinger - 7:30 pm in the church
- Feb. 29 Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Mar. 2 Fourth Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 6 Eucharistic Adoration - 6 pm to 8 pm
- Mar. 7 Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Mar. 9 Fifth Sunday of Lent
- Mar. 14 **No** Stations of the Cross - First Reconciliation
- Mar. 16 Palm Sunday
Rel. Ed. Stations of the Cross - 11:15 on field
- Mar. 17 Chrism Mass - Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels
- Mar. 20 Holy Thursday - Morning Prayer 8 am
Mass of the Lord's Supper 8 pm
Adoration after Mass until 11 pm
- Mar. 21 Good Friday - Morning Prayer 8 am
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death 1:30 pm
Stations of the Cross - 7:30 pm
- Mar. 22 Holy Saturday - Morning Prayer - 8 am
Great Vigil and Eucharist of Easter - 8 pm
- Mar. 23 Easter Sunday - regular Sunday Mass schedule

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.

Come to the St. Joseph 7th Grade FISH FRY - Friday, Feb. 8, 5:30 to 9:00 pm, in the parish hall. Serving plenty of fish & chips, nacho bar, lots of cheese pizza slices and cookies. Also available: drinks for sale or bring your own, 50/50 raffle, & 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.



Changes - Bereavement Education and Support for Children & Teens - Tuesdays, 6:45-8:00 pm Feb. 5 - Mar. 18. Learn what "normal" grief looks like, how to live with the memories, when to call for support, what to do with the anger, guilt and loneliness, and more. Parent/primary caregiver group meets at the same time as the children's group. Meetings are free of charge. For more information and registration, please call Pathways Volunteer Hospice, 531-3031.

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.



Join us this New Year!

Personal message! Thank you!!! For all your prayers for my recovery. I had brain surgery on Jan. 21. They found golden and crimson infection in my head, pressing on my brain. Maybe it was from the Rose Bowl game??? I am home since the 24th. Your prayers saved me and my wife. I can only start replying to all your prayers with our "thank you" prayers of gratitude and pride of our friends, family and parishioners. **YOU MADE IT HAPPEN!** Thank you, again. John Minter

We have been told about a woman looking for house cleaning work. She has transportation and is a family member of one of our Gift Basket families. You can call us.

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.

Sarah's Law - A new parental notification initiative known as Sarah's Law is now gathering signatures to qualify for the November '08 California ballot. The initiative reads:

Amends California Constitution to prohibit abortion for an unemancipated minor until after physician notifies minor's parent, legal guardian, or if parental abuse reported, an adult family member.

SAVE THE DATE! Parish Fair - April 25, 26 & 27

Dr. Vicki Dendinger will be back on **Feb. 25**. Her topic for this month is **Sacred Encounter: The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation**.

Help the most poor and needy by volunteering for Catholic Charities in Long Beach. Help bag and hand out groceries once a week for two hours. Contact Gavett Burch, 591-1641, gburch@hotmail.com. Bring food and a friendly smile to the homebound elderly once a month for two hours. Contact Cecilia Ordonez, 480-2506, gatekeeperproject@hotmail.com.

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, February 2**
 5:00 PM - † John DeRuyter
- SUNDAY, February 3**
 7:30 AM - † Elsie Merk
 9:00 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners
 10:30 AM - † Eddie Munda
 12:30 PM - † Francis Aimone
- MONDAY, February 4**
 8:00 AM - † Botelho Salvati families
- TUESDAY, February 5**
 8:00 AM - John Minter, living
- WEDNESDAY, February 6**
 8:00 AM - † Robert Berberet & Oliver Taylor
 7:00 PM - Bill & Susan Smith Thanksgiving
- THURSDAY, February 7**
 8:00 AM - † Elizabeth Chick
- FRIDAY, February 8**
 8:00 AM - Anne Young, living
- SATURDAY, February 9**
 5:00 PM - † Mary Jane Merk
- SUNDAY, February 10**
 7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners
 9:00 AM - † Eleanor T. Connell
 10:30 AM - † Sgt. Michael J. Tetreault, Jr.
 12:30 PM - † Donald Peters

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.



Last week: \$10,704
 Last year: \$11,149

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Tony Bernardo, Margaret DeRuyter, Hugo Jorda, Jim Correira, Sharon Conroy, Cliff & Patricia Lowen, Joy Mann, Joseph Eno, Sr, Ginny Kennebeck, Osiries Gonzalez, Nancy Vandrosek, Richard Parent, Marlene Muccino, James Clinton, John Williams, Aurel Demian, James Garcia Mendoza, Daniele Pieters, Dana Moler, John Minter, Josephine Keller and Sean Berry.

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

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|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 | Dave Desmond | 429-3316 |
| 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