



From the Pastor's Desk:

The Old Testament reveals a long string of misadventures lived by God's chosen people. Each time they became so evil that God had no choice but to punish them they seemed to be brought lower than ever and to be smaller in number. Today's first reading reports a climax: "the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy." Thus began the Babylonian captivity. Taken from their own land, they wept in a foreign land. By the time King Cyrus told them they could go back to Jerusalem, seventy years had passed. Few of the original captives were left. Many now were so at home in Babylon they didn't know if they were part of God's chosen people or even if they wanted to be. Jesus spoke of a similar dilemma. Not everyone who is offered eternal life will choose it, anymore than every slave in Babylon chose to be free. But all of that is in the past. What about us, now? Will we choose the freedom of God's children? Will we choose to walk in the light?



From Deacon Don's Desk:

What a beautiful celebration! Friday the 13th was a "lucky" day for upwards of 70 children as they made their First Reconciliation. Lent is the primary time for celebrating this sacrament as it is preparing us for baptism and baptism renewal. Early Christians called it the "second Baptism." Thank you Virginia and Kathy.

My version of 1 Corinthians 13 (a Lenten Version - adapted from the Christmas version):

If I upgrade, remodel, add subzero refrig and recessed lighting to my home but do not show love, I'm just another decorator. **If** I slave away in the kitchen preparing gourmet meals and arrange an adorned dinner table but do not show love, I'm just another cook. **If** I work at the soup kitchen, visit nursing homes and give all I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing. **If** I attend myriad parties and sing in the church choir but do not focus on prayer, fasting, almsgiving and Christ, I have missed the point of Lent. **Love** stops the cooking to hug the child and kiss the husband. **Love** is kind, though harried and tired. **Love** does not envy another's home that has coordinated china and table linens. **Love** does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. **Love** doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who cannot. **Love** bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. **Love** never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

As Abbot Francis Benedict says, "Lent is to move us closer to Christ & the way of life Jesus exemplifies for us."

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: How can I move toward the light in my own life and what darkness needs Jesus' healing?

Child: What is one action that I can do this week to thank Jesus for the gift of knowing him?

Teen: Who is one person in my life who supports my faith and helps it to grow?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

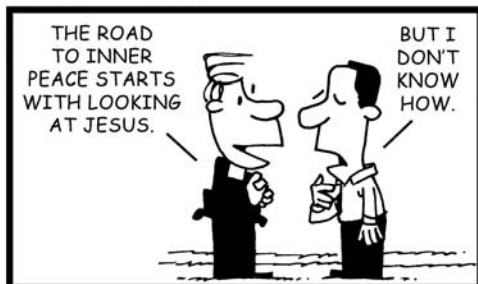
- Monday: Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
- Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Jn 5:1-16
- Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
- Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels - Monday, April 6 7:00 pm.

We have just a few places left in our cars. If you want to attend the Chrism Mass with others from St. Joseph, call Deacon Don or Tina to secure your place, 598-5202 or 498-6701. We will meet in the parking lot at 5:15 pm and leave promptly at 5:30 pm.



4th SUNDAY OF LENT



THE SON OF MAN LIFTED UP

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: When John speaks of Jesus being lifted up on the cross, he refers to more than Jesus' death. This lifting up is the whole sweep of Jesus coming from and returning to his father: life, death, being raised from the tomb, being exalted over the whole world. The reference to the serpent Moses raised in the desert is the story we hear in our first reading. The Israelites, bitten by serpents as a result of their grumbling in the desert, are cured by looking on the image of their woundedness. In the same way, Jesus has taken on our humanity and will bring healing and eternal life through his death and glorification. The very life and love of God can be seen and touched in the only Son, lifted up for us.

Life Focus: * Describe a time when you felt yourself being drawn from anxiety, fear, hurt, anger, etc., because someone didn't leave you to carry these alone.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Elementary Program: Stations of the Cross - Our annual Stations of the Cross held on the field will take place today at **11:00 am**. We invite the parish community to join us in praying as the children dramatize each station.

Sacrament Program: The sacrament workshop in preparation for First Communion will take place on Sunday, **April 5**, from **2 - 4:30 pm** in the hall. This workshop is required for parents and children in the school and religious education program.

Confirmation Year 1: Next session is **today**, starting with the 12:30 pm Mass. The Rite of Promise will be held during this Mass. Session in hall until 3:30.

Confirmation Year 2: "Hands of Mercy" house build with sponsor on Saturday, **March 28**. Meet at **9:15 am**.

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Thank you for your items for Feed-A-Baby Sunday and to our terrific staff of volunteers for making our Open House a huge success! Please remember to bring your item for our **Family Easter Baskets** to be delivered on the 4th. Bring your donation next Sunday and drop in the box behind the hall on your way to class.

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.

Lenten Soup Dinner and Stations of the Cross

Religious Education is hosting a "Soup Nite" on Friday, **Mar. 27**, at **6:00 pm** followed by a family-oriented Stations of the Cross at 7:30 pm. There will be Lenten activities for parents & children to work on as well as delicious home-made "no meat" soups, salad, & bread. Everyone is welcome to join in for this Lenten evening of food, community, & prayer. If you would like to donate your favorite soup, please call the religious ed office, **598-0519**.

St. Joseph Lenten Calendar 2009

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**

Apr. 6 - regular games and announcements

Apr. 20 - Fun and games

May 12-14 - 3 day, 2 nite Death Valley Adventure. Cost includes bus driver tip, per person \$363 double occ, single sup, \$493. Call Olga for more information and flyers 596-6981. **Trip is open to everyone**, tell friends & family.

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

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.

Rest in Peace

Died in Christ:

Marie Carabine



Save the Date - Our annual **Vacation Bible Camp** will take place **July 6-10** here at St. Joseph. Please mark your calendars for this fun-filled week. This year's theme is "Son Rock Kid's Camp!" We will be joined again with St. Cornelius, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Cyprian's in offering a week of arts and crafts, bible stories, music, snacks, and games. Volunteers needed. Please contact our religious ed. office if you can help out, **598-0519**.

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

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.

Pancake Breakfast! Boy Scout Troop 120 is sponsoring a pancake breakfast **March 29** from 8 am to 12 noon. Cost is \$4.00 per person. Come support our scouts!

You are invited to attend a series of classes on **Natural Family Planning** taught by the Couple to Couple League. You'll learn a method of family planning that is safe, effective, and morally acceptable. For more information call Greg and Beth Gath, 377-5877, or email at bethandgreg@verizon.net.

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

Together In Mission - A big thank you to the **232** families who have made a pledge to this archdiocesan campaign. So far, we have **\$48,776** pledged toward our parish goal of **\$49,100.40**, and **\$26,795** 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 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING		Last Sunday: \$10,489
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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.

Did You Know? How to Report Inappropriate or Illegal Content on the Internet - One of the main reasons that children do not report the inappropriate content they find online is fear of punishment from parents. If you let them know that it is not their fault if they come across an inappropriate site, they will be more willing to come to you when it happens. If your children ever show you a site that contains illegal behavior, such as pornographic images of children, contact your Internet service provider & the CyberTipline at www.cybertipline.com. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry, 213-637-7650.

Sign up for the Fair Popcorn Booth, the best deal in town. Call for the best times now.



FEED-A-BABY weekend drive:
Thank you for your generous donations of time and money. We received 14 large bags of food and supplies, and \$1019 which will be used to purchase more. Donations will go to Catholic Charities and New Life Beginnings.

We will be collecting **NEW** or "gently used" **BOOKS** for our Easter Food Basket families. Bring the books to Mass on **March 21/22 & March 28/29**. Call us with questions. 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 for details.

We need drivers for Easter delivery on **April 4**; please call **Patty Brio, 425-5964**.

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

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. Tom: 799-0921. We are still in the "start up" mode. John & Jan Minter 430-5839.

Knights of Columbus Council 3629 is selling raffle tickets, \$1 each, to support the Rancho San Antonio Boys Home. First prize \$5000. Call Tom Neton, 714-271-8642.

Volunteers Needed to read to children waiting for appointments at L.B. Memorial, 2 hour commitment. Contact Julie, 933-0511. Questions: Pat Morrison, 598-0978.

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 21

5:00 PM - † Martha Aimone

SUNDAY, March 22

7:30 AM - † Zenaida Andrada

9:00 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 AM - † Joseph Demers

12:30 PM - † Jan Ginnett

MONDAY, March 23

8:00 AM - † Jan Ginnett

TUESDAY, March 24

8:00 AM - † Rosemary Zilliox

WEDNESDAY, March 25

8:00 AM - † John Fay

THURSDAY, March 26

8:00 AM - † Donald T. Sherman

FRIDAY, March 27

8:00 AM - † Maria and Dominico Dang

SATURDAY, March 28

5:00 PM - † Botelho and Salvate families

SUNDAY, March 29

7:30 AM - St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 AM - Fr. Edward Broom, Special Intention

10:30 AM - † Antonio Torres

12:30 PM - Conrada Lomibao, Happy 95th!

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:

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	Daniel O'Connell

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, Elijah Carbonell, Kit Escoto VanWyk, Mau reen 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, Jean Boolish, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol, Nicole Pisula-Stanton, Odete Salvate, Rosemary Doran, Gerry Kohnan, Annette Haddad, Marge Hamilton, Michelle Smith, Johnny & Cody LaRiccia, Barbara Hook, Marlena Stewart & Christopher Moore.

LITURGY

DIRECTOR of LITURGY	Fr. William	594-4657
ALTAR CARE	Mary Jelnic	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