



**From the Pastor's Desk:**

I. The Gospels of this weekend and next are powerful stories of forgiveness: the prodigal son and the woman caught in adultery. In each, one a parable and the other an event in the life of Christ, we are presented with a cast of characters who deal with sin and forgiveness. And we can find ourselves in the place of any one of them at a particular moment in time. Sometimes we are the accuser, sometimes the sinner, sometimes the one who offers forgiveness. In the complexity of our lives, it is likely that we are all three at one and the same time.

In today's parable, Jesus invites us to see the relationship that binds people together, despite the fracturing caused by sin. It is tough to forgive; just ask the elder son. We're happy when God forgives us. Are we willing to be an occasion of such happiness for others?

II. I am very happy and proud to announce that a very dear friend and colleague of mine has been named by the Cardinal to succeed me. He is Fr. Jim Halley, currently Associate at St. Anthony Parish, downtown. He is aware of happenings in our parish & already knows some of our many good people. This is because he has helped me out from time to time. I know you will grow to love and respect Fr. Jim as much as I do. I will become pastor emeritus as of July 1. As such I look forward to joining our new administration in limited ministry here at St. Joseph Parish.

**Chrism Mass March 29** - please call deacon Don & Tina for carpooling to the Cathedral.

**Together In Mission** - A big thank you to the families who have made a pledge to this archdiocesan campaign. So far, we have **\$46,789** pledged toward our parish goal of **\$53,667**. Thank you for your continued generosity. There are envelopes in the church and 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.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT / GOD HAS RECONCILED US TO HIMSELF THROUGH CHRIST



**From Deacon Don's Desk:**

We know this Sunday's Gospel as "the Prodigal Son" but someone once said it should more aptly be called "the Merciful Father." Jesus directs the story to the Pharisees and scribes who complain that Jesus eats with tax collectors and sinners. They complain as if their righteousness will buy them salvation. They keep laws out of "duty" not out of a sense of love. We should not do acts of charity to "buy" salvation but out of a sense of gratitude for the good things God has done for us.

Jill Penley may have adapted the following from the lessons of the parable of the Prodigal Son when she writes about when we meet God face to face:

God won't ask what kind of car you drove, but He'll ask how many people you drove who did not have transportation. God won't ask about the clothes in your closet, but He'll ask how many you helped to clothe. God won't ask how many friends you had, but He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend. God won't ask in what neighborhood you lived, but He'll ask how you treated your neighbors. God won't ask about the color of your skin, but He'll ask about the content of your character.

**Our Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Your Son, Jesus Christ brought peace to a sinful world and mankind the gift of salvation by His suffering and death. Teach us, who bear His name, to follow the example He gave us; may our faith, hope and charity turn hatred to love, conflict to peace and death to eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Small Church Community**

**Scripture Focus:** The parable of the prodigal son is one of the best known of all the stories Jesus told. The parable is about divine mercy & the desire "to return to the father." Luke has in mind tax collectors and sinners who were "drawing near" to Jesus. The group of Pharisees and scribes, represented by the elder son, only complain and criticize. According to the way they see it, they have served God and obeyed the Law. They don't understand how sinners can also be sons and daughters of God. For Luke, the religious leaders who keep all the rules and think they can earn salvation by their own efforts are farther away from God than the sinners.

**Life Focus:** \* Which of these two sons is more like you? Reflect on an experience that would show this. \* *Was there a time when you were away from God? How did you find your way back? What brought you back? How did you feel?* \* How do you handle resentment in your own life experience? What words of advice to deal with resentment could you offer the older brother? \* *The father shows loving patience. Speak of an experience when you had to wait patiently. How did that make you feel?* \* Describe a situation when you found it difficult to ask for forgiveness. \* *Who would you have a difficult time letting back into the Church or the family? Why?*

**Respect Life** - Please join us in praying for the sanctity of life from the moment of conception to natural death. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of every month, **7:00 pm**, in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Elementary Program:**

**Stations of the Cross:** Our annual portrayal of the Stations of the Cross will be today in the hall at **11 am**. Families, friends, and parish community are invited to join us.

**No Class** on Sunday, **March 21**, due to the Religious Education Congress.

**Sacrament Program:** The second workshop for our **Year I** families will take place on Sunday, **March 28**, from 2-3:30 pm in the hall.

**Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Thank you for a great Open House last week. We have no class next week for Religious Ed. Congress. All adults are invited to attend Congress; it's not too late!

**Sunday Nursery:** Our nursery is available during 9:00 and 10:30 Masses. Please do not sign your child in if they are sick. Let's all try and stay healthy!



**St. Joseph Senior Group**

Please note - we are always looking for new members - come join us!

Thank you to all of the Seniors who helped make Soup Nite a big success. Now - we want recipes! The movie that Shane Cuda shared showed us how important the Get on the Bus project is!

**March 15** - Collecting for casino trip - checks preferred.

**March 23** - Trip to Pechanga Casino. Cost \$16, \$5 returned in cash or toward buffet. Includes bus driver tip. Bus leaves promptly at 8 am. Please bring bottled water.

**July 12-14** - Keep dates open! Carl's Country Western Party at Riverside, 3 days, 2 nights, more info to follow. Call Olga 596-6981 or Betty 596-8287.

**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 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
- Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Jn 5:31-47
- Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Rom 4:13, 16-18,22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
- Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

**Save the Date**

The annual **Vacation Bible Camp** will take place this year at St. Cornelius, **July 12-16** from 9 am to noon. This year's theme is **Galactic Blast!** The Vacation Bible Camp is a cooperative effort of parishes in our area - St. Joseph, St. Cornelius, and St. Maria Goretti.

Adult volunteers are needed: teachers, classroom aides, playground supervisors, nutrition/snack helpers, craft helpers, etc. Please call Virginia or Marianna at the religious education office, 598-0519, for information.

**Thank You!** -Thanks to all those who helped with our Parish Soup and Lenten Reflection Night last Friday, especially all the cooks! The soups were delicious and such a great selection. The reflection given by Sr. Kathleen was inspirational and helpful for our Lenten journey. Our donations for **Get on the Bus** totaled \$474! Many thanks!

**Tax Time!!** If you would like a letter stating your contributions to St. Joseph Parish for 2009, please call the rectory, 594-4657, and leave your name and phone number.

**Lenten Calendar**

March 14	Fourth Sunday of Lent RE Stations of Cross - hall	11 am
March 19	St. Joseph Feast Day Stations of the Cross	7:30 pm
March 21	Fifth Sunday of Lent Start of Parish Retreat with Fr. Ken Deasy	
March 22	Parish Retreat with Fr. Ken	after 8 am Mass & 7 pm
March 23	Parish Retreat	after 8 am Mass & 7 pm
March 24	Parish Retreat Parish Reconciliation Service after retreat	after 8 am Mass & 7 pm
March 26	Stations of the Cross	7:30 pm
March 28	Palm Sunday	
March 29	Chrism Mass - Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels	
April 1	HOLY THURSDAY Morning Prayer - Liturgy of the Hours Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	8 am 8 pm after Mass until 11 pm
April 2	GOOD FRIDAY Morning Prayer - Liturgy of the Hours Liturgy of the Lord's Passion Stations of the Cross	8 am 1:30 pm 7:30 pm
April 3	HOLY SATURDAY Morning Prayer - Liturgy of the Hours Easter Vigil Service	8 am 8 pm
April 4	EASTER SUNDAY - HE IS RISEN! Masses	7:30, 9:00, 10:30, 12:30



**Centering Prayer**

**March 16 & 30 - 7:00 pm  
In the church**

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

*(Based on today's Bible readings)*

**Adult:** When have I been generous enough to forgive someone who hurt me deeply?

**Child:** What does Jesus teach us about forgiving others and ourselves?

**Teen:** Am I envious of anyone? Do I believe that my own blessings are not enough?

**The students of St. Joseph Elementary School** will take to the track in the first annual Jog-a-thon to raise money for computers for the classrooms. The 300 students are planning to raise \$15,000 for 20 Apple computers. After raising money through flat-fee sponsorships, the students will run for 20 minutes each (approximately 2 miles) on **March 26**. They will finish up the day with a rally to celebrate their success and award prizes for the students and classes that raise the most money. If you would like to sponsor a student or make a donation for the computers, please contact the school office, 596-6115.

Last Weekend! **Children's books** for Easter! We are asking for **new** or "gently used" books for the children (ages 3-16). There will be boxes at each door March 13-14. Please bring a



book or two to help the children of our gift basket families for Easter. Please call Patty Brio, **425-5964**, to deliver for Easter, 8:30 am, **March 27**. We are short on drivers.

The "homeless kit envelopes" are on the cross in the back of the church. Instructions are inside. Call with Q's. **Feed-A-Baby** Collection for Catholic Charities and New Life Beginnings this weekend. Please bring non perishable food and supplies. **Help!!** We need a family or group to oversee the **Feed-A-Baby collection - only once per year. Joy is in the giving.**

YOUR SKIP-A-MEAL BLUE ENVELOPE donations are so appreciated!! Please **make checks to St. Joseph Church, memo: SKIP-A-MEAL**. Thank you for all you share with our needy brothers & sisters! John & Jan Minter 430-5839.

**Parish Fair - April 23, 24, & 25**

**Silent Auction** - Do you have an extra pair of Dodger or Angel tickets? A timeshare or frequent flyer miles to donate? **The Parish Fair Silent Auction could use your help!** We're looking for sporting events, vacation travel, restaurants, home services (landscaping, painting, etc.), or any other item that might help us to raise funds for the church and school. **If you can help, please call Cyndie Kalina, 673-5777, by Apr. 1. Thanks!**

**Fingerprinting Schedule**

San Pedro Region fingerprinting schedule for volunteers with our parish children. Please call for an appt:

- Mar. 24** - St. Bernard, Bellflower, 562-867-2337
- Mar. 26** - St. Philip Neri, Lynwood, 310-632-7179
- Mar. 27** - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Hermosa Bch, 310-372-7077
- Apr. 20** - St. Albert the Great, Rancho Dominguez, 310-329-7548
- Apr. 23** - St. Linus, Norwalk, 562-921-6649
- Apr. 24** - St. John Fisher, Rancho PV, 310-377-5571

**Mary's Garden** - The Liturgical Environment Committee this year is asking the parishioners of St. Joseph's to help raise money to refurbish Mary's Garden. You can do this by sponsoring an Easter lily for \$15 or any amount. The sponsorship can be made in the name of the family or in memory of a loved one. A member of the Liturgical Environmental Committee will be by the garage after all the Masses on March 21 & 28. There will be a drawing of what it will look like when completed!

**We invite all** of you to join us to set up the church for Easter week on Palm Sunday, March 28, at 1:30 pm. We are in serious need of a helper with a very tall ladder as we need to cover the crucifix.

April 3, 9 am, we'll be getting the church ready for Easter. We'll need a very tall ladder again. Please contact Alexis Lewis with any questions, 234-7907.

**Did You Know? Is Safety Training Effective for Kids?**

Studies show that children who participated in prevention education programs like VIRTUS were six to seven times more likely to demonstrate protective behavior - to be more assertive, speak up, and disclose abuse or suspected abuse - than children who had not participated. Research supports the effectiveness of abuse prevention training of our children. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650.

**Thank You** for your generous donations to the **Hands of Mercy** House Building Project. Our parish community, the candidates' families and friends have put us within reach of our \$6000 goal. We now stand at \$5952. Wow!

**Confirmation Year II** - Hands of Mercy house build is quickly approaching. We need 15 teens to come early. We'll begin at 9 am until 1 or 2 pm. Call the RE Office if you would like to come by 7 am. Please let your coaches know ASAP. We can provide written statements for an excused absence. There is no make up for this event.

**Confirmation Year I** - We are looking for a parent team to head up our rehearsal dinner for the Year II candidates on May 14. The team will need to organize our Year I candidates for set up, serving, and clean up crews. Please contact the RE Office to volunteer, 598-0519.

**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 13**

5:00 PM - † Botelho & Salvate families

**SUNDAY, March 14**

7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 AM - † Richard Parent

10:30 AM - † James Clinton

12:30 PM - † Thomas McDonough

**MONDAY, March 15**

8:00 AM - † Patrick & Rosalee Branigan

**TUESDAY, March 16**

8:00 AM - † Michael & Irene Lynch

**WEDNESDAY, March 17**

8:00 AM - † Robert Preston

**THURSDAY, March 18**

8:00 AM - † John & Annie McEvelly

**FRIDAY, March 19**

8:00 AM - † Betty Buchanan

**SATURDAY, March 20**

5:00 PM - † Dick Koccevar

**SUNDAY, March 21**

7:30 AM - Intentions of St. Joseph Parishioners

9:00 AM - † Richard Parent

10:30 AM - † Pearl Olivier

12:30 PM - † Edward Ely

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        | William G. Ouimette   |

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, Elijah 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, Marlena 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, John Fortier, Dave Gallagher, John Flaherty, Fr. Frank Ferrante, Justin Wolsey, Jeanne Desmond, Juanita Herrera & Robert Maney.

**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	Marty Vezzetti	425-0621
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	Ava Baldwin

**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
--------------	----------

**PARISH ORGANIZATIONS**

PASTORAL COUNCIL	Robert Madura	594-4811
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0142
	rely5@verizon.net	
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Mike Santy	799-0660
	msanty@verizon.net	
	www.stjosephparishcommunity.com	

Website address:		
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	310-316-3477
	www.cceofla.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	Moses Bass	420-1877
BOY SCOUTS	Tom Lane	496-4223

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