



From the Pastor's Desk:

The color today is not dark blue or purple; the color today is rose. The theme today is not sorrow or shame; the theme today is joy. Can we take some of that calming rose color to not only lighten up the corners of our dark purple churches, but also to soften and dim the cacophony of red and green swirling in confusion everywhere else? And can we bring our theme of true Christian joy, which allows us to be grateful in all circumstances, to bear on our less-than-joyful secular world? Money and resources are scarce, yet the pressure to spend is crushing. By this day each December most of us are overwhelmed by the time we don't have, the energy we can't muster and the cynicism that has chilled our hearts. Here is a quiet rose garment in which to clothe ourselves for the day. Here are words of calm and truth. We really can rejoice.



From Deacon Don's Desk:

This Sunday is Gaudete Sunday meaning to "rejoice." We see a change in the violet to rose color vestments. The message of Bethlehem is, "I want to introduce you to Jesus." In an article (the paper has long turned brown) I found the following from Bishop Sheen: Christmas is not something that has happened; it is something that is happening. Jesus says, "My mother Mary gave me a human nature like your own in all things except sin. **I have shown you how one can overcome the worst of human situations and live in joy.** But what I want to do is to take your human nature, as I took the human nature from Mary. I want to give you an infusion of light for your mind, a power for your will and a joy for your heart. **What does it profit me if I am born in Bethlehem and am not reborn in your hearts?** You will find that all who have given themselves to Me are at peace. They are full of joy, they are merry." That is why we who belong to Him greet one another with "Merry Christmas."

Our Prayer: O Lord, teach us to welcome Your presence whenever we find it, even in the difficulties and challenges of life. As we reach out in love to others, especially the poor and needy, may we come to know in our hearts that we are welcoming You, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

**Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
— 1 Thessalonians 5:16**



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
- Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

New schedules have been emailed and are also available on the St. Joseph website.

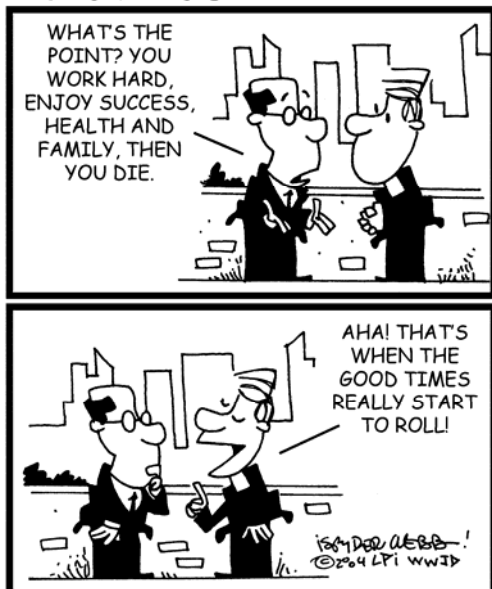
REMINDER: Wednesday, Dec. 17, is the final chapter in "Salvation History." Hope to see you in the PAC from 7-8:30 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

- Adult:** What example do I give others to help them recognize Jesus?
- Child:** What could I do for someone this week to make them happy?
- Teen:** What do I need to change about my life to be ready for Jesus' coming?

3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT



JOYFUL IN HOPE

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: In this Gospel, John the Baptist saw his role clearly. At the time John was writing his Gospel, followers of John the Baptist were claiming that he, not Jesus, was the Messiah. So here the Gospel writer emphasizes that John the Baptist saw himself as one to prepare the way for the Messiah. He is not the Messiah nor any of the others they suggest. He is just "a voice in the desert" preparing the way for the Lord. His baptism is a simple water rite, unlike Jesus' baptism in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist proclaims the Good News of Jesus' coming and prepares people's hearts for that event.

Life Focus: * How do you answer the question "Who are you?" * Describe a time when something insignificant to others meant a lot to you. * Who is your prophet? How did this prophet affect your life? * What potholes do you find on your path to Jesus? * Who has recently helped you to have faith?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary Program: There will be **no class** on **December 21 and 28** for the Christmas holiday. Classes will resume on **January 4**.

Teaching Touching Safety: Our first session for the Teaching Touching Safety Program will be presented to our Kg. (Early Childhood), Grades 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 on **January 11** during regular class time. We need all permission forms signed for the children to participate in this program. An "opt out" form is also available.

Middle School: There will be **no class** on the following Tuesday evenings: **December 16, 23, and 30**. Classes resume on **January 6**.

Confirmation Year 1: Next session is **today** starting with the **12:30 pm** Mass. Candidates will go to the hall at 1:30 until 3:30 pm.

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Thank you for bringing your item for our Baskets. Great job, Community Helpers! Today: Singing in the hall after Mass! No class Dec. 21 or 28. Have the merriest of Christmas celebrations & a joyous New Year secure in the love of our Lord.

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

Adult Confirmation Course starting **January 12** through April, 7-9 pm, St. Margaret Mary Church, Lomita. Please contact our Religious Education department, 598-0519, for a registration form and other information.

"Christ"mas at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, 5300 Crest Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes. Call Gerry Ericsson, 310-377-4867 Ext. 234 for more information.

Second Annual Nativity Exhibit - Our Gift to You through Dec. 21, 9 am to 9 pm. Nativities from around the world. Docent led tours by appointment.

Christmas Tea and Carols, Sunday, **Dec. 14,** 1:30-4:30pm. Hear the joyous sounds of Christmas.

Beginning Experience, part of the Office of Family Life in the Archdiocese of L. A., retreat, **Jan. 30 - Feb. 1,** at the Aldersgate Retreat Center in Pacific Palisades, for people who are experiencing the loss of a loved one through separation, divorce, or death, to help the grieving person move from the darkness of grief into the light of a new beginning and new hope, rooted in the Christian tradition. For more information, call Brenda Mikhail, 818-352-5265, or email brendamikhail@msn.com. You may also call Dianne Lundquist, 949-551-4504.

Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul - Italy, Greece, Turkey and a 3 day cruise of the Greek Islands, **Mar. 12-25.** Chaplain, Fr. Michael Philen, CMF. Cost: \$4678 includes taxes, tips, meals and a shore excursion in Patmos. Please call Janice Herlihy, 594-6357 or Blaine Kramer, 598-4551, for more information.



St. Joe's Social Seniors Group
We need new blood! Come join us.
Everyone is welcome - any age.

Dec. 15 - Annual Christmas party!

Dec. 20 - Newport Christmas Parade celebrating their 100th anniversary. We have chartered the entire boat. All are welcome. The bus, for the Seniors only, will leave St. Joseph promptly @ 3:30 pm. Cost \$30. Parade is from 5 to 7:30. Call Betty, 596-8287, for reservations and info. Please be sure to **dress warm** and bring a lap blanket.

Jan. 11, 12, 13 - Our annual Laughlin trip with a stop at AVI Indian Casino 3 days, 2 nites. Many buffets and special party with door prizes, live music and dancing. Cost includes bus driver tip. Double Occ - per person \$103. Single Supplement, \$123. Stand-bys only.

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

10 Great Dates - Reminder: We will be meeting next Sunday, **December 14 at 3 pm** in the church for Date/Chapter 4. If you have missed a date or two along the way, come anyway and catch up. New couples are welcome to join us anytime. Contact Wendy Thomas, 429-0161, for more information.

Come and join us for the 11th Annual Catholic Lobby Day - April 28 hosted by the California Catholic Conference. Catholics from all over California interested in exercising their "faithful citizenship" in their state's Capitol and interested in meeting with elected officials to speak on behalf of those who are poor, vulnerable or voiceless are welcome. Please join with Bishop Solis and representatives from diocesan ministries and lay organizations for the **one-day event** that will include advocacy training, information sessions, a rally at the Capitol, lunch, visits with legislators, and a Mass celebration at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. **Cost: \$155 includes airfare.** To hold your reservation, please send \$55 by Dec. 16. Balance of \$100 due March 10. Please contact Sr. Gail Young, S.S.S., Office of Justice and Peace, Archdiocese of Los Angeles, 213-637-7690 to register.

Respect Life - Is an hour too much time to pray for sanctity of life from womb to tomb, for an end to abortion, for our country in this new era? Please join us every **2nd and 4th Monday** at 7:30 pm (look on your calendars) in the Blessed Sacrament chapel to exercise the power of prayer Jesus gave us. Bring the concerns on your heart. *Isaiah 49:15-16, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands..."* Please contact Marian Stein for questions, 429-0246.

Music Ministry News

CONCERT NEWS: *The St. Joseph Choir*, assisted by Edward Steinhauser of the Contemporary Group, will perform a concert on Christmas Eve beginning at 8:15 pm. Concert will be followed by Christmas Mass at 9:00 pm. We've prepared a beautiful evening of music for you.

OUTREACH NEWS: *The St. Joseph Choir* has been invited to sing at St. Joseph Hospital's annual "Volunteer Christmas Brunch." We will also be caroling at St. Joseph Hospital this Christmas season.

The Contemporary Group has completed a very successful book drive. The books will be made available to inner-city youth who have little access to books otherwise. Thank you to all of you who contributed!

MUSIC LINE-UP - CHRISTMAS MASSES:

- Dec. 24 4:00 pm - Children's Choir
- Dec. 24 6:00 pm - Contemporary Group
- Dec. 24 9:00 pm - Adult Choir
- Dec. 25 - all Masses served by Vivian Doughty and R. Scott Dibble

Have you remembered St. Joseph Catholic Church in your will or trust? For further information, please contact H. Richard Closson, Director, Trust & Estate Programs, 213-637-7472, www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc, HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org. Our correct legal title is: The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Los Angeles, A Corporation Sole for the benefit of: St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Comments, Suggestions, etc. - We are interested in what you have to say. Do you have comments, suggestions, praise, or constructive criticism? Would you like to volunteer in one of our ministries? You may contact the Parish Council chair listed in the bulletin, drop us a note in the suggestion box located in the hallway between the church and the school, or send us an email via our website: www.stjosephparishcommunity.com.

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
- I would like to learn about becoming a Catholic
- I would like information about Religious Education

Please drop in the collection basket or rectory mailbox.

The wrapped gifts for the children are due today by 12:30 Mass.

Upcoming Events: *The highlight of our year - 69 Family Christmas:*



Thanks for taking all of the gift envelopes from the Christmas Trees in the back of church. The wrapped gifts will be sorted by family on Sunday morning, Dec. 14, by 12:30 Mass.

If you would like to drive for our Christmas Gift Basket delivery December 20, please call **Patty Brio, 425-5964**. Drivers and family members must be in the hall by 8:30 am. Please give us a call about our ride-along opportunity.

Please HELP with donations in the SKIP-A-MEAL BLUE ENVELOPES. We are up to 69 families for our gift basket program because of the great need. We are also helping with seed money for young Catholics to help Project Achieve with breakfast. If you can HELP a little more in a blue envelope, it will all go to our needy neighbors in Long Beach.

Please join "Tom's Team." Deacon Tom has a list of people who are interested in providing furniture and other assistance to those who cannot afford it. Email Deacon Tom at patandtom@charter.net, or call Tim, 431-4385 or John/Jan.

YOUR BLUE ENVELOPES ARE SO APPRECIATED!! Please **make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: SKIP-A-MEAL**. Thank you again for all you do and share with our needy brothers and sisters in Long Beach. Thank you Patrick and Terry for the tree donations.

John and Jan Minter 430-5839.

St. Hedwig's 29th Annual Christmas Dinner

Thursday, December 25, 1:00 pm in Quinn Hall, 11482 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos. **If you are alone this Christmas, you are invited.** There will be families to share their love and prayers with you, a bounty of food, singing, and much, much more! **Reservations are required** - please contact Ed or Dewey Foster, 562-598-7060, no later than Dec. 22. There is no charge.

St. Anthony High School, the only Catholic, co-educational, college preparatory high school in Long Beach will be holding their Open House on Sunday **Jan. 11**. For info: 562-435-4496 or www.longbeachsaints.org.

Did You Know? Holiday season child safety tips.

The holidays can present potentially dangerous situations for children. Some simple prevention measures can help keep your children safe during the season. 1. If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter when you go shopping. 2. Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you. 3. Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping. 4. Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom. 5. Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry, at 213-637-7650.

Mass Intentions



- SATURDAY, December 13**
 5:00 PM - † John Fay
- SUNDAY, December 14**
 7:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners
 9:00 AM - † Nancy Buonocore
 10:30 AM - † Michael Lowen
 12:30 PM - † Nancy Buonocore
- MONDAY, December 15**
 8:00 AM - † John Anselmo
- TUESDAY, December 16**
 8:00 AM - † Josie Whalen
- WEDNESDAY, December 17**
 8:00 AM - Ruth Passarant, living
- THURSDAY, December 18**
 8:00 AM - † Leonida Sanchez
- FRIDAY, December 19**
 8:00 AM - † Martha Aimone
- SATURDAY, December 20**
 5:00 PM - † Botelho-Salvati family
- SUNDAY, December 21**
 7:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners
 9:00 AM - Thanksgiving, Munda Reyes families
 10:30 AM - † Sgt. Michael J. Tetreault, Jr.
 12:30 PM - † Domingo Dizon

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 |
| Scott Williams | Justin Ray |
| Timothy Ring | Chris Shaw |
| Kenneth Mack McDonald | Adam Mariano |
| Lynne Norris | |

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING



Last Sunday: \$13,490

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Hugo Jorda, Jim Correira, Joy Mann, Richard Parent, Marlene Muccino, James Clinton, Aurel Demian, Daniele Pieters, Josephine Keller, David Dresnick, Bobby Knight, Conrado Uyan, Skyler Weinberg, Maria Luisa Garcia, Tracey Rossello, Kristen Tuasonand, Alexi, Karl Parize, Elijah Carbonell, Kit Escoto VanWyk, Maureen McDonough, Arin Zack, Msgr. Marc Trudeau, Stormy Leiva, Gloria Castaneda, Tom Burke, Bobby Rubly, Betty Chappell, Mary Harding, Elizabeth Jackson, Justin Ferriese, Paul Gordon, Virginia Souza, Jon Zack, Betty Galaz, Gloria Gonzales, Don Miller, Chuck Greening, Jean Boolish, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol and Anne Castro.

LITURGY

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|---|---------------------------|----------|
| 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 | Bridget Paluska & Julie Gianessi |
| PTO PRESIDENT | Nancy Gallegos |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

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|---------------------------------|----------------|
| DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION | Virginia Young |
| SECRETARY | Veronica Gibb |

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| 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 | 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 | 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 | |
| MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD | John & Jan Minter | 430-5839 |
| BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY | Dave Desmond | 429-3316 |
| RESPECT LIFE COUNCIL | Michelle Needham | 922-5065 |
| 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 |
| PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER | Don Gath | 598-5202 |
| CUB SCOUTS | Tom Neton | 429-2030 |
| BOY SCOUTS | Bill Higbee | 425-6124 |

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