



From the Pastor's Desk:

Today's passage from Genesis can seem troubling if we don't know its context. First God tells Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac; then at the last minute God stops him from doing so.

What kind of game is God playing here? At the time this story was first told, human sacrifice was a common practice. Local tribes bargained with their gods by offering beloved children, slain on altars of worship. Is this what the God of Israel wanted of his people too? By his actions with Abraham, God made it very clear that he did not require or even desire human sacrifice. However, as we can see in the second reading and the Gospel, God also made it very clear that he would sacrifice his own Son to save us. No sacrifice we could make would be enough. And lest we wonder how great the sacrifice would be, we hear it in God's own words: Jesus is his "beloved Son."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38
- Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12
- Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28
- Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31
- Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
- Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
- Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: When I pray to Jesus, do I also try to be still and listen to what he is saying in my heart?

Child: Can I name a time when I knew Jesus was with me?

Teen: How do I listen to God's beloved Son?

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



IF GOD IS FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?



From Deacon Don's Desk:

What a marvelous gift we have in our Catholic faith!! God through His Son has given our mortal nature immortal value!! He has given us the gift of everlasting life! Each year we are given this preparation season. We prepare for the paschal mystery. This is the season of grace, that grace which causes us to love. This season helps us to strengthen and purify our hearts and control our desires. We are to recognize and master our sinfulness, conquer our pride, and then step out and show God's goodness, especially to those in need.

Through this proper understanding of the season of Lent we will strive to correct our faults and thus grow in holiness as we raise our minds to God. By this steadfast faith in His faithfulness to us we hope to gain that reward of everlasting life through Jesus our Lord.

In line with Lent, our Seniors had their annual "mini-retreat, and if you heard the pulpit announcement, all parishioners were invited. About 100 of us attended one of our best retreats given by Fr. Frank Ferrante, Claritan Missionary and Fr. Jim Halley. We were challenged to reflect on our "core beliefs" with very meaningful spiritual music sprinkled in. Only one regret, we did not record it.

Prayer After Reception of Communion: What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart. That which is given to us in time, be our healing for all eternity. May Your Body which we have eaten and Blood which we have drunk cleave to our very souls. Grant that no trace of sin be found in us which these pure and holy mysteries have renewed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Adult Education - The four Marks of the Church (one, holy, catholic, and apostolic) is the current series. We have completed the first session in which we highlighted what St. Paul said: "There is one body and one spirit just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism and one God and Father of us all." Eph 4:4-5. Jesus promised at the outset that "there would be one flock, one shepherd." Jn 10:16. We explored the meaning of "One" and its relation to the Nicene Creed which has stood the test of time even to this day. Join us as we explore the second of the "marks." See you at 7 pm in the PAC Wednesday, **Mar. 11**. The gate will be opened at 6:45 pm.

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: Throughout Mark's Gospel, we hear the question "Who is Jesus?" In the transfiguration, we hear the clearest answer. This foreshadowing of the Resurrection comes between two predictions of suffering and rejection. Even Jesus' closest apostles fail to understand what Jesus means by "rising from the dead," and they do not want to hear his predictions of his Passion. But Mark makes it clear to his audience that resurrection can only be understood in the mystery of suffering and dying.

Life Focus: * Relate an experience when a person turned out to be much more than you expected.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary Program: Open House on Sunday, **Mar. 15!** Please come to the hall after the **9:00 or 10:30 Mass** to view all the great displays for our various classes. Teachers & staff will be available to answer questions. **Coffee & donuts** will be hosted by our **Middle School** students.

Sacrament Program: Our 2nd Year students will be receiving **First Reconciliation** on Friday, **March 13**, at **7:00 pm** in the church.

Confirmation Year 1: Next session is **today** starting with the 12:30 pm Mass. Session in hall until 3:30.

Sponsor Meeting for Year 1 on Monday, **March 16**, at **7:00 pm** in the hall.

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Open House next week: invite family and friends, bring your cameras and camcorders to see the children sing after Mass in the hall. Remember to wear your t-shirts! **Community Helpers Alert!** Please bring an item for the **Feed-A-Baby** collection next week. Arrive early with your child and drop off your contribution at the collection areas next to church.

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.

If God is for us, who can be against us? --Romans 8:31b

St. Joseph Lenten Calendar 2009

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 7:00 pm
 Tues. Mar. 17 Parish Mission 7:00 pm
 Wed. Mar. 18 Parish Mission 7:00 pm
 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
 Thurs. Apr. 2 Eucharistic Adoration 6 pm to 8 pm
 Fri. Apr. 3 Stations of Cross 7:30 pm
 Sun. Apr. 5 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!

**St. Joe's Social Seniors Group**

Thanks to all who attended our "Mini Retreat." What a great day to spend with Jesus! Father Frank and Father Jim were outstanding in their spirituality and humor.

Mar. 16 - Our fun and games back. We will be taking sign ups for our Death Valley adventure.

Apr. 6 - regular games and announcements

Apr. 20 - Fun and games

May 12-14 - 3 day, 2 nite Death Valley Adventure. Call Olga for more information and flyers 596-6981. Trip is open to everyone, tell your friends and family.

Any questions or additional information, call Betty 596-8287 or Olga 596-6981.

St. Cecilia's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Mar. 10. Please join us at noon at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant. Questions, please call Ruth, 431-0288.

Together In Mission - A big thank you to the **190** families (of our 2012 registered families) who have made a pledge to this archdiocesan campaign to help struggling parishes and schools with their day to day operations. So far, we have **\$40,051** pledged toward our parish goal of **\$49,100.40**, and **\$23,172** already paid. Thank you for your continued generosity. There are envelopes in the church as well as in the rectory if you would like to join in and make a pledge for this very worthwhile cause. The people of the archdiocesan schools and parishes who receive the help will very much appreciate it.

Catholic Apologetics Class on every other Monday from 9:30 - 11:30 am or Tuesday from 7 - 9 pm in the PAC.

Mar. 9 & 10 - challenges to the Mass and Eucharist

Mar. 23 & 24 - challenges to the cannon of the Bible, Biblical interpretation, justification and salvation

Apr. 13 & 14 - challenges to Baptism, purgatory, Confession and the crucifix

Apr. 27 & 28 - challenges to the Marian Doctrines and praying to saints

We use Scripture and the Fathers of the Church. Bring your Bible and your questions. For information, contact Richard Dana, 420-9976.

Respect Life - Thanks to the 134+ parishioners who signed postcards to fight the FOCA anti life bill. Please join us the **2nd & 4th Monday** of every month @ **7:30pm** in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel to continue to pray for our leaders and their impact on the future of life. In the words of Olivia Payne, 6th grader at St. Joseph School, "I may not know much, but I think you should not sign the Freedom of Choice Act bill, and this is why: Mothers or future moms should not have a "right" to end life or end God's creation. Plus, what if your mom killed you in her womb? You would not be Mr. President Obama."

Volunteers Needed!!!!

If you would like to do some community service, delivering, cooking and serving dinner for **Project Achieve** the third Monday of the month, please contact Olga at the rectory, 594-4657. You are welcome to help out every month, once in awhile, or just one time.

Chrism Mass Monday, **April 6**, at **7:00 pm** at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Call Deacon Don for carpooling arrangements, 598-5202.

WEEKLY OFFERING		Last Sunday: \$12,551
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JOIN US FOR THE FIESTA
April 24, 25, and 26
 The St. Joseph Parish Fair is coming.
 Lots of fun rides, games, prizes and tons of food!
Save the Dates!!
See You There

Cub Scout Pack 120, our St. Joseph pack, is having a fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen, corner of PCH and 2nd St., all day on Tuesday, **March 10**. Pick up a flyer after Mass today to take with you so when you go a portion of your bill will be donated back to the pack.

Did You Know? Internet Spammers Target Kids, Too
- Does your child know what to do when he or she gets an e-mail from an unknown person? If you are allowing your children to communicate with others online, be aware that they will be exposed to spam. The easiest way to avoid spam is to make sure that your children do not give out their personal information or e-mail address to anyone they do not know. Adjust the security settings on their e-mail account to filter or block unwanted messages. Encourage your children to delete any messages they get from anyone they don't know. Even when your children get e-mail or instant messages from people they know, make sure that they scan everything they are downloading for viruses first. You can do this by making sure that you have your antivirus software up to date. 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.

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. A session has been planned for Wednesday, **March 25**, from **7 - 8:30 pm** in the hall. If you have any questions, please call the religious education office at 598-0519.

FEED-A-BABY drive next week-end, **March 14 & 15**, collecting nonperishable food and diapers for the needy infants in Long Beach. Large size diapers are needed most. Thank you for your generosity.



The **HOMELESS KITS** can be returned to the back of church.

NEWS: Watch the bulletin for "books for kids;" start saving books for Easter. We plan to donate books to the 69 families with the food baskets. We want to focus on reading for these families instead of sweets. Your help is appreciated by these families and the volunteers - and more volunteers are needed and welcome. Call us for details, 430-5839.

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.

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.

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, March 7**
 5:00 PM - † John DeRuyter
- SUNDAY, March 8**
 7:30 AM - † Tom Burke
 9:00 AM - † Nancy Buonocore
 10:30 AM - Hugo & Miriam Jorda 59th Anniversary
 12:30 PM - St. Joseph Parishioners
- MONDAY, March 9**
 8:00 AM - † Tom Burke
- TUESDAY, March 10**
 8:00 AM - Hugo & Miriam Jorda 59th Anniversary
- WEDNESDAY, March 11**
 8:00 AM - Louise, Paul and Lisa Dang, living
- THURSDAY, March 12**
 8:00 AM - † Giovina S. Anselmo
- FRIDAY, March 13**
 8:00 AM - † Macario Villarete
- SATURDAY, March 14**
 5:00 PM - Marlene Sergeant, living
- SUNDAY, March 15**
 7:30 AM - † John Fay
 9:00 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners
 10:30 AM - † Ernest J. Kujak
 12:30 PM - † Tom Burke

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

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, Gerry Kohnan, Annette Haddad, Marge Hamilton and Michelle Smith.

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
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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