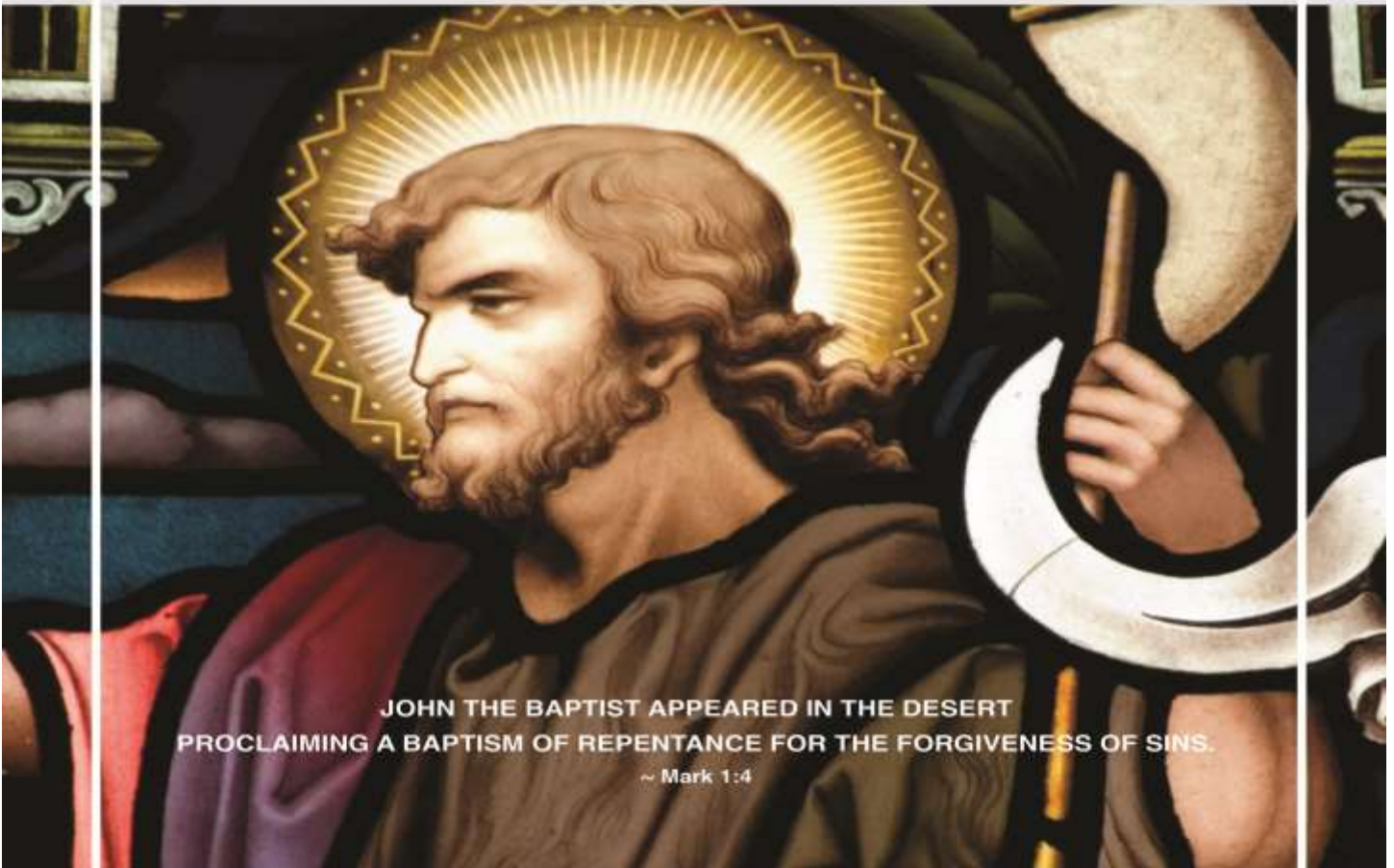


St. Joseph Parish

ADVENT

DECEMBER 6, 2020 | SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



JOHN THE BAPTIST APPEARED IN THE DESERT
PROCLAIMING A BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

~ Mark 1:4

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6180 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815

T:(562) 594-4657 F: (562) 431-7424

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

<https://stjosephlb.org>

Our Parish

PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK

stjoseph@stjosephlb.org

Deacon Shane Cuda

sfcuda@yahoo.com

Deacon Tom Halliwell

tom.halliwell@la-archdiocese.org

Deacon Emeritus Don Gath

Office Manager

Brenda Pineda

(562) 594-4657

Pastoral Council

Anne Weaver

(562) 594-4657

Finance Council

George Zuluaga

Zuluaga@aol.com

Safeguard The Children

Tony Burgos

(562) 596-6115

Parish Bulletin Editor

Brenda Pineda

bulletin@stjosephlb.org

Website Coordinator

Mike Santy

(562) 370-0769

msanty@verizon.net

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

(562) 596-6115

<https://sjknights.net/>

Fax: (562) 596-6725

Assistant Principal:

Sonia Yurak

Office Manager:

Julie Gianessi

Faith Formation Director: Joe Voigt

(562) 598-0519

religioused@stjosephlb.org

Children's Formation (age3-8th Grade)/CLOW:

Joe Voigt

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Johnson

High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Marc Leon

RCIA:

Deacon Shane & Olga Cuda

olga@stjosephlb.org

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Baptism Preparation

Brenda Pineda

brenda@stjosephlb.org

Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

(562) 594-4657

Eucharistic Ministry

Brian & Kristen Katz

emohcschedule@gmail.com

Lectors

Steve Koppenheffer

(714) 299-6644

Meditation

Frank Mckown

(310) 633-1744

Esther Ministry

Virginia Young

estherministry1@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry

Deborah Rollinger

(562) 594-4657

Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

(562) 431-4385

Senior Group

Jan Minter

tchrjan@gmail.com

Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

(562) 425-0621

Engaged Encounter

Paciano & Molly Diaz

Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net

Natural Family Planning

Greg & Beth Gath

(562) 377-5877

Project Achieve

Susie Beeghly

susanbeeghly@yahoo.com

Precious Life Shelter

Cynthia San Jose

(562) 884-9589

Boy Scouts

Gene Wohlgezogan

(562) 857-3880

Sacristans

Joe & Lily Dang

(562) 493-2198

(Brother/Sister)

Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

Suspended till further notice

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

8:30 a.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 am

Come Join Us

Reconciliation

Saturdays

4:00-4:45pm

By the East Church Door
parking lot

Eucharistic Adoration

No Adoration till
further notice due to church
being closed due to
Covid-19



Like a shepherd he feeds his flock

Second SUNDAY of Advent



December 6, 2020

John the Baptist appeared
in the desert proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Mark 1:4

COMFORT

In 2020, we heard plenty of voices speaking out and sharing their opinions, but many of those words were not comforting or hope-filled. Sometimes, it was hard to know which expert or “instant expert” to listen to, and it is still difficult to hope as we struggle to regain our balance as a nation and as a Church. The Word of God offers us peace this day. All our readings remind us of a faithful God who always keeps the promises made. Isaiah prophesied about the end of Jerusalem’s time away from God, and the Psalm speaks of “seeing God’s kindness and hearing what God proclaims.” Second Peter explains that God’s timing may not be the same as ours, but good things await those who are alert. In the Gospel, John the Baptist reiterates and completes the prophecy of Isaiah by laying the groundwork and preparing the way for those who await the coming of the Messiah.

THE BEGINNING

With COVID-19, much time is spent wondering “where did it start?” or “who passed it on to whom?” Though science can tell us much there are many unanswered questions. Today’s Gospel is about as concrete as sacred scripture gets. We know this is the beginning of the Gospel of Mark, which was the first Gospel to be written down in about 70 AD. Unlike Luke and John, Mark does not begin with an infancy narrative of Jesus. He starts by proclaiming the prophecy of Isaiah. This section was written six hundred years before Christ, in another time of great upheaval, as the Israelites were displaced from their homeland during the Babylonian Exile. The first words of Isaiah 40 are “Comfort, comfort, my people.” John the Baptist starts by explaining he is the go-between, sent to “Prepare the way.”

DON’T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

While proclaiming the coming Christ is a thing of joy, John’s words are also harsh, reminding us to repent and prepare. People were threatened by them two thousand years ago, and some still are today. People can hear them and be turned off by “fire and brimstone,” and none of us like to be told what to do. But think about it. This year, we have all engaged in social distancing and endured hardships to protect our families and others.

Similarly, when you have company coming, you do house cleaning, meal prep, and lots of things to make the place ready for the arrival of your guests—necessary preparation. So we as individuals must make ourselves ready for the coming Christ to reside in us. This may mean repenting for sins, seeking the sacrament of penance, or taking time with a spiritual director. Perhaps it means carving out more times and places for Christ to be born in our hearts or taking on another spiritual practice. Maybe it means simply doing what the psalm asked and using our eyes and ears and mind and heart to seek Christ.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11
Psalm 85:9–10, 11–12, 13–14
2 Peter 3:8–14
Mark 1:1–8

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Dear Parish Family:

I'm very grateful to your Parish Finance Council for their leadership and advice during these challenging economic times. Below is their letter and annual report to our parish community.

-Advent Peace, Msgr. Kevin

Hello Fellow Parishioners:

Peace and greetings to you on behalf of the St. Joseph Finance Council.

In our continued commitment to transparency and keeping you informed regarding the parish finances, we want to provide you a summary of the results of the 2019-2020 fiscal year which ended June 30, 2020.

First, we want to briefly recap the duties of the Finance Council which is comprised of five (5) financially-minded parishioners plus the Parish Bookkeeper and Msgr. Kevin. The Finance Council provides the Pastor advice and assistance of his financial administration duties; and supports good stewardship and accountability to the parishioners

- The finance council meets every two months for duties such as:
 - * Review monthly financial results compared to budget;
 - * Review capital expenditures and investment strategies;
 - * Assist in strategic planning;
 - * Oversee internal controls.

Below is the most recent financial report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Here are some of the highlights of the most recent results.

- * **St. Joseph Parish's total annual income was \$836,788, which is \$123,000 less than planned**
- * Parish total expenses were \$828,404. The parish and staff made significant sacrifices to reduce expenses by \$130,690 less than originally planned.
- * Resulting surplus after expenses was \$8,384.

On behalf of the Finance Council we are exceedingly grateful for your faithfulness and generosity in supporting St. Joseph this year despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our continued prayers for all of you and your families who have been personally affected by Covid-19.

If you have any questions about the annual financial report or finance council duties, feel free to contact Monsignor Kevin or George Zuluaga, Finance Council Chair at 562-386-9976.

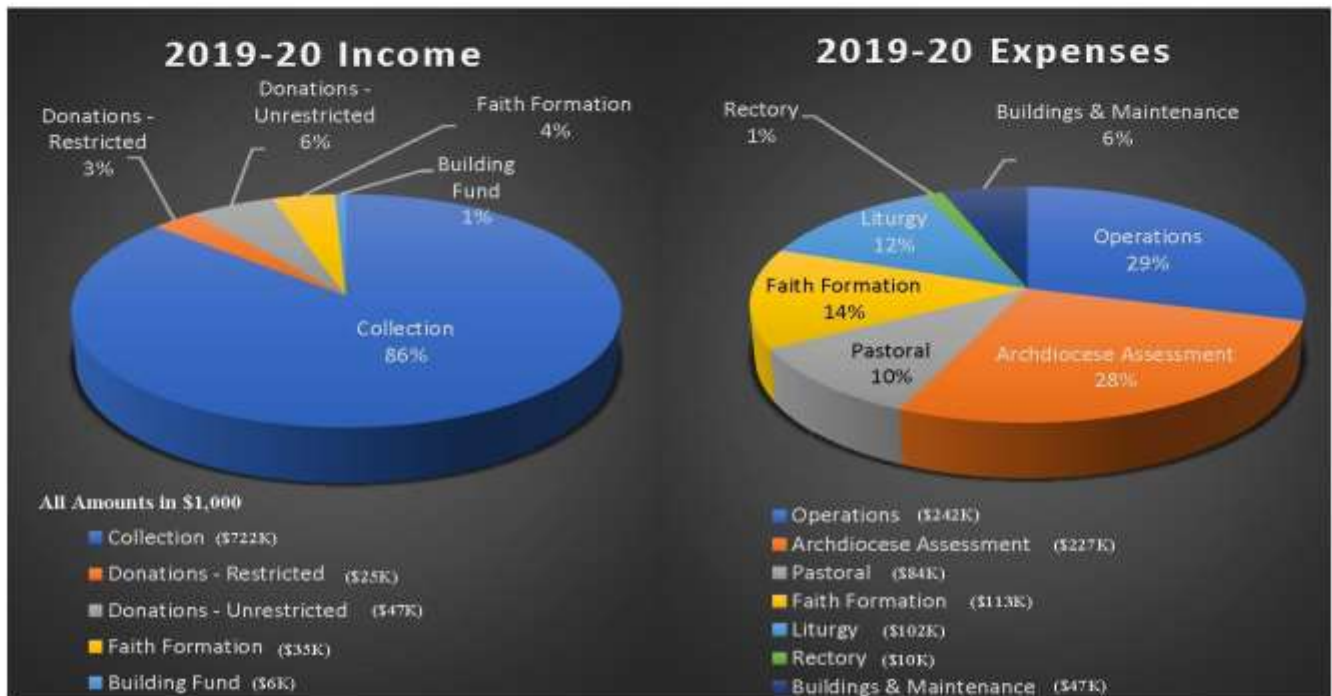
Gratefully yours,
George Zualaga, Chairman
Charleen Lawrence
Stan Lawrence
Tim McBride
Mike Roide

Finance Council

2019-20 St. Joseph Parish Financial Report

Fiscal Year: July 1-June 30

	Fiscal Year 2019-20 Budget	Fiscal Year 2019-20 Actual	Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget vs Actual
Income			
Collection	\$ 865,500.00	\$ 722,447.76	\$ (143,052.24)
Donations - Restricted	20,000.00	25,770.18	5,770.18
Donations - Unrestricted	23,100.00	47,090.28	23,990.28
Faith Formation	41,190.00	35,290.00	(5,900.00)
Building Fund	10,000.00	6,190.00	(3,810.00)
	<u>\$ 959,790.00</u>	<u>\$ 836,788.22</u>	<u>\$ (123,001.78)</u>
Expenses			
Operations	\$ 293,348.00	\$ 242,771.67	\$ (50,576.33)
Archdiocese Assessment	253,000.00	227,131.77	(25,868.23)
Pastoral	92,551.71	84,362.66	(8,189.05)
Faith Formation	165,275.00	113,127.51	(52,147.49)
Liturgy	94,920.00	102,673.41	7,753.41
Rectory	15,000.00	10,772.27	(4,227.73)
Buildings & Maintenance	45,000.00	47,564.95	2,564.95
	<u>\$ 959,094.71</u>	<u>\$ 828,404.24</u>	<u>\$ (130,690.47)</u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$ 695.29</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 8,383.98</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 7,688.69</u></u>



Ministries

Movement for a Better World

"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. "

Jn 13:35.

Dec. 19-20, Christmas Food and Gift Distribution: We will support 75 families in need!! Due to COVID-19, however, our distribution process has been highly tailored to minimize risk. A small number of drivers will distribute food and Christmas Presents to our families no-entry, "UPS-style". For more information about how you can help, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Christmas Present Drive: Thank you for your outstanding support of our Christmas Present Drive! All children were selected twice to provide gifts for our 54 supported families. Gifts may be returned at any time by Dec. 14. A drive-thru drop off for gifts will be available at the parish hall Dec. 12 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and Dec. 13 from 8:00 am to 10:00am. Questions? Please call Geri Walkup (562) 706-1669.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Meditation Group

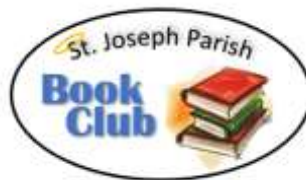
St. Joseph's Meditation Group now meets as a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 7:00PM.

No prior experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome to experience both the prayerful and calming benefits of this ancient Christian practice.

For more information and to receive the Zoom log on information, please contact group leader, Frank McKown, at frmckown@gmail.com or 310-633-1744.



Book Club



Our discussion of [The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism](#) by Jemar Tiby

inspired us to put Catholic social teachings of human dignity and equality into action. Please join us in prayer as we work for improved race relations in our community:

"The things, Good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to labour for."

-Saint Thomas More

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7pm.**

We will discuss [Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants](#) by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book is about plants and botany as seen through Native American traditions and Western scientific traditions; a journey that is every bit as mystical as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical. **All are welcome.**

Safeguard the Children

Deck the halls safely

As we continue under Covid-19 restrictions, many families will be celebrating Christmas entirely in their own homes this year, in place of parties and traditional holiday outings. Keep basic safety guidelines in mind as you decorate. Use surge protectors and outlet strips for extra lights around the house and tree, and make sure to cover unused sockets to keep little hands and fingers out. Inspect your lights and any battery-operated decorations to make sure they are working properly; frayed light strands and old batteries could be fire hazards. For more tips on decorating safely, read the VIRTUS article "[Creating a Safe Christmas Celebration](#)" at <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.