


St. Joseph Parish

ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



REJOICE ALWAYS. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.
IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES GIVE THANKS.
FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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(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**



AS THE EARTH BRINGS FORTH ITS PLANTS,
AND A GARDEN MAKES ITS GROWTH SPRING UP,
SO WILL THE LORD GOD MAKE JUSTICE AND PRAISE
SPRING UP BEFORE ALL THE NATIONS.

ISAIAH 61:11

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THIRD SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

REPENTING AND REJOICING

The readings this week bear a certain similarity to those of last week—we hear a prophecy from Isaiah that is reiterated by John the Baptist in Mark’s Gospel—but today the focus is different. Last week John told us to repent. Today he is the light leading us to God. Today is also known as “Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday,” as the reading from First Thessalonians commands us to “Rejoice in the Lord always.” We are to rejoice. Right now. Combined with last Sunday, this seems like a mixed message. “Which is it? Repenting or Rejoicing?” But John is telling us that one leads to the other. As we prepare for the coming of our Savior we must first repent and then rejoice.

A LITTLE GOOD NEWS

Many years ago, Canadian singer Ann Murray had a hit song that spoke of her frustrations as she listened to the radio and read the headlines. She sang that “we sure could use a little good news today.” It strikes me that this is the message that the readings want us to leave with this week. The Gospel Antiphon proclaims, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” (from Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4: 18). John the Baptist is here to testify to the light, to the Good News.

WILL THE REAL MESSIAH PLEASE STAND UP?

The Jewish people were waiting for their messiah, they were waiting for a hero. They prodded John several times trying to figure out what his role actually was, and to see what he knew. It became a guessing game. He tried to say nothing, but finally answered in a humble fashion, “I am not he.” He baptized with water as a means of leading people to the coming Christ and helping them to prepare. He somehow avoided the trappings of success that would turn his light on himself. Today he remains a road sign for us, pointing out Christ our Light.

We all want someone to rescue us, and most likely to fix the mistakes and errors that we continue to make as individuals and as nations. Much of that is human nature. Would there be as much fascination with superheroes if this were not the case? How many times do you as an adult turn to your folks for advice, or wish you could talk to a deceased parent? Some need help emotionally, others spiritually, others financially. The reality is that it is tough to get your “ducks in a row” and always has been. Today’s encouraging message is for us to always look to the Light for our help. May we always be like John the Baptist and testify how Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, has been our Savior.

TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 61:1–2a, 10–1
Luke 1:46–48, 49–50, 53–54
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24
John 1:6–8, 19–28

Parish Life

Welcome

Dear Parish Family:

A Blessed “Gaudete Sunday” (Sunday of Rejoicing) to you. Even in the midst of a stay-at-home order, REJOICE because the Lord is near and our preparations for celebrating his birth are nearing completion.

As we continue our Advent journey, I invite you to join me this Monday, December 14 for a quiet holy hour from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This will be Zoomed live, and you will receive the zoom link **on Monday morning. There is so much busyness in preparation for Christmas, we’ll meet (virtually)** in the chapel in the residence with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, praying the Rosary, silence, Scripture and a reflection. Thanks for taking time out to be with the Lord!

Next Sunday, we will Bless the Bambinelli, the Baby Jesus from the Christmas manger scene in your home. **We’ll bless them at our 8:30 Mass and for those at home, I invite you to a special drive-through our parking lot for the blessing of the Baby Jesus.** You can also just drive by to receive **Holy Communion and we’ll distribute a special Blessing of the Christmas tree to be prayed in your home. We’ll be in the parking lot from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Please wear a mask in your car.** Come on by!

With great joy, this past week pope Francis proclaimed this to be a Year of St. Joseph from December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021. In a new apostolic letter entitled *Patris Corde (With a Father’s heart)* Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, and obedient father, and accepting father, a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, father in the shadows. **I’m excited about the journey we’ll make with our Parish Patron, St. Joseph this coming year.**

I invite you to start thinking about your Christmas gift to your St. Joseph’s family. Like all parishes, St. Josephs relies on this Christmas collection to balance our budget. Your prayerful consideration and discernment of your annual generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated by me and your parish family!

I’m praying for you! Stay safe and well!

Advent Peace and Joy,
Msgr. Kevin

Year of
ST. JOSEPH



Ministries

Did you know?

Gifts and toys should inspire joy,
not cause injuries

Avoid safety hazards while gifting with these tips from [the American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and the [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#):

Toys are age-rated for safety, not for children's intellect and physical ability, so be sure to choose toys in the correct age range; choose toys for children under 3 that do not have small parts that could be choking hazards; for children under 10, avoid toys that must be plugged into an electrical outlet; be cautious about toys that have button batteries or magnets, which can be harmful or fatal if swallowed; and when giving scooters and other riding toys, give the gift of appropriate safety gear, too; helmets should be worn at all times and they should be sized to fit.

For more information, visit <https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/tools-resources/seasonal-safety/winter/holiday>.

Meditation Group

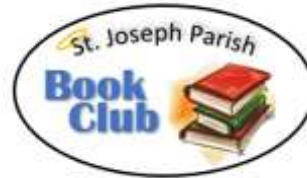
St. Joseph's Meditation Group now meets as a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 7:00PM.

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 Tibby

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:

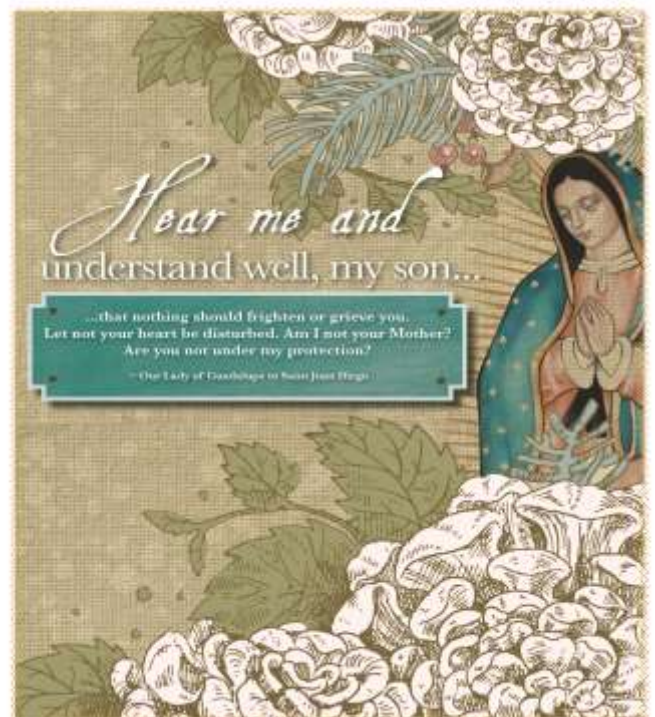
*"The things, Good Lord, that we pray for,
give us the grace to labour for."*

-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](#)



A WAY TO GIVE / A WAY TO RECEIVE— As we approach year-end, you may wish to note the following tax information as you consider additional charitable contributions to Holy Name of Mary Church.

NON-ITEMIZERS CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION DEDUCTION— Previously, charitable contributions could only be deducted if taxpayers itemized their deductions. However, taxpayers who do not itemize deductions may take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made in 2020 to qualifying organizations. The law changed in this area due to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LIMITS ON CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS— Individuals who itemize their deductions may deduct cash contributions made in 2020 to a qualifying organization up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. Previously, the amount of charitable cash contributions taxpayers could deduct on Schedule A as an itemized deduction was limited to 60% of adjusted gross income.

IRA CHARITABLE TRANSFERS— Although Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are waived for the tax year 2020, IRA charitable transfers to a qualified organization may still be made without recognizing the distribution as taxable. The distribution must be from an IRA owned by an individual who is age 70 1/2 or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity.

This is intended to provide general guidance and is not intended to be tax or legal advice. Please consult with your tax advisor concerning special rules and limitations that may impact your particular set of circumstances.



Amazon Smile – is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. Joseph Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. You’ll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to St. Joseph Church as your favorite charitable organization.

All you have to do is designate us -
St. Joseph Catholic Church of Long Beach
- Please remember to shop at
smile.amazon.com



Collection	
Faith Direct	\$14,252.38
Regular Envelopes	\$38,967.00
Collection-Loose	\$3381.00
Total	\$56,600.38

Thank you for being good stewards in favor of your St. Joseph Parish family.

Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, tablet or smartphone! To sign-up or learn more about online giving, please visit:
www.stjosephlb.org/about-us/giving