



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

In today's Gospel passage, a leper confronts Jesus with a challenge: he knows Jesus could cure him if he really wanted to. Perhaps Jesus could have taken offense at this boldness, but he was moved to pity. Jesus assures the man that he does indeed want to cure him, and then he does so. It is significant that after Jesus heard what the leper wanted and gave it to him, the leper did not return the favor. Jesus asked him not to talk about the cure, but to go to the priest and offer what the law of Moses prescribed. As we are told in the first reading, only a priest could declare a person clean or unclean of leprosy. Why didn't the man do what Jesus asked? Was he afraid the priest would not declare him clean? Did he feel a clean bill of health from the priest was not necessary? Jesus asked him to follow the Jewish law, and he didn't. We are not told what happened to him as a result of his disobedience, but we learn that the consequences for Jesus were troubling.

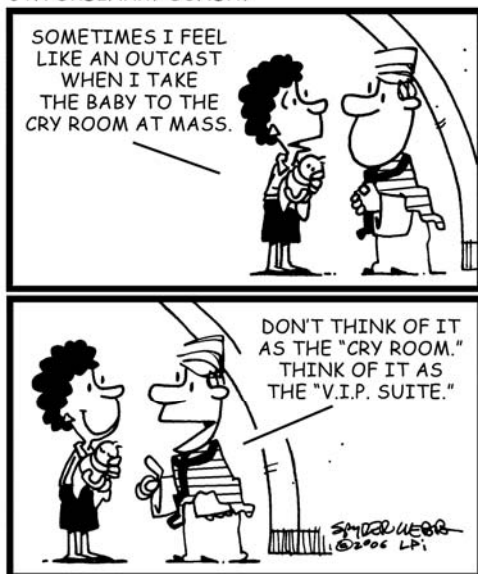
The parish office will be closed on Monday, **February 16**, for the Presidents Day holiday.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Mk 8:22-26
- Thursday: Gn 9:1-13; Mk 8:27-33
- Friday: Gn 11:1-9; Mk 8:34 — 9:1
- Saturday: Heb 11:1-7; Mk 9:2-13
- Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25; Ps 41; 2 Cor 1:18-22; Mk 2:1-12

**Ash Wednesday is February 25.** Mass will be celebrated with distribution of ashes at **8 am** and **7 pm**. This begins our Lenten journey to the glory of Easter.

6TH ORDINARY SUNDAY



SPIRITUALLY UNCLEAN



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

Last week I overlooked thanking those who assisted Tina with Project Achieve. The "newcomers" included Wendy Thomas and her two sons, Harrison and Pierce who served the salads and desserts. Thank you on behalf of those who do not have what we enjoy.

The Gospel is one that our SCC had a little trouble with, and then it came to light that this Gospel had, for us, the following message: A) The leper's plea is an implied prayer. "If you wish..." B) It was a form of "profession of faith." C) The cure shows Jesus' power to save - even those who are excluded from society.

We went away with the hope to change our attitude for those children who feel lost or excluded and not interested in education because of lack of parental help or too influenced by television and its promiscuity. We hope to change our attitude and reach out and listen with more compassion to those who have "chips on their shoulder." We want to respond by saying, "I'll pray for you!" We will try to replace apathy with compassion and not judge by appearances.

Blessings to the 8 or 9 parishioners who braved the elements (and it did rain!) to be with the Lord at Eucharistic Adoration on the 5th.

World Marriage Day was last Sunday and the following blessing is offered to all married couples:

**Blessing for Married Couples:** Almighty and eternal God, You have exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage so that it has become the sacramental sign of Your Son's union with the Church as His spouse. Look upon those whom You have united in marriage as we ask for Your help and protection through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We pray that in good times and in bad, we will grow in love for each other; that we will resolve to be of one heart in the bond of peace.

Lord, in our struggles let us rejoice that You are near to help; in our needs let us know You are there to rescue us; in our joys let us see that You are the source and completion of every happiness. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Small Church Community**

**Scripture Focus:** According to Jewish law, lepers were considered unclean and outcasts from society. Yet in today's Gospel, Jesus immediately responds to a leper's request for healing. Jesus had great respect for the Law of Moses so he told the leper to fulfill the cleansing requirements by offering sacrifice and appearing before the priest. Jesus orders him to tell no one who had cured him, but the leper ignores Jesus' command and tells everyone what happened. In spite of the growing difficulties of his ministry, Jesus continues healing and preaching. He was able to proceed because people had faith in him.

- Life Focus:**
- \* Jesus reaches out to these outcasts. What groups do you have the most difficulty accepting?
  - \* *Relate a time when you were moved with compassion toward someone who was considered "unclean."*
  - \* *Describe a time when you recognized and accepted another person's ability to help you.*

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary Program:** No class today! No class on Sunday, **March 1**, due to the Religious Education Congress.

**Sacrament Program:** Our First Reconciliation Retreat for our **Year 2** parents & children will take place on Sunday, **Feb. 22**, from **2 - 4:30 pm** in the hall. This is a required workshop for both school and religious education families.

**Teaching Touching Safety: Confirmation Year 1** students will receive the Teaching Touching Safety presentation on Sunday, **February 22**. All permission forms must be signed and returned. An "opt out" form may be requested from the religious education office. **Year 2** students will receive this presentation in their individual groups in February and March.

**Early Childhood:** No class today. Remember to pray for our president to make good decisions for the people of our country and all those around the world.

**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.

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser**

Our Religious Education Program is once again selling Yankee Candles as a fundraiser to support our program. Items may be ordered starting this Sunday through **February 22**. There are beautiful gifts and candles for purchase and they will be delivered before Easter. Catalogs are available in the religious ed. and school offices or call Veronica at 598-0519.

**VIRTUS RE-CERTIFICATION** - All those who attended the Virtus adult awareness session in the years **2003-05** will need to attend a mandatory re-certification session. We have tentatively planned a session for Tuesday, **February 17**, from **7 - 8:30 pm** in the hall. Confirmation of this date will be published next week. Please call the religious education office at 598-0519 for further information.

**Religious Education Congress** - Save the dates of **February 26 - March 1**. The annual Congress held in Anaheim is ready to enrich and revitalize us once more. Congress draws in excess of 40,000 participants over the course of this internationally acclaimed 4 day event. Youth Day draws 15,000 youth. There will be more than 306 workshops to choose from, covering a vast range of topics and interests. The theme is **Love Unfolding ... Igniting our Yes!** Register now for this spirit-filled and enriching weekend! For more information or to register call the R.E. Congress info line, 213-637-7348 or register online at [www.RECongress.org](http://www.RECongress.org).

**Respect Life** - All the way from womb to tomb there's a desperate cry. Abortion kills more children in one day than the number of people who died on 9/11. Please join us every **2nd and 4th Monday @ 7:30 pm** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Please contact Marian Steins, 429-0246, or Michelle Needham, 922-5065, for questions.



**St. Joe's Social Seniors Group**  
New members are welcome.

**Feb. 16** - Regular meeting.

**March 2** - (Regular meeting date.) Annual Mini Retreat 9:30-3:00. Fr. Jim Halley will be our Retreat Master. Mass will be offered at 11:00 followed by a catered luncheon in the hall. Cost: \$10, reservations required. Deadline: Feb. 27. Call Betty 596-8287 for further info.

**Retreat open to all parishioners.**

**April 29 - May 1** - Keep these dates open for an exciting trip being planned.

**Remember** - dues are due, \$5 for the year.

**Attention:** The 50+ Catholic Singles (divorced, separated, single, widowed), will meet on Sunday, **Feb. 22** at **2 pm** in the conference room of St. Pancratius Church, 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lakewood. For additional information, contact Mary Butler, 562-809-3206.

**A Catholic Apologetics Class** will continue next week on Monday, Feb. 23 from 9:30 - 11:30 am or Tuesday, Feb. 24 from 7 - 9 pm in the PAC. We will be covering challenges to subjects such as Peter and the Papacy, the teaching authority of the Church, infallibility, and Sacred Tradition using Scripture and the Fathers of the Church. Bring your Bible and your questions. For information, contact Richard Dana, 420-9976.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** How has Jesus touched my life and how am I changed because of that touch?

**Child:** What is my favorite story about Jesus healing someone?

**Teen:** If I were to seek Jesus out, for what would I ask?

**Did You Know? CyberTipline Fights Internet Crimes Against Children** - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other government agencies all work together to fight Internet crimes against children. They've established a reporting mechanism for cases of child sexual exploitation including child pornography, online enticement of children for sex acts, molestation of children outside the family, child victims of prostitution, and unsolicited obscene material sent to a child. Reports may be made 24 hours per day, seven days per week at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or by calling 800-843-5678. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry, 213-637-7650.

**Congratulations to Katherine Tuebner** for achieving honors for the fall semester at Connelly High School. Keep up the good work!

**Pasta Night** will be held on Friday, **Feb. 20, 5:30 - 9 pm** in the Fr. Martin Hall. Join us for a full menu of pasta, salad, and dessert. There will be a 50/50 raffle, music and great family fun. This is a 7th grade school fundraiser.

**St. Joseph High School** Mardi Gras and Casino Night **Feb. 21**, 6-10 pm, \$50 per person. For more information, please call 925-5073 ext 125.

**Cornelia Connelly** all girls Catholic college preparatory high school **Spring Open House, March 12**, 7 pm. For information, please call 714-776-1717 ext. 234.

**Catholic Co-ed Slo-Pitch Softball League** players wanted, ages 18+. Games held Sunday afternoons from March - June in Torrance, Long Beach & West OC. Please contact Fred Lawler, [fredlawler@hotmail.com](mailto:fredlawler@hotmail.com) or 714-963-5418.

**Grief Support Group**

Are you grieving: the loss of a loved one, a painful divorce or separation, a recent job loss/layoff, or an economic related stress? You do not have to carry this "emotional burden" alone, there is caring help available! A Parish Grief Support Group, sponsored by your St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry, will begin on Tuesday, **February 24**, at 7:00 pm (location to be announced) and will run for nine weeks. Practical, emotional, spiritual and social support offered free of charge. (Note: There will be a small charge for associated materials.) To register or for further information, please call: Olga Cuda 594-4654 (Rectory Office) or Dave Desmond 429-3316.

**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 for your generosity. The **HOMELESS KIT** envelopes for our homeless ministry are on the cross in the back of church. Instructions are inside.



**NEWS:** We will be collecting "books for kids" - start saving books.

Your donations helped us extend additional help to **Project Achieve** - two breakfasts per month by our young adults. This is now in its 4th month.

**YOUR BLUE ENVELOPES ARE SO APPRECIATED!!** Please make checks to **St. Joseph Church, memo: SKIP-A-MEAL**. Thank you for all you do and share with our needy brothers and sisters in Long Beach! Call about your "Tom's Team" donations and questions. John & Jan Minter 430-5839.

The Knights of Columbus Council 3629 wish to thank all St. Joseph parishioners who came out to the Valentine Blood Drive last Sunday. You donated **32 pints** of good, usable blood. It is appreciated!

**Meals on Wheels** invites you to an evening of entertainment and camaraderie at the Long Beach Playhouse, Thursday, **April 2**. The board of directors will host a reception at 7 pm and the performance of **Sabrina Fair** will begin promptly at 8 pm. Remember the old Humphry Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, William Holden movie **Sabrina**? This is the original stage version and promises to be a really fun program. Tickets are \$25 per person and seating is open. This would make a great birthday or special occasion gift. Invite your friends and call or e-mail Judy Pedneault (421-6863 or [judith.pedneault62@gmail.com](mailto:judith.pedneault62@gmail.com)) to make your reservations. Don't miss this opportunity! Reservations are limited. St. Joseph parishioners have first choice.

**Fingerprinting Schedule**

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

- Mar. 11** - Holy Family, Wilmington, 310-834-6333
- Mar. 13** - American Martyrs, Manhattan Bch, 310-546-4734
- Mar. 14** - St. John of God, Norwalk, 562-863-5721

**Message from Catholic Charities** - Money is available to low income working families and individuals who are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit. If a family earns less than \$41,646 annually and a single person less than \$12,500, they may be able to get a tax refund by filing Federal form 2441 with their federal tax return.

**Letter stating donations for tax purposes:**

If you would like a letter to substantiate your tax deductible donations to the parish for 2008, please call the rectory, 594-4657, leave your name and phone number, and we will be happy to send your letter to you. Thank you.

# Mass Intentions



- SATURDAY, February 14**  
 5:00 PM - † Thomas Steiner
- SUNDAY, February 15**  
 7:30 AM - † Tom Burke  
 9:00 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners  
 10:30 AM - † Nancy Buonocore  
 12:30 PM - † Tom Burke
- MONDAY, February 16**  
 8:00 AM - † John Anselmo
- TUESDAY, February 17**  
 8:00 AM - † John Manlove
- WEDNESDAY, February 18**  
 8:00 AM - † Tim O'Donnell
- THURSDAY, February 19**  
 8:00 AM - † Darryl Hernady
- FRIDAY, February 20**  
 8:00 AM - Hung Hoang, living
- SATURDAY, February 21**  
 5:00 PM - † Martha Aimone
- SUNDAY, February 22**  
 7:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners  
 9:00 AM - Nicole Pisula-Stanton, living  
 10:30 AM - † Bob Sylvia  
 12:30 PM - † Julia 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:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Amy Mann</b>              | <b>Glen Warren</b>      |
| <b>Nick Compton</b>          | <b>Joseph Comfort</b>   |
| <b>Irene Avila</b>           | <b>Scott Williams</b>   |
| <b>Justin Ray</b>            | <b>Timothy Ring</b>     |
| <b>Kenneth Mack McDonald</b> | <b>Adam Mariano</b>     |
| <b>Lynne Norris</b>          | <b>Chris Shaw</b>       |
| <b>SSg. Rob Beckwell</b>     | <b>Vincent Vezzetti</b> |
| <b>Kimberly Allen</b>        |                         |

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: \$12,430**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR . . .** Eugene & Marjorie Dryer, Stacey Cormier, Jeanne Sexton, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Hugo Jorda, Joy Mann, Richard Parent, Marlene Muccino, 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, Bobby Rubly, Betty Chappell, Mary Harding, Elizabeth Jackson, Justin Ferriese, Virginia Souza, Jon Zack, Betty Galaz, Gloria Gonzales, Don Miller, Chuck Greening, Jean Boolish, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol, Nicole Pisula-Stanton and Odete Salvate.

## 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    | Tim Clark                       | 431-4385 |
| FINANCE COUNCIL     | Randall Ely                     | 430-0142 |
|                     | rely5@verizon.net               |          |
| WEBSITE COORDINATOR | Mike Santy                      | 799-0660 |
|                     | msanty@verizon.net              |          |
|                     | www.stjosephparishcommunity.com |          |

- Website address:
- |                             |                      |          |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|
| 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 Neaton           | 429-2030 |
| BOY SCOUTS                  | Bill Higbee          | 425-6124 |

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