

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

6220 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2010

Those whom the Lord has ransomed will
return and enter Zion singing, crowned
with everlasting joy.

— *Isaiah 35:10a*

Fr. JAMES HALLEY, Administrator
frjimhalley@la-archdiocese.org

Fr. WILLIAM J. CONNOR, Pastor Emeritus

Fr. HAROLD L. FORD, Retired, In Residence

Dcn. DON GATH, Parish Deacon

Dcn. TOM HALLIWELL, Parish Deacon

RECTORY: 594-4657

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Website: www.stjosephparishcommunity.com

St. Joseph School: 596-6115

Religious Education: 598-0519

SUNDAY MASSES:

Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

HOLY DAYS:

Vigil Mass: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Day: 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASS:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSION: Saturdays: 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

BAPTISM: By appointment, preparation class is required.

MARRIAGE: A minimum of six months notice is required.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: In the event of a serious illness, please contact Fr. James Halley.

*St. Joseph Parish is a community of believers who uphold the teachings of the Gospel and
the traditions of the Roman Catholic Church,
foster the formation and enrichment of parishioners in spirituality, worship and education,
providing a welcoming environment to all.*

*We live Christian lives by praying together, caring for our diverse community, encouraging and
sharing of ourselves in service to others.*



From the Desk of Fr. Jim:

When I was a boy I tried to plant a garden in our yard. I bought a bunch of seeds for things I thought would be good to grow --- strawberries, carrots and pumpkins.

I tilled small plot of dirt, planted the seeds, and waited. I pulled a few weeds each week, and waited some more. I watered the plants each day for a while, and waited some more. After a while I lost interest in my garden. I never saw a strawberry, carrot or pumpkin. In a couple of months it was overgrown and forgotten.

"Be patient, brothers and sisters," we're told in today's second reading, "until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand."

I'm not a very patient person. I'm not a very good gardener and I certainly wouldn't make a very good farmer. I find it very difficult to wait for something I want.

But we are called to be patient, especially when it comes to the arrival of Jesus Christ into our world. We are told that he is coming. We are called at Advent to be prepared for his arrival at all times. But we don't know when he will arrive. And we don't know how he will arrive.

In today's Gospel reading we are given the picture of John the Baptist in prison, probably wondering if he had gotten something terribly wrong in his ministry. This is not the outcome he had envisioned when he baptized Jesus in the Jordan.

"Are you the one who is to come," John asks Jesus via a messenger, "or should we look for another?" "Go and tell John what you hear and see," Jesus tells the messenger. "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear."

It must have thrilled John to hear these words. And so, too, for those of us who feel that we may be working in a barren field, we need to remember that this emptiness isn't a sign that Jesus has abandoned us. Rather it is a message that we must, for now, continue to wait, and prepare.

If we give up, we risk that our own lives will end up like a neglected garden and forgotten.

The Rectory Office will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26, as well as Jan. 1 and 2. The week of Dec. 27-31, the office will be open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: How have my eyes been opened to God's presence in my life?

Child: What are the things I do every day that show others I am a follower of Jesus?

Teen: What complaining do I do? How can I turn my complaining into something positive?

Catechetical Corner



What is the meaning of the Advent Wreath? The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent. A tradition is that each week represents one thousand years, to sum to the 4,000 years from Adam and Eve until the Birth of the Savior.

Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles in particular symbolize the prayer, penance, and preparatory sacrifices and good works undertaken at this time. The rose candle is lit on the third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, when the priest also wears rose vestments at Mass. Gaudete Sunday is the Sunday of rejoicing, because the faithful have arrived at the midpoint of Advent, when their preparation is now half over and they are close to Christmas.

The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

Some modern day adaptations include a white candle placed in the middle of the wreath, which represents Christ and is lit on Christmas Eve. Another tradition is to replace the three purple and one rose candles with four white candles, which will be lit throughout the Christmas season.

Advent Penance Services

Monday, **Dec. 13**, 7:00 p.m., St. Bartholomew's

Tuesday, **Dec. 14**, 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph's

Wednesday, **Dec. 15**, 7:30 p.m., Our Lady of Refuge

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Christmas Vigil

Friday, December 24

4:00 p.m.

6:00 p.m.

9:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31

8:00 a.m.

New Year's Day

Saturday, January 1

5:00 p.m.

Christmas Mailing: If you did not receive the Christmas mailing with the Christmas liturgy schedule, you may not be registered. Please call the rectory with questions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 598-0519

Elementary: Thanks to all our catechists and parents who helped make our Advent Celebration a wonderful experience!! There will be no class on **Dec. 19 and 26** for Christmas vacation. Classes resume on Sunday, **Jan. 2.**

Middle School: We will be caroling at the Katella Senior Living facility on Tuesday, **Dec. 14.** Everyone meet in the parking lot at **6:30 p.m.** There will be no class on Tuesdays, **Dec. 21 and 28** for Christmas vacation. Classes resume on Tuesday, **Jan. 4.**

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Singing in the church after Mass! Drop your item in the collection box for Movement for a Better World. No class **Dec. 19 or 26.** If you would like your child to come to Sunday School, call Shannon 430-6840. Don't miss out on the fun!

Sunday Nursery: Available during 9:00 & 10:30 Masses.

Year I Confirmation - Track 2 will begin on **January 9** at 12:00 noon in the hall. The session goes until 3:00 p.m.

Year II Confirmation - We are gearing up for the Haiti Orphanage Fundraiser. Come on by the tables today and support our young teens as they raise monies for Holy Childhood Association and our dear Fr. Ken.



How Does a Person Become a

Catholic? Are you or someone you know curious about Catholicism? It is our greatest joy and our mission, to welcome new members.

"Inquiry" is the first step in the four step process of faith formation and education known as the **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).** We encourage and invite individuals to "come and see" what living a life as a committed Catholic Christian can mean. Meeting times are flexible. For more info, please call Peter Baine, 598-4130.

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: Prophets such as Isaiah brought a message of hope that things could be different. John the Baptist, too, proclaimed the coming of a new age. But now, John is in prison and his followers wonder if Jesus is the promised one. They may have been expecting a "fire and brimstone" preacher who would lead the people out of their oppression. Instead, Jesus gives them a different image, an image of healing, forgiveness and tender concern for all people.

Life Focus: * Describe a false or faulty image you once had of how your life, the world or the Church was supposed to be. What changed your image? * *Relate an experience when it was easy for you to recognize God in a person, situation or event, and another when it was difficult.* * What obstacles do you have in your life that keep you from following Christ today? Describe an experience when you removed an obstacle. * *Describe an experience when you felt hemmed in by your small world. Relate who or what helped to free you from this situation.*



From Deacon Don's Desk:

We have recently celebrated the Immaculate Conception (Dec. 8) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (Dec. 12) both feasts honoring Our Lady. I found this hymn/poem in our Liturgy of the Hours that speaks beautiful words asking for blessings and praise and protection for our homes and children:

"On this day we sing your praises, purest Maid of all the earth, while the beauty of the springtime tells your joy at Jesus' birth.

Glorious Queen, look down in kindness while before your throne we stand; bring God's blessing to your children, watch our homes and guard our land.

Gate of Heaven, you were Mother to the Kings of heaven and earth; now be Mother to your subjects, in our souls give Jesus birth.

Queen of Mankind, while creation speaks the grandeur of God's love, mold our hearts to seek His glory till we reach our home above."

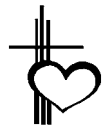
Our Prayer: Oh Lord, You are our redeemer who made the Immaculate Virgin Mary Your purest home and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, make us temples of Your Holy Spirit. We ask this through Christ our Lord who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one God forever and ever. Amen.

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:	Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30
Friday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Saturday:	Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Sunday:	Is 7:10-14; Ps 24; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24

Meditation/Centering Prayer

First, Third and Fifth Tuesdays
December 21 - 7:00 p.m.
In the church. All are welcome!



Retirement Fund for Religious - Women and men religious throughout the country offer heartfelt thanks for your donation to this fund. Your gift makes a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests.

Mary and Joseph Retreat Center

Fourth Annual Nativity Exhibit - through **Dec. 19.** Free. Call for times. Exhibit of nativities from Latin America.

For information about events at the retreat center, visit their website: www.maryjoseph.org. Registration forms and directions are available there as well.



St. Joseph Senior Group
We always welcome new members.

Dec. 20 - Christmas Luncheon Party. Sign - up available. Call Mary Lou Clark, 431-4385. \$10/per person. Please remember to bring unwrapped gift for Precious Life Shelter to the luncheon. Social time starting at 11 a.m. Seating for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Jan. 3 and 17 - regular meetings. Call Betty 596-8287 or Mary Lou 431-4385 for more info.

St. Cecilia's Luncheon will be held Tuesday, Dec. 14. Please join us at noon at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant. Questions, please call Ruth, 431-0288.

Christmas Dinner at St. Hedwig's, 11482 Los Alamitos Blvd., Saturday, December 25, 1 p.m. in Quinn Hall. If you are alone this Christmas, we invite you to join us. There will be families to share their love and prayers with you, a bounty of food, singing, and much, much more! Reservations are required. Please contact Ed or Dewey Foster, 562-598-7060, by December 21. There is no charge.

Wolf Den - Pack 120

Calling all second grade boys. The St. Joseph Wolf Den still has a few openings for new wolf members. We are a very active den and pack. Pack 120 also is open to boys who do not attend St. Joseph School. For information on how your son can be on our team, contact the den leader, Pat Murach at 562-343-2567.

Welcome! We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you, celebrating here with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in our parish. We thank God that you are with us. If you wish to become part of our Faith Community, please fill out this form. We will send you a Registration Form; please return it so that you will be fully registered. The Registration Form may be dropped in the collection basket, left at the rectory, or mailed. Thank You!

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

Our 27th year at St. Joseph Parish
MOVEMENT FOR BETTER WORLD



The wrapped presents for our Gift Basket families are due **this** Sunday at 12:30 Mass. We are sorting them now!

Thanks to the drivers who have volunteered to deliver food and presents for Christmas. Call John to be on the LIST. If you did not drive at Thanksgiving, we missed you – call John/Jan.

68 Gift Basket Families are being helped by your donations of food, money and TIME, at Christmas.

Thank you again for all that you do and share with our needy brothers/sisters in Long Beach! Call: John/Jan Minter, 562-430-5839.

Next meeting, **Jan. 19**, Wednesday.

22nd Christmas Wreaths for Sale - St. Joseph Cub Scout Pack 120 will be selling Noble Fir Wreaths for \$20 on **Dec. 12** after each Mass. The proceeds will be used to pay for the cub scout spring camp at Catalina Island. Please support this worthy cause & send a scout to camp!

Fingerprinting Schedule

San Pedro Region fingerprinting schedule for volunteers with our parish children, please call for an appointment:

- Jan. 15** - St. Emydius, Lynwood, 310-639-1249 ext. 29
- Jan. 28** - St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, 562-920-7796 ext 247

Journey to the Holy Land with Fr. Raymond Mallett, OFM. See Haifa, Mr. Carmel, Tiberius, Nazareth, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and more. Stay in the Old City of Jerusalem. **February 14-25**, \$2,999. Mass daily. For more information, contact Fr. Ray, 310-372,7077 ex. 25.

Did You Know? Mandatory Background Checks

Promote Safe Environments - Every teacher, coach, and volunteer who works with children in the L. A. Archdiocese's parishes and schools must have a background check before he or she is permitted to work in any school- or parish-related job or activity that involves contact with children. Around the nation, Catholic (arch)dioceses have conducted criminal record checks on more than 1.5 million volunteers and employees; 163,705 educators; 51,000 clergy; and 4,955 candidates for ordination. For more information on background check requirements in the L. A. Archdiocese, please call the Archdiocesan Safe-guard the Children Office, 213-637-7227. For particular help you may call Assistance Ministry, 213-637-7650.

Pro Life Corner - In our nation about 4 million babies are born every year, but 1.2 million more are killed.

-- Life Issues, Oct. 10, 2010

Mass Intentions



- SATURDAY, December 11**
 5:00 PM - Vinh Tran and family, living
- SUNDAY, December 12**
 7:30 a.m. - † Tess Keckeisen
 9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Parishioners
 10:30 a.m. - Fr. Rolly Jardiniano, living
 12:30 p.m. - † Richard Parent
- MONDAY, December 13**
 8:00 a.m. - † Jerry Chamberlein
- TUESDAY, December 14**
 8:00 a.m. - Rita Smith, living
- WEDNESDAY, December 15**
 8:00 a.m. - † John Anselmo
- THURSDAY, December 16**
 8:00 a.m. - Chris Smith, living
- FRIDAY, December 17**
 8:00 a.m. - † Henry Jakubowski
- SATURDAY, December 18**
 5:00 PM - † Botelho and Salvate families
- SUNDAY, December 19**
 7:30 a.m. - † Tess Keckeisen
 9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Parishioners
 10:30 a.m. - Teresa Anselmo, living
 12:30 p.m. - † Karen Camacho

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 | Adam Mariano |
| Daniel O'Connell | Obinna Ugochukwu |
| David Waidelich | William G. Ouimette |
| Timmy Allison | |

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, Bobby Rubly, Betty Chappell, Elizabeth Jackson, Betty Galaz, Patricia Morand, Gayle Buol, Michelle Smith, Merinda Bradshaw, Melody Schatz, Marlana Sargeant, Leslie Day, Logan Pipler, Danielle Carmody, Virgil Terry, 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, Dave Gallagher, John Flaherty, Fr. Frank Ferrante, Jeanne Desmond, Juanita Herrera, Robert Maney, Joyce Frugoli, Betty Adams, Joe Ainge, Marianne Latham, Jason McCune, William Cervola, Den Goldberg, Cass Warren, Kennedy Willey, Tatum Gumps, Gerry & Celeste Kohonen, Chuck Greening, Joe Snider, Stephen Hutchings, Daylinda Ompoc Cuizon, Grace Griffin, Ginny Kennebeck & Evelyn Sylvia.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

- EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS**
 of HOLY COMMUNION Gene Ensch 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
 ALTAR CARE Mary Jelnick 429-2529
 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 Dana Moler

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
 BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY Dave Desmond 429-3316
 CENTERING PRAYER Fr. Will 594-4657
 SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES Don & Tina Gath 598-5202

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE SICK

- Ann Crowley 594-7575

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
 SENIOR GROUP Betty Maligie 596-8287
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Ron Steiner 431-7703
 ENGAGED ENCOUNTER Tom & Diane Krause 310-316-3477
 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 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