

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

6220 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815



The Nativity of the Lord

December 25, 2011

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.
—John 1:5

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:

The idea of eternity coming into the world, in the form of a child who is homeless and helpless, is mind-bendingly brilliant. God had something else in mind in preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ into the world.

Our God arrived in the form of the most vulnerable and weak of all human beings. He came as a baby born to a wandering family in a forgotten corner of the world. What we ultimately celebrate at Christmas is that, in the person of Jesus Christ, God became human.

This Christmas I wish to extend my blessings on all of our wonderful parishioners here at St. Joseph Parish and I look forward to the New Year as we move ahead in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ and sharing His love with all those who enter through our church's doors.

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.

New Year's eve and day Masses will be on the regular weekend schedule.

Rectory Office will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.

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.

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



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

Society of St. Vincent de Paul - Bundle Sunday

On **Jan. 15**, please bring your **usable clothing** and usable household items to their truck in our parking lot. Please help them to assist the needy. They have a great need for furniture and large appliances. Call for pick up of heavy items, 323-224-6280.



Small Church Community

Scripture Focus: Luke records the birth of the child with tender simplicity and stresses the theme of poverty all through his Gospel. The people have reason to be joyful because in David's city a savior is born; he is the Messiah and Lord. These three - Savior, Messiah, Lord - are Luke's favorite titles for Jesus. The song of the angels, "Glory to God in the Highest," is the response. God has sent the Prince of Peace with the fullness of *shalom* (peace and blessings) to all. All are the objects of God's gracious love.

Life Focus: * Christ came to us as a child. When has a child had an impact on your life? * *Recall a time God has given a sign to you (a person, a place or an event).*

* Relate a time when you brought "good tidings" to those in need. * *In your life right now, how does the coming of the Messiah bring you peace?* * What are some things you do to make celebrating Christmas more meaningful than just merry-making? * *How do you share the joy of Christmas with others?* * Describe a time when you were "down and feeling poor" and God blessed you with an unexpected gift. * *Tell of some ordinary activity or event in your life when you believe God "broke in."* * When you look around, where is there need for this good news?

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

Christmas blessings to everyone!
 The Religious Education Office will be closed **through Jan. 2** for the Christmas holiday.
Elementary: No class today and **January 1**. Classes will resume on Sunday, **January 8**.
Middle School: No class on the following Tuesdays: **Dec. 27, & Jan. 3**. Class resumes **Jan. 10**.
Early Childhood: No class today. Merry Christmas! Remember to say Grace before meals and prayers at bedtime every day! Next week - no class.
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, please call Shannon, 714-412-7133. We apologize for any inconvenience. Please remember to thank Miss Yvonne for her hard work and dedication.

"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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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]
 Monday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22
 Tuesday: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
 Wednesday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Mt 2:13-18
 Thursday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35
 Friday: Sir 3:2-7, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Col 3:12-21 [12-17] or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 [22, 39-40]
 Saturday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18
 Sunday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

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.



From Deacon Don's desk:

The message of Bethlehem is, "I want to introduce you to Jesus." In an article (the paper has long turned brown) I found the following from Bishop Sheen: Christmas is not something that has happened; it is something that is happening. Jesus says, "My mother Mary gave me a human nature like your own in all things except sin. **I have shown you how one can overcome the worst of human situations and live in joy.** But what I want to do is to take your human nature, as I took the human nature from Mary. I want to give you an infusion of light for your mind, a power for your will and a joy for your heart. **What does it profit me if I am born in Bethlehem and am not reborn in your hearts?** You will find that all who have given themselves to Me are at peace. They are full of joy, they are merry." That is why we who belong to Him greet one another with "Merry Christmas."

Our Prayer: O Lord, teach us to welcome Your presence whenever we find it, even in the difficulties and challenges of life. As we reach out in love to others, especially the poor and needy, may we come to know in our hearts that we are welcoming You, our Lord and Savior. Amen.



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.

Fingerprinting Schedule

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

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? Reporting child abuse - Priests, deacons, school faculty and administrators and other staff members in our parishes and schools have been designated as mandated reporters under California law. When one of these persons receives information leading to a "reasonable suspicion" that a child is being abused or neglected, he or she must make a report to the appropriate child protection or law enforcement agency. For information on responding to an allegation of suspected child abuse, please visit the Archdiocese's Safeguard the Children webpage: <http://www.la-archdiocese.org/org/protecting>. For particular help, you may call Assistance Ministry at (213) 637-7650.

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.

*The fruit of silence, is prayer.
The fruit of prayer, is faith.
The fruit of faith, is love.
The fruit of love, is service.
The fruit of service, is peace.*

-Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

Wishing you the peace of Christ, health, and happiness today, and a faith-filled, prosperous 2012!

Jan. 25: Committee meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the PAC.

February: Feed a Baby. Call Tim Clark to help, 431-4385. Blue Skip-a-Meal envelope donations support our program.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Husbands and wives, the most precious gift that you give to each other is your love. Why not renew your love with the experience of a Marriage Encounter Weekend? It's a perfect Christmas gift.

The weekend provides the opportunity to look at your relationship in an atmosphere of privacy and gives you a chance to give thanks for the gift of your spouse, something that most of us don't take the time to do often enough. The next weekends are Jan. 20-22 in Ventura and Feb. 17-19 in Downey. For more information or to apply, go online at www.ilovemyspouse.org or call Brian and Denise Keckeison, 562-461-7278.

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!

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 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

MONDAY, December 26

- 8:00 a.m. - † Meliza Abueg

TUESDAY, December 27

- 8:00 a.m. - † Robert Uehlin

WEDNESDAY, December 28

- 8:00 a.m. - † Sara Munoz

THURSDAY, December 29

- 8:00 a.m. - † Kathleen Tuffy

FRIDAY, December 30

- 8:00 a.m. - † Eleanor Tuffy

SATURDAY, December 31

- 5:00 p.m. - † Gilberto Cerna

SUNDAY, January 1

- 7:30 a.m. - † Mary Garcia
- 9:00 a.m. - † Robert Bentley
- 10:30 a.m. - Fr. Larry Darnell, living
- 12:30 p.m. - † Edward Ely

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

(Based on today's Bible readings)

Adult: In light of God's graciousness to me, what steps can I take to make peace with those who have offended me?

Child: What am I thankful for this Christmas?

Teen: What would I say to Jesus as I stand before the nativity scene in my church?

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 Kohonen, 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 & Pauline Diaz.

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