



From the Pastor's Desk:

"Sing Joyfully!" and "Shout for joy!" proclaims the prophet Zephaniah. Don't be discouraged he announces to the people. His words of hope can resonate just as boldly today as they did in the land of Israel so long ago. These are words

we not only need to hear, but also need to share with others. Our Christian hope comes from the fact that our Savior has come and has freed us from the ancient enemy, the powers of sin and death. Our hope is rooted in Jesus Christ, who does not erase difficulties and problems, but who sees us through them. He is always with us, indeed, as Paul writes, he is near! The promise of God is to be with us every day and always. In just a few short days we will celebrate the Christmas festival that hails Emmanuel - God with us. In him is all our hope.



From Deacon Don's Desk:

Definition: Ten Commandments: The most important Top Ten list NOT given by David Letterman.


The message of Bethlehem is: "I want to introduce you to Jesus." Six years ago the B.C. comic strip had the caveman character writing a poem that goes like this: "How fitting we chose an evergreen tree, which symbolizes eternity, to celebrate the birth of He, who died on a tree, to save you and me."

As we get closer to that celebration of Christmas, let us reflect on it not as something that has happened, but as something that is happening. Jesus wants to be reborn in you, to be that radiant light, that reflection of His love to all, even those we find difficult to love.

Keep Christ in Christmas! Last year an article titled "Stop Marginalizing Christmas" in our local paper noted: New York City Mayor Bloomberg insisted the lighted tree outside city hall was not a Christmas tree, 'It's a holiday tree!' Which holiday Mr. Mayor? The Maplewood, N.J. school board banned all religious music from "holiday" concerts. Again, what holiday is this? The article continues, "Anti-Christmas forces say it's about diversity, protecting the sensitivities of Americans who get offended by the mere mention of the birth of Jesus. Who are these folks who find a baby in a manger so annoying it ruins their day?" President Grant, in 1870, made Christmas a federal holiday and according to surveys 90% of Americans celebrate it!!

He came to save you and me!

Our Prayer: Father, Your eternal Word took flesh on earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of Your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces His glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for His coming. Amen.



Centering Prayer
First & Third Tuesdays
Dec. 15, Jan. 5 & 19 - 7:00 pm
In the church

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Confessions will be heard Saturday, December 19, from 3:00 - 4:45 pm and Wednesday, December 23, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.

Rest in Peace
 Died in Christ:
Henry Wiegand
George Evans



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 GOD IS INDEED MY SAVIOR:
 I AM CONFIDENT AND UNAFRAID



Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: John the Baptizer was looking forward to and preparing for the coming of a great prophet, which was to signal the dawn of God's reign. His message was a stern, no-nonsense one: Repent or be damned! He also gives people specific examples of how they are to repent. People who have more than they need are to share with those who do not have enough. Tax collectors must stop cheating people. Soldiers and heads of state must stop intimidating people. The people who heard John wondered if he were the coming Messiah, but he quickly points to one "far superior to himself." The difference is indicated by their baptisms - one with water, one with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Life Focus: * If you were to ask John the Baptist this same question today, "What am I to do then?" how would he answer you? * *How can we radiate to others the joy of God's presence within us?* * In our personal lives, how can we imitate John the Baptist as we proclaim the Good News? * *Reflect on a time when you believe God lifted a burden from you and "renew(ed) you in his love."* * Relate a time in your life when you felt discouraged, and it seemed there was little reason for celebration.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The religious education staff would like to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!! Our office will be closed from December 18 through January 1.

Elementary Program: There will be **no class on December 20 and 27** for Christmas vacation. Classes will resume on **January 3**.

Middle School: On **December 15** our students and families will be visiting Katella Senior Living and Alamitos West Convalescent facility to sing Christmas Carols for the residents. No class on **December 22 and 29**.

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Singing in the hall after Mass! No class Dec. 20 or 27. Have the merriest of Christmas celebrations and a joyous New Year secure in the love of our Lord. Thank you for bringing your item for our baskets. Great job, Community Helpers!

Sunday Nursery: The nursery is open during 9:00 and 10:30 Masses every Sunday. Drop in children of all ages, first come - first served. If you are interested in helping in the nursery, please contact Shannon, 598-0519.



St. Joseph Senior Group

Dec. 14 - Christmas Luncheon - entertainment and gifts for Precious Life Shelter. Cost \$10/person. Please come at 11:00 for social hour, lunch served promptly at noon.

Dec. 13 - **WE NEED YOUR HELP** to decorate for our Christmas party. Many hands make a big job small. Thanks. Please be there at 3:00 pm, Sunday, Dec. 13.

Jan. 10-12 - Laughlin Trip 3 days, 2 nites at Riverside, breakfast buffet of choice with champagne, dinner buffet with music, dance and door prizes. Free lunch at AVI. Cost \$99 double occ., \$119 single, includes driver gratuity. **One Bag Only.** We need 8 more people to make this trip complete. Please - open to everyone. Invite all your friends. We don't want to cancel this great trip.

January meetings - Jan. 4 and 18
Call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287.

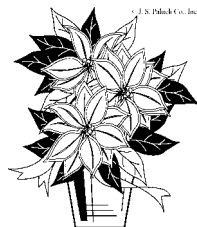
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
- Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
- Wednesday: Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21b-25; Lk 7:18b-23
- Thursday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
- Friday: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
- Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
- Sunday: Mi 5:1-4a; Ps 80; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

On behalf of the Filipino Community at Holy Innocents Parish, we would like to invite the parishioners of St. Joseph to our 25th celebration of the Filipino tradition of **Simbang Gabi (Advent Evening Mass)** to be held on **December 19 at 5:00 pm** at the Holy Innocents School Hall, 2500 Pacific Ave. - corner of Pacific and Willow.

The Liturgical Environmental Committee

this year is asking the parishioners of St. Joseph to help sponsor the church's Christmas decorations with a suggested dollar amount for the poinsettias, wreaths, and greenery. The sponsorship can be made in the name of the family or in memory of a loved one. We are also looking for volunteers to help with the decorating on December 23. Please contact Alexis Lewis, 234-7907, for more details.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: What do I still need to do to prepare for the coming of the Lord?

Child: What kind thing have I done for someone lately?

Teen: What do I remember from stories about my Baptism and what does my Baptism mean to me now?

Parish Library - Please visit our parish library on Sunday morning, or during the week from 10 am to 4 pm in the Parish Activity Center. Many wonderful books and CD's/tapes are available for check out.

Year I Confirmation - Track Two will begin on Jan. 3 through **Jan. 24**. We will meet at the front of the church before the 12:30 Mass. There are no make up sessions for Track Two. Every session is a guest speaker.

Engaged and Married Couples Retreat at the Pro Sanctity Center, Fullerton, **Jan. 8-9**, with Fr. Patrick Hill, retreat master. Fr. Hill is a counselor, canon lawyer, and parish priest for the L.A. Archdiocese. Topics include: communication, the art of loving, the four loves - affection, friendship, eros, and charity, etc. Call 714-956-1020 to reserve a spot or for more information.

A Spiritual Journey to the Holy Land

Archdiocesan Lenten Pilgrimage, **March 12-23**, led by Father Jack Stoeger, Spiritual Director of the House of Prayer for Priests. Visit the holy sites including Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee, Mt. Tabor, and Gethsemane, and walk the Via Dolorosa to Calvary. For information, please call Sister Mary Jean Meier, RSM, 213-637-7520.

Respect Life means protecting life from conception to a natural death. It also includes the right to health care as called for by our bishops, minus abortion and euthanasia. Please join us to pray for reverence and respect for life on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month, 7:30 pm, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the church.



Parish Directory - Last Chance!!

One final weekend of Parish Directory sign-ups will be held at all Masses this weekend. Please show your pride and membership in our wonderful parish community, and help us to create a

valuable resource to communicate with and to minister to each other.

Appointments are available December 29-30, and January 5-9; weekdays 1 - 9 pm, Saturdays 9 am - 5 pm. You will receive both a copy of the parish directory and an 8X10 photograph, both of which are free to yourself and to the parish. Additional copies and poses may be purchased as well.

Sign-ups can also be made from our parish website, www.StJosephParishCommunity.com, by clicking on the camera, or call the rectory, 594-4657.

Gift Baskets for Christmas:

Gifts for our Gift Basket children must be wrapped and returned **BEFORE the 12:30 Mass on Dec. 13.**

Sorting the packages will be done during the 12:30 Mass. Please plan ahead.

New drivers for Christmas are asked to call Patty Brio, 425-5964. Christmas delivery is Dec. 19 at 8:30 am.

Help!! We need a family or group to oversee the **Feed-A-Baby collection** - only once per year. We help with the planning! **Joy is in the giving.**

Next meeting is January 20.

YOUR SKIP-A-MEAL BLUE ENVELOPE donations are so appreciated!! Please **make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: SKIP-A-MEAL.** Thank you for your generosity and all you do and share! John & Jan Minter 430-5839.



St. Joseph Music Ministry invites all parishioners, family members, and friends to a concert, held on Christmas Eve at 8:15 pm. Please plan on staying for the 9:00 pm Mass of Christmas to follow the concert.

Have You Marked Your Calendar? The Parish Fair is scheduled for **April 23, 24, and 25.** We are looking for volunteers interested in joining the Fair Committee. There are many opportunities, big and small. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 7pm in the PAC. Please come and find out how you can get involved to help plan this year's event. All are welcome! Any questions can be addressed to Wendy Gentry, 754-8546, or Phil Tondreault, 822-4242.

Safeguard the Children - Fingerprinting Schedule

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

Jan. 19 - St. Cornelius School, Long Beach, 425-7813

Jan. 22 - Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Los Nietos, 562-692-3758

Jan. 23 - St. Athanasius, Long Beach, 562-423-7986

Did You Know? Bullying is a Form of Abuse - Did you know that bullying is a form of abuse, and therefore is forbidden by our Catholic schools? Bullying typically consists of direct behaviors, such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, shoving and stealing. But it might also be indirect, such as spreading rumors that cause victims to be socially isolated through intentional exclusion. Cyberbullying, which involves the use of the Internet or mobile phones to send inappropriate messages and images to or about others, is also behavior that is not tolerated in our Catholic schools. If you suspect bullying of a child at school, please contact the school principal with your concerns. For particular help you may call Assistance Ministry at 213-637-7650.

St. Hedwig's 30th Annual Christmas Dinner

If you are alone this Christmas, we invite you to join us on Friday, **December 25**, at 1:00 pm in Quinn Hall, 11482 Los Alamitos Blvd., Los Alamitos. There will be families there to share their love and prayers with you, a bounty of food, singing, and much, much more! Reservations are required by December 21. Please contact Ed or Dewey Foster, 562-598-7060. There is no charge.

Religious Education Congress is ready to enrich and revitalize us once more **March 18-21.** More than 315 workshops available covering topics and interests from spirituality and personal development to biblical studies, theology and catechesis. The theme is **Incredible Abundance.** Enjoy morning praise, evening liturgies, a variety of prayer experiences, and concerts. For more information or to register stop by our religious education office for a guidebook, call the Congress info line, 213-637-7348, or go online at www.RECongress.org

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, December 12
 5:00 PM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

SUNDAY, December 13
 7:30 AM - † John Fay
 9:00 AM - † Louise Turner
 10:30 AM - † Michael Fehner
 12:30 PM - † Virginia Souza

MONDAY, December 14
 8:00 AM - † Louise Turner

TUESDAY, December 15
 8:00 AM - † Louise Turner

WEDNESDAY, December 16
 8:00 AM - † Louise Turner

THURSDAY, December 17
 8:00 AM - † John Anselmo

FRIDAY, December 18
 8:00 AM - † Jesus Sagun

SATURDAY, December 19
 5:00 PM - † Elmer Kemeny

SUNDAY, December 20
 7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners
 9:00 AM - Hung Hoang, living
 10:30 AM - † Domingo Dizon
 12:30 PM - † Martha Aimone

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:

Glen Warren	Nick Compton
Joseph Comfort	Irene Avila
Scott Williams	Justin Ray
Timothy Ring	Kenneth Mack McDonald
Adam Mariano	SSg. Rob Beckwell
Vincent Vezzetti	Daniel O'Connell
Obinna Ugochukwu	David Waidelich
Dave Hoyt	

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, Joy Mann, Richard Parent, Marlene Muccino, Daniele Pieters, Josephine Keller, David Dresnick, Conrado Uyan, Tracey Rossello, Kristen Tuasonand, Elijha Carbonell, Msgr. Marc Trudeau, Stormy Leiva, Bobby Rubly, Betty Chappell, Elizabeth Jackson, Justin Ferriese, Betty Galaz, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol, Rosemary Doran, Michelle Smith, Johnny & Cody LaRiccia, Barbara Hook, Christopher Moore, Merinda Bradshaw, Melody Schatz, Don Wassmuth, Marlena Sargeant, Leslie Day, Logan Pipler, Javier Salinas, Tess Keckeisen, Danielle Carmody, Virgil Terry, Seth Davis, Patricia Santy, Patrick Farrell, Hugo & Mickey Jorda, Beverly Clinton, Patti Nolan, Gregory Freez, Diana Norton, Luisa Parada, Rebecca Clinton, Karen Kindell, Peggy Montello, Steve Christmans, Michael Raspudic, Patricia Langlios, Carlos Franco & James Amrhein.

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	Cheryl Hebestreit
VICE-PRINCIPAL	Erin Wright
SECRETARY	Julie Gianessi
PTO PRESIDENT	

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Virginia Young
SECRETARY	Marianna Wescott

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
	Teri 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	Tom & Diane Krause	310-316-4857
	www.ceeofla.org/schedule.htm	
MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER	Tom & Pat Halliwell	799-0921
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING	Greg & Beth Gath	377-5877
SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN	Monica Munoz & Julie Gray	598-0519
PROJECT ACHIEVE	Tina Gath	598-5202
	Olga Cuda	594-4657
PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER	Greg Shea	221-8673
CUB SCOUTS	Tom Neton	429-2030
BOY SCOUTS	Tom Lane	496-4223

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