



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

It was nice of David to think of building a better house for God. After all, he himself was living in a new palace, so he felt sort of guilty about having only a tent in which to put the Ark of the Covenant. Eventually, a nice temple actually did get built. But in today's first reading God reminds David that he wouldn't have anything at all if not for God. Link this reading to the Gospel passage today and God's choice of a place to live is breathtaking - he didn't need a palace or a temple. God came to dwell with us in the body of a woman, in the sinless Virgin.



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

From Tina and me to your family, "May your Christmas be filled with His Love."  
 "We make a living by what we get but we make a life by what we GIVE.".....Winston Churchill  
 We are still in that expectant, that anticipation and joyful mode. We can learn a lot from our St. Joseph Seniors who continue to give, not only give but with joy and smiles. They do not let anything get them down. We can also learn from our Boy Scouts. Their motto is "Do a good turn daily." The season of giving should last all year long, because it is through our giving that we find real joy. Remember the acronym for JOY = Jesus, Others and You. That is Jesus first, others second, and you last will bring rejoicing for you.

I was blessed by a young man last Sunday when he asked that I bless his wife who is expecting. It was with great joy that I blessed them both and their child. I read once that when a mother is expecting a baby, in a way the whole family is expecting with her. That is the joy in the anticipation of this beautiful happening. This is what Christmas is all about - the expectation of Jesus being REBORN in our hearts. I ask you to also reflect on the last stanza of "O Come Emmanuel" - Bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our Prince of Peace.

**Our Prayer:** Lord, prepare a path in our hearts for the coming of Your Word and let His glory be revealed among us. Bring low the mountains of our pride, and fill up the valleys of our weakness. Bring down the walls of hatred that divide the nations. Amen.

**The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.**  
 — Luke 1:35



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
- Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
- Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
- Thursday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]  
 Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
- Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
- Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
- Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128 or Ps 105; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]

The parish office will be closed December 24 and 25. May God bless you with a peaceful and joyful holiday.

**WEEKLY OFFERING**



**Last Sunday: \$9,763**

4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT



FAITH

**Small Church Community**

**Scripture Focus:** In today's reading from Second Samuel, David is determined to build a house for God. But the prophet Nathan tells him that instead God would build a royal house, a dynasty, for him. Even after the failure of David's descendants as kings, the Jews believed that the Messiah would come from the line of David. In today's passage from Luke's Gospel, we discover that the house the Lord settles on is the womb of the young woman Mary. The angel tells Mary that her child will be "Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end." This announcement in the Gospel again shows that God approaches us with love first.

**Life Focus:** \* What experiences in your life have led you to accept things at face value? \* A Navajo woman carrying a child has an awareness of God's presence around her, above her, below her and within her. Do you have this same awareness of God's presence in you? \* Speak of a time when you felt troubled or fearful. \* When has someone cared for you before you could ever respond? \* Relate an experience when you were expected to do something that you thought would be impossible.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary Program:** No class today or next week.

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 23 and 30.** Classes resume on **January 6.**

**Confirmation Year 1:** Next session is **January 11** starting with the **12:30 pm** Mass. Candidates will go to the hall at 1:30 pm until 3:30 pm.

**Confirmation Year 2:** Winter Session will begin the week of January 11.

**Early Childhood:** No class today. Enjoy your holiday and remember to be aware of Christ in your heart! See you on January 4.

**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.

**Confirmation** deepens our baptismal gifts and is a sacrament of initiation for us Catholics. Confirmation is regarded as the perfection of the sacrament of Baptism. We are proud to announce that **Mary Lou "Elizabeth" Clark** has received the gifts of the Holy Spirit administered by Auxiliary Bishop Salazar Wednesday, Dec. 10. May you continue to grow in God's love.

**Safeguard the Children - Fingerprinting Schedule**

The following dates are for the Jan. fingerprinting schedule in the San Pedro Region for those who volunteer with our parish children. Please call for an appointment:

**Jan. 21** - Sts. Peter & Paul, Wilmington, 310-834-5574

**Jan. 22** - St. Matthias, Huntington Park, 323-277-1188

**Jan. 24** - Our Lady of Refuge, Long Beach, 562-498-6641

**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](mailto: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**  
New members are welcome.

We wish all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are looking forward to a fantastic new year.

**Jan. 6** - regular meeting with lots of friends, fun & games.

**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.

**Attention:** The 50+ Catholic Singles (divorced, separated, single, widowed), will meet on Sunday, **Dec. 28** at **2 pm** in the conference room of St. Pancratius Church, 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lakewood. Info: Mary, 596-9449.

**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.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** What do the words, "Do not be afraid" say to me this Advent? What fears do I need to turn to God?

**Child:** If I was to tell someone one thing about Jesus' mother, Mary, what would I say?

**Teen:** Who is the person I trust the most? What makes this person trustworthy?

**Office of Family Life Separated, Divorced and Widowed Ministry** presents Msgr. Jim Gehl, pastor of St. Bede's, former Office of Family Life director for seven years, "Journey to a New Life" Saturday, **Jan. 17**, registration 8:45-9:30, tour, workshop & Mass from 9:30 - 2:30, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Cost: \$25 - **RSVP by Jan. 12**, \$30 at the door, includes: materials, continental breakfast, lunch and parking. For info please call Julie Auzenne, 213-637-7249 or email [jmonell1@altrionet.com](mailto:jmonell1@altrionet.com).

**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

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

**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](http://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.

**THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!**

**Thanks is due to the gift providers, sorters and haulers.**



**ATTENTION!!** Catholic Charities wants to publicly thank the St. Joseph Seniors for the weekly sandwiches they make and bring EVERY Wednesday, about 200-250 sandwiches every week! What is one thing that we do for someone else every week? Thanks to our senior group of volunteers!

**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](mailto: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.

**100 cup coffee pot is missing** from the kitchen in the Fr. Walter Martin Hall. Please return!

**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](http://www.estateplanning.com/trustsacc), [HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org](mailto: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.

**Did You Know? Holiday plants can be dangerous to small children.** Family gatherings, special traditions, delicious treats - it just may be the most wonderful time of the year, especially for kids. Unfortunately, for emergency room doctors it's also one of the busiest. Take time out to learn how to protect your little ones from some common holiday dangers, and you and your family can enjoy a season that's happy and healthy. Mistletoe, holly, poinsettias, Jerusalem cherry plants, and other plants are commonly used as decorations during the holidays. Like many plants, these are considered potentially poisonous and should be kept out of the reach of children. Symptoms of plant poisoning can include rashes, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you suspect that your child has eaten any part of a plant, immediately call your doctor or the National Capitol Poison Center: 1-800-222-1222.

For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry, at 213-637-7650.

# Mass Intentions



- 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
- MONDAY, December 22**  
 8:00 AM - † Cristina Jasezack
- TUESDAY, December 23**  
 8:00 AM - † Thomas Angelos
- WEDNESDAY, December 24**  
 4:00 PM - Intention of Presider  
 6:00 PM - Intention of Presider  
 9:00 PM - Intention of Presider
- THURSDAY, December 25**  
 9:00 AM - Intention of Presider  
 10:30 AM - Intention of Presider  
 12:30 PM - Intention of Presider
- FRIDAY, December 26**  
 8:00 AM - † Dan Foley
- SATURDAY, December 27**  
 5:00 PM - † Robert Uehlin
- SUNDAY, December 28**  
 7:30 AM - † Dick Kocovar  
 9:00 AM - † Nancy Buonocore  
 10:30 AM - † Joe Eno  
 12:30 PM - St. Joseph Parishioners

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          | 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.

**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, Elijha 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

- |   |                           |          |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| 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    | Bridget Paluska & Julie Gianessi |
| 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                        | 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