



From the Pastor's Desk:

I. "Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?" the angels asked the disciples who witnessed Jesus' ascent into heaven. "Move on!" they seemed to be saying. "Jesus will be back; get busy while he's gone." Jesus

himself, just before he ascended and disappeared from view, told them he would always be with them! Is it any wonder they were confused and needed some time to just stop and stare? Each year on this feast day, the church gives us some time to stand and look at the sky. We imagine the scene as Jesus disappeared; from our vantage point we now know what he meant when he said he'd always be with us, and we know in personal ways how this has been true in our lives. So we don't stand looking up for very long. We have to remember our mission. We have to go make disciples of all nations.

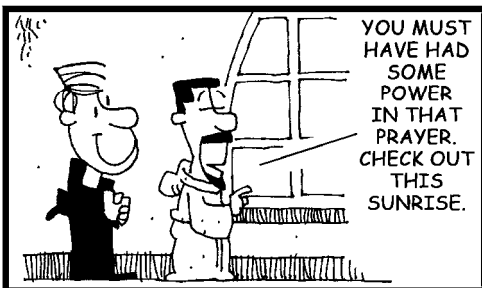
II. A big thank you to Dana Moler & everyone involved in our Annual Parish Fair last weekend. Your hard work, as always, paid off. As a result, The Event of the year was a grand success. I offered Mass for you last Monday at Mary & Joseph Retreat Center. ¡Muchas gracias a todos!

Every passing day is one that is gone forever. Make sure it is one in which you have done something for others, especially those who cannot do for themselves.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Acts 19:1-8; Jn 16:29-33
- Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27; Jn 17:1-11a
- Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38; Jn 17:11b-19
- Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11; Jn 17:20-26
- Friday: Acts 25:13b-21; Jn 21:15-19
- Saturday: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Jn 21:20-25
- Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5; Ps 104; Rom 8:22-27; Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

ASCENSION



From Deacon Don's Desk:

When Tina and I taught the pre-Baptism classes, she would always ask those attending, "Why do we baptize?" Then she would look at me quizzically as if I was going to answer the question. That was my cue to pick up the Bible and turn to the last paragraph in Matthew's Gospel and read what you have heard at this Ascension Mass. My answer: Jesus told us to baptize, "to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." And the most comforting words: "Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

There was a hidden blessing this past Sunday: we witnessed a true blessing with the Baptism of Paisley Josephine the three year old daughter of the managers of the providers of our Parish Fair games and rides. In traveling in many states the parents finally found a compassionate soul by the name of Dana Moler who made what seemed impossible happen. Through her intercession this little three year old was able to be baptized at the 9 am Mass. There was joy in our hearts. This is not to diminish the baptism of Hope Mary. She was a little angel as Fr. Will poured holy water and baptized her.

Gratitude and thanksgiving go hand in hand to all who made the Parish Fair a success. It was a success by its sheer numbers of attendees - forget the monetary aspect. I recall a quote from the late William F. Buckley Jr. (a Catholic, by the way): "We need a rebirth of gratitude for those who have cared for us, living and mostly dead. The high moments of our way of life are their gifts to us. We must remember them in our thoughts, in our prayers, and in our deeds." And who has care for us even above our parents and those who fought for our freedom? You guessed it, just look up at the crucifix. And He is with us always. Until the end of time. Return thanks to Him in all that you do.

Our Prayer: Heavenly Father, make us joyful in the Ascension of Your Son Jesus Christ. May we follow Him into the new creation, for His Ascension is our glory and our Hope. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: How do I experience the divine power of Christ-among-us in my daily life?

Child: What good news about Jesus could I share with someone?

Teen: In following the command of Jesus to make disciples of all people, how can I help make disciples of my peers?

Married Couples Retreat

Sacred Heart Retreat House offers us an opportunity for spiritual enrichment: A weekend retreat for married couples, **May 23-25**. Here is your opportunity for private time for prayer and reflection and Spiritual Direction. Fr. Bruce Nieli, CSP will be the retreat master. Call Tina Gath or Deacon Don for more information, 598-5202.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary: No class today for First Communion and **May 11** for Mother's Day. Last class will take place on Sunday, **May 18**. We will celebrate with our annual May Crowning and Ice Cream Social.

RCIA for Children: First Communion for our RCIA children will take place on **May 18**, at the **9:00 am** Mass.

Early Childhood: Our regular year runs September - April. Sign up NOW for the 2008-2009 school year! Registration forms can be found in the back of the church to the right of the doors as you walk in. Call Shannon at 430-6840 for more information.

Sunday Nursery: The nursery will be closed at 10:30 am Mass every other Sunday starting the last weekend of April. If you are interested in helping in the nursery, please contact Shannon, 430-6840.

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.

Save the Date!

Vacation Bible Camp will be held the week of July 7 through 11 at St. Maria Goretti Parish, 3954 Palo Verde. Our theme this year is "Rainforest Adventure." This program is for children entering grades K - 6 in the Fall. Students in grades 7 & 8 and high school are invited to participate as teen helpers. Registration forms are available in the religious education office, rectory office or school office. For additional information please call our Religious Education office, **598-0519**.

Small Faith Community

Scripture Focus - In Matthew's version of the ascension account; the appearance takes place on a mountain. As the great appearance of God to Moses took place on Mount Sinai (Ex 19), so Matthew has Jesus' great sermon delivered on a mountain (Mt 6:1), and the transfiguration takes place on a mountain as well (Mt 17:1). This final appearance of Jesus on a mountain has theological significance for Matthew, who as a Jew writing for Christians of Jewish background constantly writes with concepts and allusions taken from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament).

We should keep in mind that the primary significance of the Easter appearances is that they were revelations of the risen Lord Jesus. They could be doubted as well as believed. But once the disciples believed, they worshipped (him)." and with admirable dedication they heeded the Lord's mission and went out to all nations to preach the Gospel. "And behold, I am with you always" - a great assurance to "the pilgrim Church" on its way to a great future!

Life Focus - * Has anyone ever seen potential in me that I could not see? How did that person's belief in me affect my behavior or choices? * *What difference has it made that I was baptized? How do I share the Good News of Jesus with the unique gifts I have?*



New members are always welcome - Come join us!

May 5: Regular meeting and fun stuff. Collecting money for catered lunch on May 19.

May 19: Special after Mother's Day lunch, cost \$10. We are trying a new caterer from our parish; we will serve lunch at noon and then we have all our regular games. Collecting money on May 5.

June 17-20: One night stay at Four Queens in Las Vegas, stop at Red Rock Resort Casino, two night stay at Casa Blanca Hotel and Casino in Mesquite. Includes an Indoor Cowboy Steak Fry with music and dancing. Stop in St. George, Utah at the Tuacahn Amphitheater where you will enjoy a Dutch Oven dinner of roast beef and chicken, vege, salad, peach cobbler, ice cream, and then enjoy the musical "Les Miserables". Sign up March 17, Checks only please, cost \$318 per person, \$370 singles, one bag only and one carry on. Bus leaves at 8 am. Olga has flyers.

We have only about 20 people, need 22, open to all, bring your friend so we can fill this great trip.

June meetings: June 2 and 16.

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

Mother's Day Novena cards are now in the church. The Novena will begin on Mother's Day, May 11, and continue for nine days.

From Project Achieve:

To our brothers & sisters of St. Joseph Catholic Church - Thank you so very much for your generosity. The celebration of the Easter season is made visible in your donation. Your gift will be used to help the staff at Project Achieve accomplish their mission of helping those in great need. The light that you have provided for those in need is something to be truly thankful for and is a reflection of this time of renewal of hope. Thank you again and may you and your loved ones have a blessed season.

Environment Group - If you would be interested in helping with the church environment, preparing the church for holidays and the different liturgical seasons, we could use your help! Please call the rectory, 594-4657.

Annual Women's Retreat Cruise - The Oosterdam leaves Seattle on July 26 and returns Aug. 2 after cruising through the Hubbard Glacier Bay passage. Visit www.daughtersofgod.net or www.christiancruises.net for more information.

Carmelite Pilgrimage to Italy and France Sept. 1-16 with Fr. Adam Gonzales, OCD. For itinerary and info contact Louisa & Jack Day, email: pil2008@yahoo.com, 323-722-9339, www.syversentouring.com/carmel.

The 'Class of 1965' St. Joseph Grammar School is searching for missing classmates for rendezvous 6-21-08 in Long Beach, to plan class reunion for 2009. Seeking any information on classes two years above and below class of 1965. Contact: Diane Cannon Robetcky, 951-302-8702, Chris Haddad, 925-680-7280, or Dan Meylor - 562-429-2077.

St. Anthony High School is hosting one last Open House for Fall 2008 registration on Sunday, **May 4**, from 1-4 pm. Come visit Long Beach's only Catholic high school, 600 Olive Ave, 435-4496, and see what this 87 year tradition has to offer. Registrations are still being accepted. www.longbeachsaints.org

St. Cyprian's invites you to visit their Gift Shop. Many beautiful gifts of faith, both traditional and contemporary, are included in the inventory and a nice selection of First Communion gifts. The shop is next to the Parish Center, Clark and Arbor Road. Open 8-12 every Sunday.

K-8 Boys' Summer Program at St. Catherine's

St. Catherine's Military Academy, located at 215 N. Harbor Blvd. in Anaheim, is hosting its annual summer program for boys from June 29 to July 25. Remedial and enrichment classes in the mornings with fun, games, and field trips in the afternoons and evenings. Come before it fills up! Both boarding and day students available. Please call at 714-772-1363.

Camp Mariastella, a residential camp for girls in Wrightwood, in the San Gabriel Mountains, is accepting applications for campers, girls ages 7-15, who would love to have a really great week at Summer Camp. Also recruiting young women, at least 17, to work as summer camp counselors. Looking for nurses too who would like to volunteer for one week. Please call for more information, 818-285-1555 or campmariastella@aol.com.

A Family Retreat: C.S. Lewis - July 25-27, St. Andrew's Benedictine Abbey in Valyermo. Includes Bible study for families, hearing the stories of C.S. Lewis, face painting, prayer, and other activities. Some activities will be for the whole family together, others will be for specific age groups. Children should be at least 5 years old, teen program as well. Singles, those without children, and grandparents welcome! For more information, please call Victoria Dendinger, 949-219-1408.

Fingerprinting Schedule

The following dates are for the **May fingerprinting schedule** in the San Pedro Region for those who volunteer with our parish children. Please call for appointment:
May 16 - St. Hillary, Pico Rivera 942-7300
May 17 - St. Peter Chanel, Hawaiian Gardens 924-7591



What a great Faire! Weather; people, young, middle and elderly; and entertainment! Thanks to all of the volunteers that helped serve **popcorn!** And to all the parishioners who made the

Faire a great event. Well done!

We need volunteers to shop for food items the Movement uses to make sandwiches and lunches for St. Francis Center and Catholic Charities. This is a rotating position, not every week. Please call for more details.

June 7-8 - Diaper-A-Baby Weekend for Catholic Charities

July - Wrap up meeting with board, date to be announced.

We are looking for your comments: call 430-5839 or email: pakengr@verizon.net.

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 in LB!! John and Jan Minter 430-5839.

ACCW Southeastern District will have its district meeting on Thursday, **May 22** at St. Bernard Parish, 9647 E Beach St., Bellflower. The day begins at 9:30 am and includes Rev. Jesse Galez speaking on Our Lady, Mass, luncheon and ends at 1:30 pm. Charge is \$10 pre-paid. Make check payable to St. Bernards and mail to Donna Santos, 10349 Faywood St., Bellflower, 90706 before May 17 deadline. For info call Donna 866-3581 or Ruby 866-8580.

Sisters of Notre Dame annual fundraiser Sunday May 4, 11 am to 3 pm at Notre Dame Center, 1776 Hendrix Ave., Thousand Oaks. Proceeds support their work with people who are poor or disenfranchised. The event features all-you-can-eat buffet, gift center including unique crafts, and sweet shoppe with homemade baked goods. Reservations: \$25 before April 30, \$35 afterwards. Contact Carmela Anne Burke, 805-917-3714 for details.

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.

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, May 3

5:00 PM - † Celeste Condon

SUNDAY, May 4

7:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 AM - † Paul Bozzo

10:30 AM - † Robert Barclay

12:30 PM - Thanksgiving for Munda & Abaloyan families

MONDAY, May 5

8:00 AM - † Frank A. Anselmo

TUESDAY, May 6

8:00 AM - † Joseph Eno, Sr.

WEDNESDAY, May 7

8:00 AM - † Joseph Peterson

THURSDAY, May 8

8:00 AM - † Jerry Ledwidh

FRIDAY, May 9

8:00 AM - Judy DeRuyter, Thanksgiving

SATURDAY, May 10

5:00 PM - † Botelho-Salvati family

SUNDAY, May 11

7:30 AM - † Joe Eno, Sr.

9:00 AM - Paul A. Lavoie, living

10:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners

12:30 PM - Mother's Day Novena

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
Scott Williams	Justin Ray
Timothy Ring	Hoang-Long Tran
Chris Shaw	Kenneth Mack McDonald

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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Margaret DeRuyter, Hugo Jorda, Jim Correira, Sharon Conroy, Cliff Lowen, Joy Mann, Ginny Kennebeck, Nancy Vandrosek, Richard Parent, Marlene Muccino, James Clinton, John Williams, Aurel Demian, Daniele Pieters, Josephine Keller, David Dresnick, Lainie Probst, Bobby Knight, Dick Koccevar, Conrado Uyan, Skyler Weinberg, Joanne Wilson, Haydee Koppenheffer, Jake DeRuyter, Maria Luisa Garcia, Rosanna Antore, Don Miller, Tracey Rossello, Kristen Tuason and Laura Francesca Hallinan.

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	Phil Gray	425-4301
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0142
	rely5@verizon.net	
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Mike Santy	799-0660
	msanty@verizon.net	
	www.stjosephparishcommunity.com	
FAMILY ROUND TABLE	Marianne Schaeffer	594-8678
MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD	John & Jan Minter	430-5839
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	Dave Desmond	429-3316
RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL	Michelle Needham	714-618-1743
SENIOR GROUP	Betty Maligie	596-8287
TOGETHER IN MISSION	Victoria Higgins	597-6979
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS	Ron Steiner	431-7703
ENGAGED ENCOUNTER	Jim & Theresa Murphy	431-5025
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER	Tom & Pat Halliwell	799-0921
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	Greg & Beth Gath	377-5877
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN	Mimi Bloeser	597-0785
CUB SCOUTS	Douglas Alchorn	594-9407
BOY SCOUTS	Bill Higbee	425-6124

BULLETIN NOTICES DEADLINE - MONDAY 1:00 PM
PLEASE SUBMIT NOTICES IN WRITING WITH NAME & PHONE