



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

Which is the greater feat - to forgive sins or heal paralysis? Which is the greater gift - to be forgiven of sins or healed of an illness? Certainly, a physical healing is very dramatic, but Jesus only healed the man in today's Gospel after he had forgiven his sins. In fact, he only healed his paralysis to prove that he could forgive sins. When Jesus told the man, "Child, your sins are forgiven," do you think he and his friends were disappointed? Would you be disappointed, or would you receive this forgiveness as the generous gift that it is? In today's first reading from Isaiah, God announces that he's doing something new; he's going to wipe out the sins of his people. And it seems that God already knows what his people might think about this. They have already wearied him by their sins and their failure to ask for help. So, God does indeed wipe out their offenses, but he does it for his own sake, whether they ask him to or not! Could it be that they - and we - don't know what we really need most?

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

- Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Mk 9:30-37
- Wednesday: JI 2:12-18; Ps 51; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32
- Sunday: Gen 9:8-15; Ps 25; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

<b>WEEKLY OFFERING</b>		<b>Last Sunday:</b> <b>\$13,142</b>
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**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.

7TH ORDINARY TIME



PENANCE AND FORGIVENESS OF SIN



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

We extend our thanks for your on-going support for the St. Francis Center through your food donations. Recently we delivered a trunk full of canned goods to Paul at the Center.

There is one basket in the back of the church. This Wednesday morning the basket was filled! Your generosity is wonderful to behold.

This past weekend Tina & I were blessed to go to a Married Couples retreat at Mater Dolores retreat house. Father Carrillo, CP administered the anointing of the sick to those who felt the need, followed by Reconciliation. The closing Mass was capped with renewal of vows. The reason I mention this is that there will be another Married couples retreat this July 10-12 & I encourage you to attend & enrich your marriage through this spiritual setting.

Fr. Rolheiser OMI, in the Tidings was exceptional and I want to share with you some of his insights: "Our greatest gift to each other is the promise of **Fidelity**. To not walk away because we feel disappointed or hurt, to stay even when we don't feel wanted or valued, even when our personalities and visions clash. **Faith** is fidelity, nothing more but nothing less. Ultimately faith is not in the head or the heart but in the action of a sustained commitment."

He then says this about **Prayer**: "All great spiritual writers give one ultimate rule and it's not about method, style or content. It's: **Show Up!** Don't ever give up! Don't ever stop going to prayer! As long as you persevere in going to prayer, eventually God will break through. Don't ever stop trying! That's true for all our relationships."

**Our Prayer:** Heavenly Father, beneath the cure of the paralytic is the act of forgiveness. Help us to leave our gifts at the altar and seek forgiveness of our brothers and sisters, so that we may make a more perfect gift of praise and glory to You. We ask this in Your Son's name. Amen.

**No Wednesday evening session in the PAC this week.**

**Small Church Community**

**Scripture Focus:** On the surface this seems to be the story of an ordinary healing miracle by Jesus. But beneath the physical sure is the extraordinary act of forgiveness of sins. Only God can forgive sin. Jesus, having the spirit of God upon him and being the Holy One of God, is able to forgive sin. His cure of the man's lameness dramatizes the greater cure of the soul. Through this action Jesus declares that "...the Son of Man has the authority to forgive sins." It would have been easy merely to say, "your sins are forgiven" the physical cure gave public evidence of Jesus' power over the forces of evil.

**Life Focus:** \* What helps me realize God's continuous love and forgiveness? \* *When have you experienced forgiveness? When have you forgiven another?* \* Recall a time when you made a special effort to help someone in difficulty. How did you make "a hole in the roof" and bring that person healing? \* *What generally keeps you from forgetting a hurt even after you have forgiven the offender?* \* Remember a time when you were forgiven for a wrong you did. Explain how the forgiveness also brought you healing in mind and heart.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

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

**Confirmation Year 1:** Session today starting with 12:30pm Mass. Meet in the hall for Teaching Touching Safety presentation followed by the scheduled meeting until 3:30 pm.

**Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Return homeless kits today. No class next week: Religious Education Congress. If you have never been to Congress, it's not too late...give yourself the mini-retreat you deserve. World-renowned speakers and authors! Go to [www.RECongress.org](http://www.RECongress.org) for more info.

**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.

**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).

**Yankee Candle Fundraiser**

Our Religious Education Program is once again selling Yankee Candles as a fundraiser to support our program. Items may be ordered through today. 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**.

**A Catholic Apologetics Class** will continue 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.

**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.

**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.**

Keep open **May 12-14**, a 3 day, 2 nite trip - Death Valley Adventure. Call Olga for more information and flyers 596-6981. We do need 42 people, ask friends and family.

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

**Catholic Relief Services Collection - March 1**

Improving lives by working with local communities and partners in more than 99 countries. Please be generous.

**St. Joseph Lenten Calendar 2009**

Wed. Feb. 25 Ash Wednesday 8 am and 7 pm Masses  
 Fri. Feb. 27 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sun. Mar. 1 First Sunday of Lent  
 Mon. Mar. 2 Seniors' Retreat 9:30 am to 3:00 pm  
 Thurs. Mar. 5 Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm to 8 pm  
 Fri. Mar. 6 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sun. Mar. 8 Second Sunday of Lent  
 Fir. Mar. 13 First Reconciliation NO STATIONS  
 Sun. Mar. 15 Third Sunday of Lent - Parish Mission starts  
 Mon. Mar. 16 Parish Mission  
 Tues. Mar 17 Parish Mission  
 Wed. Mar. 18 Parish Mission  
 Thurs. Mar. 19 St. Joseph Feast Day - Parish Mission  
 Reconciliation Liturgy  
 Fri. Mar. 20 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sun. Mar. 22 Fourth Sunday of Lent  
 Religious Ed Stations on field 11 am  
 Fri. Mar. 27 RE Soup Night/Parish Retreat 4-9 pm  
 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sun. Mar. 29 Fifth Sunday of Lent  
 Fri. Apr. 3 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sun. Apr. 4 Palm Sunday  
 Mon. Apr. 6 Chrism Mass  
 Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels  
 Thurs. Apr. 9 HOLY THURSDAY  
 Morning prayer - Liturgy of the Hours 8 am  
 Mass of the Lord's Supper 8 pm  
 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament until 11 pm  
 Fri. Apr 10 GOOD FRIDAY  
 Morning prayer - Liturgy of the Hours 8 am  
 Liturgy of the Lord's Passion 1:30 pm  
 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm  
 Sat. Apr. 11 HOLY SATURDAY  
 Morning prayer - Liturgy of the Hours 8 am  
 Easter Vigil Service - 8 pm  
 Sun. Apr. 12 EASTER SUNDAY - HE IS RISEN!

**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.

Thank you for your generosity. The **HOMELESS KITS** can be returned to the back of church this week and next week for your convenience.



**NEWS: Watch the bulletin for "books for kids" collection details; start saving books for Easter. Your donations have 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.

**Save the Dates!!!**  
**April 24, 25, and 26**  
 The St. Joseph Parish Fair is coming.  
 Loads of fun: rides, games,  
 Prizes and lots of food!  
**\* JOIN US FOR THE FIESTA \***

**THANK YOU**

The family of Thomas Burke wishes to express their most sincere thanks for all the prayers, Masses and many kindnesses offered for him during his recent illness. Please know that they were deeply appreciated.

**Did You Know? IOW, Knowing Internet Lingo Can Help Parents Safeguard Kids** - Online chat rooms, instant messaging systems, and even cell phones equipped to send text messages are environments rich in abbreviations, acronyms, and other shorthand that help increase the speed of communication. Parents need to become aware of some of the common lingo that is used in these environments. Some of these terms may be found to be vulgar, degrading, or otherwise offensive. However, parents and educators need to have a level of understanding of the dangers that face our children. For more information, please call the Archdiocesan Safeguard the Children office: 213-637-7227. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry, 213-637-7650.

**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

**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.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** How does sin paralyze my life and how does forgiveness give it life?

**Child:** When have I asked Jesus to forgive me?

**Teen:** When have I experienced forgiveness from God or others and how did it feel?

**40 Days for Life** - You are invited to take part in this national effort from **February 25 - April 5**. In addition to 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion in America, please consider volunteering to pray outside *Family Planning Associates*, 2777 Long Beach Blvd., Ste. 200 for one or more hours during the 40 days, and spread the word to others about this important life-saving effort. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Tina Pham 661-747-2808 or email LB.LifeVigil@gmail.com, or visit [www.40daysforlife.com/longbeach](http://www.40daysforlife.com/longbeach). All are welcome!

**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.

# Mass Intentions



- 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
- MONDAY, February 23**  
 8:00 AM - † All Souls
- TUESDAY, February 24**  
 8:00 AM - † Bernie Hughes
- WEDNESDAY, February 25**  
 8:00 AM - Joseph Dang, living  
 7:00 PM - Angela Reyes, living
- THURSDAY, February 26**  
 8:00 AM - Fr. Edward Broom, Special Intention
- FRIDAY, February 27**  
 8:00 AM - † Maria & Dominico Dang
- SATURDAY, February 28**  
 5:00 PM - † Francis Aimone
- SUNDAY, February 29**  
 7:30 AM - † Tom Burke  
 9:00 AM - † Lily Friedhoff  
 10:30 AM - † Cliff Lowen  
 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:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <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.

**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, Elijha 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, Odete Salvate, Rosemary Doran and Gerry Kohnan.

## LITURGY

- |   |                           |          |
|---|---------------------------|----------|
| DIRECTOR of LITURGY                       | Fr. William               | 594-4657 |
| ALTA 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 |          |
| 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