

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

6220 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815



Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2011

Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Fr. Jim Halley, Administrator
frjimhalley@la-archdiocese.org
Fr. William J. Connor, Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Harold L. Ford, Retired, In Residence
Deacon Shane Cuda
Deacon Don Gath
Deacon Tom Halliwell

RECTORY: 594-4657 Fax: 431-7424
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 noon
Website: www.stjosephlb.org
email: stjoseph@stjosephlb.org
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.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Thursday before the first Friday of the month, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

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

BAPTISM: Fourth Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

MARRIAGE: An appointment with priest/deacon a minimum of six months in advance is required.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK: In the event of a serious illness, please call the rectory.

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:

During this time of Advent we are preparing for the coming of Jesus. It is wonderful that this week we have two Feasts in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Conception on last Thursday and The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this Monday.

Mary is the perfect example of how we can prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Mary calls us to imitate her in her humility and to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. The good news for each of us is that Mary through her constant yes to God has removed the obstacles between God and humanity by giving birth to Jesus.

My hope and prayer for each of us is that we are inspired by the example of Mary to always say yes to our God, a God who loves the poor and the humble.



Advent Penance Service Tuesday, December 13 7:00 p.m.

Come prepare yourself for the coming of our Savior, Jesus at Christmas.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Dec. 24 vigil Masses: 4:00, 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.

Dec. 25 Masses: 9:00 and 10:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.

Christmas mailing - If you did not receive the Christmas schedule and offering envelope in the mail, you are probably not registered here at St. Joseph Church. If you would like to be registered, or if you have any questions, please call the rectory office, 594-4657.

Rectory Office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. From Dec. 12 through Dec. 23, the office will close at 4 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Devotion after 8 a.m. Mass every Tuesday.

Catholic Extension - In the back of church, please pick up a copy of the Christmas issue of *Extension* magazine. *Extension* is a publication of Catholic Extension. This issue features Sister Gabriella Williams, OP, of the Diocese of San Bernardino who is referred to as the "Mother Teresa of the Coachella Valley" for her incredible faith and ministry to the poor. The magazine shares stories about how Catholics are creating vibrant experiences of church in the most challenging of situations. We think you will enjoy reading these stories that demonstrate how faith can transform lives and communities.



Knightly News

The Saint Joseph Winter Basketball Tournament was held last weekend and it was a great success. It started out with a pep assembly on Monday afternoon to fire-up the student body and get them ready to cheer on their teams.

The tournament ran from Tuesday through Saturday, Nov. 29 – Dec. 3. Eight A level (7th and 8th grade) boys and eight A level girls teams participated and it truly is a great way to kick-off the basketball season. Both the girls and boys teams from St. Joseph won their first two games during the week which put them into the championship games on Saturday. It was a hard fought contest from our teams in those championship games but they each fell to St. Linus School in the end. We are very proud of our teams and wish to congratulate them and their coaches on their second place finishes. We are looking forward to many more excellent games in the coming months as they roll into their regular seasons. GO KNIGHTS! Principal Hebestreit

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: In order to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, what area in my life do I need to make straight?

Child: What one activity will I do this week to prepare room in my life for God?

Teen: How do I think society would view John the Baptist if he was delivering his message today?

Retirement Fund for Religious Collection, Dec. 11

- **Share in the Care** of our elderly sisters, brothers, and order priests. You will be remembered in the prayers of the retired religious. Please make your check payable to St. Joseph Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Weekly Offering

for the weekend of December 3/4

\$11,573

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish!

Centering Prayer will be meeting in the
Parish Center chapel
every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.



Regional Vocation Director: Rev. Ed Beniof,
Holy Trinity Parish, San Pedro, 310-548-6535. Vocation
information may be found at: www.lavocations.org.

Pro Life Corner - Let's always pray for those who consider abortion. There are 115,000 babies aborted daily, worldwide.
Audio Girl Ministries

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 598-0519

The Religious Education Office will be closed from **Dec. 20 through Jan. 2** for the Christmas holiday.

Elementary: Our Christmas Program will be held on **December 18** in the hall. Children will go to class at **10:30 a.m.** to prepare. Program will start at **11 a.m.** Parents and family members are invited to attend and may come to the hall at 10:30 a.m.

No class on Sundays, **December 25 and January 1.**

Classes will resume on Sunday, **January 8.**

Middle School: We will be singing at a convalescent home on Tuesday, **December 13.** Earlier time for this event - **6-7 p.m.** Join us for dinner following.

No class **Dec. 20, 27, & Jan. 3.** Class resumes **Jan. 10.**

Early Childhood: Regular class today. Thank you for remembering your item for our Movement for a Better World family. Next week - Singing in the church after Mass - wear your t-shirts! Remember to invite family and friends. Dismissal will be to the tables for our Christmas Celebration after singing. Remember your item for the table.

Sunday Nursery: Available during 9:00 & 10:30 Masses. The nursery will be closed on Christmas and New Year's Day this year. Please remember to thank Miss Yvonne for all of her hard work year in and year out caring for our parish's little ones. Thank you, Miss Yvonne. We are grateful to you! We are looking for an occasional substitute nursery caretaker to fill in as needed. Please call Shannon, 430-6840, for details.

"Jesus is Lord" - Bible Classes

Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. or Thursdays 7:00 p.m.

The Book of Psalms - The Church considers the Psalms her perfect prayer book. The Psalms contain in themselves all of the Old Testament and New Testament, the whole mystery of Christ. When we pray Psalms we deal with our human emotions with God. Direct line to God!

Information: Rita Smith, 714-761-4376, 562-533-1243

Whoever borrowed the cordless microphone, please return it to the rectory. Thank you!

Youth Ministry News

Our Youth Ministry program continues to grow and we are thrilled to see attendance increase at each event. To help raise much needed funds for this new parish program, we will be hosting "Change for Youth" next weekend. Our Youth will be collecting your spare change after each of the Masses **December 10 & 11.** Your change will make a big change for the youth of our parish. Thank you for supporting the kids in our parish community.

Join us for: Christmas at the Beach (DJ, Games, Munchies & Friends), Sunday, **December 11, 2-4 p.m.** All 6th, 7th & 8th graders are invited. More details and registration available on our parish bulletin board, website, or call Melissa Beach at (562) 598-0519.

**From Deacon Don's desk:**

"Prepare the way of the Lord!!" Zachariah's canticle of St. John says, "You my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His way. To give His people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins." Lk 1:78

Forgiveness is mandatory; it is not an option when one asks for it. Now is the time! **Reconciliation service at St. Joseph Church will be Tuesday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m.** Can't make that? Then Our Lady of Refuge's service will be Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m. (also OLR at 10 a.m. that same day for those not able to drive at night). St. Cornelius' service is December 22, 7:00 p.m. So we have no excuse not to prepare His way.

In case you may have missed it, December 8 was the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was also the Patronal Feast day for the United States and the Philippines. This feast was celebrated as early as the 5th century in Syria then the rest of the East in the 7th century. Pope Pius IX defined the Immaculate Conception as a Roman Catholic dogma in 1854.

Mary encourages us to wait, to be patient and make space within ourselves. Then we may hear the Holy Spirit giving the Father's plan for us.

OUR PRAYER: Blessed Mother, help us to clear away all that separates us from your Son's birth into our hearts and lives. Pray for us that we may celebrate this Christmas with true joy.. Amen.

PS: December is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patroness of the Americas). Fr. Dyer, SJ put it this way, "We are tempted to think riches, power and popularity are forces behind the world's history. We are tempted to think these lead to happiness. But the Blessed Mother is a contradiction to this mistaken belief. Her love and prayers have repeatedly changed the world's history. Appearing to St. Juan Diego as a mestiza girl, the Blessed Virgin helped bring peace and cultural unity. All this without tanks, armies or money. Just the force of love and prayer." We are challenged to pray for peace in the world and peace in our hearts.

Adult Confirmation

For adults who have not been confirmed and would like to be, classes start **January 9**, Monday evenings, **7-9 p.m.**, at St. Margaret Mary Church, Lomita. An additional class will start on **January 15**, Sunday mornings, **9-11 a.m.** at St. John of God Church, Norwalk. Both classes run through May. To register for either of these classes, please call our Religious Education office, 598-0519, for forms and other requirements.

Fingerprinting Schedule

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

Dec. 13 - St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, 562-920-7796 ex 247

Jan. 4 - St. Margaret Mary Alcoque, Lomita, 310-326-3364

Jan. 14 - St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, 562-920-7796 ext 247



St. Joseph's Heartbeat God ♥ all

We always welcome new members.

Dec. 19 - Christmas Luncheon - Reservation needed - call Liz Kier 596-2869 for reservations, deadline 12/15 - \$10/person. Please bring unwrapped gift for Precious Life. Serving chicken/ham and trimmings.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jan. 9 & 23 - Regular Meetings

Feb. 6 - Regular Meeting

Feb. 20 - Senior Retreat

For **trip info** call Rosie 425-4162 or Barbara 430-5324. Call Betty 596-8287 or Mary Lou 431-4385 for group info.

Happy 90th Birthday to George Longaberger - Dec. 13.

Gambler's Delight - The Knights of Columbus invite all parishioners, 21 years & older, for a bus trip to the Spotlight Casino in Indio, **Jan. 11**. \$35/person. Everyone will get \$35 free slot play on arrival. This is a 5 hour casino stay. For more information, call Manny Vieyra, 425-8811.

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: In this Gospel, John the Baptist saw his role clearly. At the time John was writing his Gospel, followers of John the Baptist were claiming that he, not Jesus, was the Messiah. So here the Gospel writer emphasizes that John the Baptist saw himself as one to prepare the way for the Messiah. He is not the Messiah nor any of the others they suggest. He is just "a voice in the desert" preparing the way for the Lord. His baptism is a simple water rite, unlike Jesus' baptism in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist proclaims the Good News of Jesus' coming and prepares people's hearts for that event.

Life Focus: * How do you answer the question, "Who are you?" * *What potholes do you find on your path to Jesus?* * Who is your prophet? How did this prophet affect your life? * *Who has helped you to have faith?*

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Are you grieving: the loss of a loved one, a painful divorce or separation? You do not have to carry this "emotional burden" alone, there is caring help available! A Parish Grief Support Group, sponsored by your St. Joseph Bereavement Ministry, will begin on Monday, January 16 at 7:00 p.m. in the St. Joseph PAC (Parish Center) and will run for nine weeks. Practical, emotional, spiritual and social support will be offered to all parishioners free of charge. (Note: there will be a small charge for associated materials.) To register or for further information please call: Charlotte Morrison (562) 439-7733 or Pat Halliwell (562) 799-0921.

"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18. God's blessings to all who loved in deed, by bringing Christmas presents for our less fortunate, brothers and sisters this weekend!



Dec. 17 - Christmas food and gift distribution. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parish hall. Can you help set up the hall the day before? Call Tim Clark for details 431-4385. Blue Skip-a-Meal envelope donations support our program.

St. Hedwig's 32nd Annual Christmas Dinner - Will you or someone you know be alone on Christmas day? You are invited to a Christmas dinner in Quinn Hall, 11482 Los Alamitos Blvd, on Dec. 25, at 1 p.m. There will be families to share their love and prayers, a bounty of food, singing, and much more. No charge, but **reservations are required**. Please call Ed or Dewey Foster, 598-7060 by Dec. 22.

The Catholic Tour, a 31 year old Catholic Pilgrimage Apostolate, announces a very "special" pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal in **March, 2012**. Call 877-627-4268 for information.

Please remember in your prayers the men and women of the Armed Forces who are currently serving our country, especially those of our parish families, including:

Glen Warren
Joseph Comfort
Scott Williams
Timothy Ring
Daniel O'Connell
David Waidelich
Timmy Allison
Patrick Murphy
Jason Kaufmann

Nick Compton
Irene Avila
Justin Ray
Adam Mariano
Obinna Ugochukwu
William G. Ouimette
Patrick Rea
Michael Marchante
Nicky Kaufmann

We would like to have a framed picture 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.

Did You Know? Shopping mall safety tips - It's easy for kids to get sidetracked with all the sights, sounds, and smells surrounding us at holiday time. It is especially important to monitor your children when taking them through the mall during the Christmas season. If children become separated from you, teach them to look for a "safe stranger" who can help them. For example, a mom with kids or the cash register person can help a child who is lost. Avoid telling children to go to the "manager." Any adult in a suit, who looks important, can look like the manager to a child. Children must be told never to leave the mall or store to go looking for you in the parking lot. Let them know that you would never go outside or leave until you are reunited - no matter what anyone else tells them. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650.

Mass Intentions



SATURDAY, December 10

5:00 p.m. - † Salvate & Botelho families

SUNDAY, December 11

7:30 a.m. - † Terry Tibor

9:00 a.m. - † Debbie Arostique

10:30 a.m. - † Peter Anselmo

12:30 p.m. - † Danie Padilla

MONDAY, December 12

8:00 a.m. - † Bill Duncan

TUESDAY, December 13

8:00 a.m. - George Longaberger, 90th Birthday

WEDNESDAY, December 14

8:00 a.m. - Mary Lou Clark, living

THURSDAY, December 15

8:00 a.m. - † John Anselmo

FRIDAY, December 16

8:00 a.m. - † Edward Kastle

SATURDAY, December 17

5:00 p.m. - † Charles Branch

SUNDAY, December 18

7:30 a.m. - † Mary Thomas

9:00 a.m. - St. Joseph Parishioners

10:30 a.m. - † Sgt. Michael J. Tetreault

12:30 p.m. - † Fr. Rolly Jardiniano

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Monday:	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab; Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47, or any readings from the Common of The Blessed Virgin Mary, nos. 707-712
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:	Is 56:1-3a, 6-8; Jn 5:33-36
Saturday:	Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Sunday:	2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

PLEASE PRAY FOR . . . Eugene Dryer, Bert Willis, Mary Mariano, Betty Chappell, Patricia Morand, Michelle Smith, Merinda Bradshaw, Hugo & Mickey Jorda, Beverly Clinton, Dave Gallagher, Fr. Frank Ferrante, Jeanne Desmond, Robert Maney, Joyce Frugoli, William Cervola, Den Goldberg, Kennedy Willey, Tatum Gumps, Gerry & Celeste Kohnen, Joe Snider, Stephen Hutchings, Daylinda Ompoc Cuizon, Evelyn Sylvia, Teresa Anselmo, Fernando Montoya, Mike Dresnick, Kathy June, Betty Klemin, John, Spencer, Helen Baca, Ronald Willy, Andy Troncale, Sheri Weber, Jarome Bartolon, Kenneth Davis, Mary Lou Clark, Bob Flynn, Nicolas Ramirez, Mary Harding, Tim Ginnett, Lois Kearney, Gary Skrehot, Mirna Pilarczyk, J. Christopher Clise, Pat Lowen, Janette Linares, Patty Loy, Carol Manion, Martha Rushing, Tillie Burke, Clara Lee Radtke, Mary Hughes, Leonor Aguirre, Mark Wynne, Domingo Vallejo, Chester Lizak, Barbara Gormly, Arnold & Francis Esposito, Madelyne McCarthy, Gary Lyman & Alfredo Tan.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

LITURGY COMMITTEE	Dcn. Shane Cuda	594-4657
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS of HOLY COMMUNION	Gene Ensch	421-0147
LECTORS	Bill Smith	431-2495
USHERS	Marty Vezzetti	425-0621
ALTAR SERVERS	Dcn. Shane Cuda	594-4657
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	Michele Grubbs

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

562-598-0519

DIRECTOR of RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	Virginia Young
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ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL	Virginia Young	598-0519
CONFIRMATION	Melissa Beach	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	Olga Cuda	594-4657
BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY	Dave Desmond	429-3316
CENTERING PRAYER	Fr. Will	594-4657
SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES	Dcn. Don & Tina Gath	598-5202

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE SICK

Ann Crowley	594-7575
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PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PASTORAL COUNCIL	Mark Smith	425-7811
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0142
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	rely5@verizon.net Mike Santy msanty@verizon.net	799-0660
Website address:	www.stjosephlb.org	
MOVEMENT FOR A BETTER WORLD	Tim Clark	431-4385
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	
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