

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

6220 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2011

The child to be born will be called holy,
the Son of God.

— Luke 1:35

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:

In a very short time, Christmas Day will come. It always does. We know when that day will be, next Sunday as a matter of fact is December 25. And in one sense our waiting and preparing during Advent will be over. But Christ will come again in

that final day of glory. And we don't know when that day will be.

Maybe it will come before Christmas. Maybe it will take much longer. But we need to be ready for both comings of Christ! We can use these last hours to prepare a place in ourselves for the Lord to be born.

We can pray for the willingness to open those areas of our weakness to God. We can be open and acknowledge our shortcomings to God. My hope and prayer for each of us is that we are able to welcome the Prince of Peace into our hearts.

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.

Incense will be used at all the Christmas Masses except for the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Christmas day. If you are sensitive to incense, please sit toward the back of the church.

Rectory Office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. Through Dec. 23, the office will close at 4 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.

Youth Ministry:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Change for Youth" fundraiser last week. Through your generous donations, we raised \$1,134! This money will go a long way in helping start our new Youth Ministry program. Thank you for investing in the future of our parish---our kids!

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



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



Knightly News

COME, LORD JESUS, COME! Advent has one more week to go but school vacation time is here and Christmas is right around the corner. I just wanted to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the parish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Christ Child be present to you and your families as you celebrate the birth of Our Savior. May each of you be blessed, stay safe and "be of good cheer" during this joyous time. I will resume writing after the New Year. God bless you.

Principal Hebestreit



"Following the line of least resistance is what makes rivers and men crooked."....Anonymous

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

Weekly Offering
for the weekend of December 10/11
\$11,067
Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish!

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.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - 598-0519

The Religious Education Office will be closed from **Dec. 20 through Jan. 2** for the Christmas holiday. **Elementary:** Thank you to all who donated to our adopted family. Gifts and food were delivered on Dec. 17. Our Christmas Program is being held today in the hall. Children are to 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:** No class on the following Tuesdays: **Dec. 20, 27, & Jan. 3.** Class resumes **Jan. 10.** **Early Childhood:** Regular class today. Singing in the church after Mass - wear your t-shirts! Dismissal will be from the tables after our Christmas Celebration. No class Dec. 25 or Jan. 1. Have the merriest of Christmas celebrations and a joyous New Year. See you on January 8. **Sunday Nursery:** Available during 9:00 & 10:30 Masses. The nursery will be **closed on Christmas and New Year's Day** this year. If you would like to be a sub one of those dates, please call Shannon, 714-412-7133. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please remember to thank Miss Yvonne for her hard work and dedication.

Music Ministry News

Scheduled Music for Christmas Weekend

Saturday, Dec. 24

4:00 p.m. Mass – Children/Youth Choirs

6:00 p.m. Mass – Contemporary Band

8:15 p.m. Caroling – Adult Choir

9:00 p.m. Mass – Adult Choir

Sunday, Dec. 25

9:00 a.m. Mass – Vivian and R. Scott

10:30 a.m. Mass – Vivian and R. Scott

12:30 p.m. Mass – Contemporary Band

We wish you peace and love this Christmas and always!

We are continually grateful for our time with you each and every Mass we serve!

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:
Jan. 4 - St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Lomita, 310-326-3364
Jan. 14 - St. Dominic Savio, Bellflower, 562-920-7796 ext 247

**From Deacon Don's desk:**

Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa!! This is my confession: I'm guilty of being selfish because I truly get more out of writing this little reflection that I presume you get out of it. It brought to mind those in the past several weeks that asked this lowly deacon to assist at services for their deceased family members. We need to pray for those who will miss a loved one this Christmas - know that I will remember them. It's a time of thanks and great JOY but we need to pray for those who are burdened with difficult decisions; for those who will be alone; for those who need an encouraging word; for those confined to bed; for their care-givers; even for those who cannot find it in their hearts to forgive. Pray for the homeless and hungry, and for those who will give them shelter and food.

I was touched by the St Joseph Girl Scouts who visited and caroled at the Colonial Care nursing home last week. You even joined a conga line and many of the residents followed you! What joy you brought to those who are unable to get out by themselves.

Our Prayer: Lord, may our works of penance please You and make us ready for Your kingdom. Prepare a path in our hearts for the coming of Your Word. Make low mountains of our pride; fill the valleys of our weakness and bring down the walls of hatred that divide nations, and make level for all the paths of peace. Amen

MAY YOUR CHRISTMAS BE FILLED WITH HIS LOVE

"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!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38
Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38
Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45
Thursday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56
Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66
Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79
Sunday: 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]



St. Joseph's Heartbeat God ♥ all

We always welcome new members.

Dec. 19 - Christmas Luncheon - 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.

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.

Did You Know? Safety tips for parents traveling with children - 1. Prior to leaving, remind children about your procedures for dealing with strangers and what to do if they get lost. 2. Keep a recent photo of children handy, also a photocopy of passports kept in a safe place or with a relative that can fax it to you in case of loss. 3. If you label children's clothing, make sure the label is inside so strangers are not able to learn child's name. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650.

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	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	Patrick Rea
Patrick Murphy	Michael Marchante
Jason Kaufmann	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.

Christmas Blessings, Given and Received! Thank you for the OUTSTANDING sharing of Christmas love and hope with our less fortunate neighbors this weekend! To our 71 parish-community supported families, we provided over 500 gift packages for their children, and a bountiful supply of groceries. In addition, more than 16 families were adopted, individually, by families and organizations of the parish. It was TRULY inspiring to behold! Your next assignment? Know and enjoy the peace of Christ this blessed Christmas season! Blue Skip-a-Meal envelope donations support our program.



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

Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: In today's reading from Second Samuel, David is determined to build a house for God. But the prophet Nathan tells him that instead *God* would build a royal house, a dynasty, for him. Even after the failure of David's descendants as kings, the Jews believed that the Messiah would come from the line of David. In today's passage from Luke's Gospel, we discover that the house the Lord settles on is the womb of the young woman Mary. The angel tells Mary that her child will be "Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end." This announcement in the Gospel again shows that God approaches us with love first.

Life Focus: What experiences have led you to accept things at face value? * *Relate an experience when you were expected to do something that you thought would be impossible.* * *Speak of a time when you felt troubled or fearful.* * *When has someone cared for you before you could ever respond?*

Parish Fair News: The first Parish Fair volunteer meeting is **Jan. 10** at 7 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center. Volunteers needed in roles big & small for the Fair. Whether you can give 4 hours or 14 hours we have a role for you. Please come and tell us where you wish to contribute in making the Fair a success. At this time, we are looking for individuals or couples to help NOW with Pre-sale tickets, Volunteer Coordination, and Permits. Contact co-chairs Kraig Jondle at 562.760.5458 sjparishfair@gmail.com or Dana Moler 562.522.5832 danamoler@charter.net

Mass Intentions



- 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
- MONDAY, December 19**
 8:00 a.m. - † Germaine Purpura
- TUESDAY, December 20**
 8:00 a.m. - † John Anselmo
- WEDNESDAY, December 21**
 8:00 a.m. - † Ignastina & Alex Fernandes
- THURSDAY, December 22**
 8:00 a.m. - † Cruz Aragon
- FRIDAY, December 23**
 8:00 a.m. - Fr. Edward Broom & all priests, living
- SATURDAY, December 24**
 4:00 p.m. - † Dan Foley
 6:00 p.m. - † John DeRuyter
 9:00 p.m. - St. Joseph Parishioners
- SUNDAY, December 25**
 9:00 a.m. - † Mary Jane Thomas
 10:30 a.m. - † John Joseph Daniels
 12:30 p.m. - † Domingo Dizon

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: The angel reassures Mary. What reassurance does Christmas bring to me?

Child: What is hardest and best about waiting for Christmas in my family?

Teen: Is there something hard I need to do this week? What might make it easier?

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

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**

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

PASTORAL COUNCIL	Mark Smith	425-7811
FINANCE COUNCIL	Randall Ely	430-0142
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	rely5@verizon.net Mike Santy msanty@verizon.net www.stjosephlb.org	799-0660
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