



From the Pastor's Desk:

In the Gospel, Elizabeth describes the child in her womb as leaping for joy. When is the last time you had such a moment in your life? Was it a new job? A new love? A winning lottery ticket? A new child? Leaping for joy is an apt expression to describe the uplifting experience that comes from unexpected good fortune. But God's blessing is not luck. It is the fulfillment of the promise made to his people to be with them. The child, whose birth we will celebrate in a few days, came to dwell among us taking on every aspect of our humanity, save sin, so that we might come to share in divine life. The birth of Jesus is nothing less than our own divinization, the promise that God's life is ours, and can never be taken from us. Now that's something worth leaping about.

Christmas Confessions

Christmas Confessions will be heard Wednesday, December 23, from 7:00 - 8:00 pm.



Centering Prayer
First, Third & Fifth Tuesdays
Dec. 29, Jan. 5 & 19 - 7:00 pm
In the church

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: What is the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth? What lesson does their relationship teach me as a modern Christian?

Child: When was there a time that I felt great joy?

Teen: When is it hardest for me to obey a parent or teacher and what can help me obey with more trust?

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
 FAITH AND OBEDIENCE OF MARY TO BE FOLLOWED



From Deacon Don's Desk:

It's a time to rejoice, "to bring glad tidings to the poor." This means to do good works BUT also to "heal the brokenhearted." We are to testify to the light which means to grow in relationship with Christ and with others. Remember in the "Gift of the Magi" the bottom line is the gifts given were given out of 'surrendered treasure' and a loving and JOYOUS heart. Of whose gifts do we give if not of His?

The Seniors' luncheon was a true "God sighting." Besides the delicious meal, we were graced by the "carolers" from **Ability First** with joy in their faces as they signed the Christmas carols. But what truly touched many of us was the raffled center pieces, boots with homemade cookies. Each table had a winner. As the carolers were exiting, Bea Almada got up and gave her gift to one of them. Then another winner got up and gave theirs to the next caroler and it spread until each of them went home with a gift. We all were gifted in many ways that day.

It's time for **prayer**. Quick tip: A.C.T.S. (structure of prayer) is A: Adoration, C: Contrition (sorrow for sins), T: Thanksgiving, S: Supplication (requests of God). Take time to pray in silence. Let your prayer rise up like incense, the sweet aroma which symbolizes something pleasing and worthy of being offered to God. Begin each day with the Morning Prayer. Also, pick up a copy of the "Living Faith." Each day has a passage from Scripture and a reflection. Don't have time to pick one up? Give me a call, I'll see that you get one - Free! Keep Christ in Christmas but most importantly in YOUR heart.

Our Prayer: Father God, source of all holiness, though no one can see You & live, You give life most generously & in an even greater way restore it. Sanctify Your priests through Your life giving Word and consecrate Your people in His blood until our eyes see You face to face. Amen.

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: Luke's account of the visitation is a lovely human story. In addition, there are deep statements about God and the desired relationship with God. The account reveals profound faith in the Lordship of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary is blessed because of her trusting acceptance of God's plan for her. She is the model disciple, a model for all. She hears the word of God and keeps it, not really knowing what lies in store for her. Also, Mary's blessedness comes from the "fruit of her womb." Elizabeth voices the fundamental Christian faith in the Lordship of Jesus: "But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"

Life Focus: * Share a time when you've been asked to believe in God's promise when all circumstances would have you believe otherwise. * *State when you've been filled with enthusiasm and joy and proclaimed Jesus as Lord.* * Compare a time you said "yes" to God, when you "went out in haste," to a time you went out with careful deliberation. * *Relate an incident in your life when you were aware of the Holy Spirit working in someone else.* * In what circumstances do you find it most difficult to be honest and open about what you think and feel?

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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

Middle School: No class on **December 22 and 29**.

Early Childhood: No class today. Enjoy your holiday and remember to say your prayers with your children and be aware of Christ in your heart! See you on January 3!

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.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

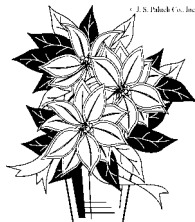
Monday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
 Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
 Wednesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
 Thursday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
 Friday: Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 [18-25]
Midnight: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20
Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 [1-5, 9-14]
 Saturday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
 Sunday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28; Ps 128 or Ps 84; Col 3:12-20 [12-17] or 1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Confirmation Year I - Track Two will begin on **Jan. 3**. Classes will be held the weeks of **Jan. 10, 17, and 24**. We will meet at the front of the church to pick up name badges. Please come no later than 12:20. The Track II phase of our program is very special and important. Please adjust your schedules accordingly. We will be having a series of guest speakers; attendance is important. Please remember to pick up your Candidates at 3:30 in the inner parking lot.

Confirmation Year II - Our Winter Track will begin the week of **Jan. 10-14** for 3 consecutive weeks ending with the Sponsor and Candidate Rite of Affirmation and guest speaker luncheon. Your candidate will be going to the same home for all three tracks. My compliments to our fine candidates for such a wonderful retreat experience.

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.

**St. Joseph Senior Group**

Have a blessed and wonderful Christmas holiday and a healthy and happy new year. Our Christmas party was great, food excellent and entertainment outstanding.

January meetings - Jan. 4 and 18

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.

Call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287.

Attention: The 50+ Catholic Singles (divorced, separated, single, widowed), will meet on Sunday, **Dec. 27** at **2 pm** in the conference room of St. Pancratius, 3519 St. Pancratius Pl., Lakewood. Info: Winnie Butler, 809-3206.

Gambler's Delight - The Knights of Columbus would like to invite all parish members 21 years and older to 5 hours at Pala Resort and Casino, Wednesday, **Jan. 13**. Only \$15 per person. The Casino will return \$5 on arrival. Please call Manny Vieyra, 425-8811 for more information.

Parish Library - The parish library will be closed until January 3 due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

Rest In Peace

Died in Christ:

Patricia Reischl



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

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 appointments are coming to an end!

Please show your pride and membership in our wonderful parish community, and help us to create a valuable resource to recognize and to minister

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

NO PERSONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PRINTED WITHOUT YOUR PERMISSION. If you wish just to include your family photo and names, or address without phone number, etc., no problem. We'll ask you this at your photo session. Sign-ups can be made from our parish website, www.StJosephParishCommunity.com by clicking on the camera, or by calling the rectory, 594-4657.

Gift Baskets for Christmas: Thanks to ALL of our parishioners who bought, wrapped and returned these beautiful packages. Delivery day was great! Our drivers delivered food and personalized packages for the children, 2 or more each!!!! Thanks to our drivers, as well!! St. Joseph Parish has given 65 families a wonderful Christmas!

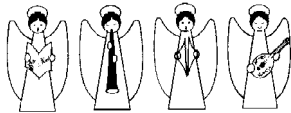


Help!! We need a family or group to oversee the **Feed-A-Baby collection** - only once per year. We help with the planning! **Joy is in the giving.**

Next meeting is Jan. 20, 7:30 in the PAC. All invited!
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.



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.

Special Thank You from Year II Confirmation goes out to Lorraine Olson, Mary Vezzetti, and Kel Attardo. These courageous adults chaperoned the Mission San Luis Rey overnight retreat with our Confirmandi. Our retreat was a success due to their commitment.

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? Five Tips For Safeguarding Children

The Archdiocese mandates that all people who work with children and youth in our parishes and schools must undergo child abuse prevention training through the VIR-TUS program. The training details five steps to prevent child sexual abuse: 1. Know the warning signs of an inappropriate relationship with a child. 2. Control access to children by carefully selecting the adults who work with children and youth. 3. Monitor all programs for the safety of children and youth. 4. Be aware of and sensitive to what is going on in the lives of children. 5. Communicate concerns to the appropriate person in authority. For more information, please call the Archdiocesan Safeguard the Children office, 213-637-7227. For particular help you may call Assistance Ministry at 213-637-7650.

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.

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 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
- MONDAY, December 21**
 8:00 AM - † Peter Anselmo
- TUESDAY, December 22**
 8:00 AM - Ping Villarette - Thanksgiving
- WEDNESDAY, December 23**
 8:00 AM - † Kenneth Eschmann
- THURSDAY, December 24**
 4:00 PM - Intentions of Presider
 6:00 PM - Intentions of Presider
 9:00 PM - Intentions of Presider
- FRIDAY, December 25**
 9:00 AM - Intentions of Presider
 10:30 AM - Intentions of Presider
 12:30 PM - Intentions of Presider
- SATURDAY, December 26**
 5:00 PM - Frank & Pat Thornton, 50th Anniversary
- SUNDAY, December 27**
 7:30 AM - Anne Dang, living
 9:00 AM - † Robert Uehlin, Anniversary
 10:30 AM - Munda/Reyes family
 12:30 PM - Intentions of 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:

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, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Conrado Uyan, Kristen Tuasonand, Elijha Carbonell, Stormy Leiva, Bobby Rubly, Betty Chappell, Elizabeth Jackson, Betty Galaz, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol, Rosemary Doran, Michelle Smith, Barbara Hook, Merinda Bradshaw, Melody Schatz, Marlana Sargeant, Leslie Day, Logan Pipler, Tess Keckeisen, Danielle Carmody, Virgil Terry, Seth Davis, Patricia Santy, Hugo & Mickey Jorda, Beverly Clinton, Patti Nolan, Gregory Freez, Diana Norton, Rebecca Clinton, Karen Kindell, Peggy Montello, Steve Christmans, Michael Raspudic, Patricia Langlios, Carlos Franco, James Amrhein, & John Fortier.

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.ceofla.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