

# St. Joseph Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF

*Lent*



FEBRUARY  
**28** 2021

From the cloud came a voice:  
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."

Mark 9:7

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

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# Our Parish

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(562) 857-3880

## Mass Schedule

### Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Indoor Vigil

### Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

### Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m. Indoor

Come Join Us

## Reconciliation

### Saturdays

4:00-4:45p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





## INDOOR MASSES RESUME NEXT WEEKEND!

Dear Parish Family,

Lenten Peace and Greetings to you and your family! Next weekend, March 6-7, we'll resume indoor Masses. We'll start off slow and follow the six pages of safety protocol guidelines published by the Archdiocese, State and County health officials. We're allowed 25% of capacity in the church, so with the liturgical ministers, only 90 parishioners can attend the Mass. Of course, we'll continue to celebrate our Sunday Outdoor Mass. At all indoor and outdoor Masses, all safety protocols will be observed including: masks must be worn and social distancing of six feet will be respected. Commencing next weekend is our new weekend liturgy schedule:

Saturdays at 5:00 PM – Vigil Mass Inside the Church

Sundays at 8:30 AM – Outdoor Mass on the Grass

Sundays at 10:30 AM – Mass inside the Church

(Saturdays at 8:00 AM – Mass recorded for YouTube – public not allowed – Mass is posted online Saturday at 4:00 PM for all of those staying at home).

For the indoor Masses, we need to form several rotating teams to greet parishioners and go through the safety questions, and teams to sanitize the church seating area after Mass. If you plan to attend one of the indoor Masses and can help out please inform our office manager, Brenda Pineda by e-mailing her at [brenda@stjosephlb.org](mailto:brenda@stjosephlb.org)

Commencing on Monday, March 8 we will move our morning weekday Mass back into the Church. Weekday Mass is celebrated at 8:00 AM on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

We are still dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and so for all of you staying at home we'll pray together at our YouTube Mass.

I'm praying for you during our Lenten journey and please pray for me!

Blessings, Msgr. Kevin



FEBRUARY 28, 2021

*Jesus was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white.*

*Mark 9:2-3*

### THE BELOVED SON

Today's first reading, known as "the Binding of Isaac," refers to the way Isaac is bound and laid upon the wood of the altar of sacrifice. God directs Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice, killing the beloved son that had been a special gift to him and Sarah in their old age. How could God ask Abraham to do such a thing? Abraham offers no resistance, but in preparing for the sacrifice, Abraham may have agreed with the psalmist that he was "greatly afflicted." Saint Paul's letter to the Romans refers to Jesus as God's beloved Son, which is also how God identifies Jesus to Peter, James, and John at the Transfiguration. Afterward, Jesus tells those disciples not to mention the event to anyone until after his resurrection from the dead. The event, together with Jesus' comments, leaves the disciples thoroughly confused.

#### HOW COULD GOD ASK ABRAHAM TO DO THAT?

Through the centuries, Christians and Jews alike have found the Binding of Isaac one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. Even though God intervenes to save Isaac, the whole episode strikes some readers as cruel. However, Abraham, the ultimate man of faith, raises no objection, offers no resistance as he simply goes about preparing for the trip and the sacrifice.

Today's other readings might help us see that text differently. In Mark's description of the Transfiguration, Jesus' clothes become white and shining, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. Moses was the great liberator and lawgiver who led the Jews out of bondage in Egypt and into the wilderness, forming them into the people of Israel by giving them the Law he received from God. Elijah was among Israel's greatest prophets, so close to God that, at the end of his life, he was taken up into heaven by a fiery chariot. Together, Moses and Elijah represent the Law and the Prophets, the ultimate authority for the Jews in the conduct of their daily lives.

#### LOVE AND GENEROSITY

The Law, the Prophets—and Jesus. For Paul, Jesus is someone quite different from the other two. The reading from his letter to the Romans is short, but rich in meaning. When Paul declares that God "did not spare his own Son," and when God praises Abraham "who did not withhold from me your own beloved son," it is the same Greek word for "spare" and "withhold." God's voice at the Transfiguration identifies Jesus as his "beloved Son"—the same way God refers to Isaac as Abraham's beloved son. Ultimately, God spares Isaac but not his own Son, whom he "handed over for us." Even if we are disturbed that God tested Abraham like this, Paul says we should be overwhelmingly grateful that God did for us what, in the end, he did not require of Abraham. Jesus, God's Son "handed over to us" in love and generosity, is already a sacrificial gift, signifying that God wants to give us "everything else along with him."

#### TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 22:1–2, 9a, 10–13, 15–18  
Psalm 116:10, 15, 16–17, 18–19  
Romans 8:31b–34  
Mark 9:2–10

LENTEN  
SECOND SUNDAY OF

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## Did you know?

### Holding adults to high standards

When you start to talk to your children about inappropriate touching and basic sexual abuse prevention safety rules, be mindful that children can easily be confused by even the best of any **adult's intentions, which underscores why all adults** have a responsibility to adhere to the highest of standards in their relationships with children. Consider that another good reason to be involved in the activities your children participate in is that it allows you to get to know the adults who work regularly with them. That way, if your child brings a confusing scenario to you, you can more easily discuss the circumstances with your child and the adult involved, with the goal of working towards better behaviors. For more information, request **a copy of the VIRTUS article "How to Talk Productively with an Adult about Inappropriate Behavior with a Child"** at [iacatholics.org/did-you-know](http://iacatholics.org/did-you-know).

## 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](mailto:frmckown@gmail.com) or 310-633-1744



## Esther Ministry



Despite the pandemic, ESTHER Ministry has been working hard to live out our mission to: **End Slavery, Trafficking Humans and Effect Rescue**

**Humanitarian Outreach**-This past year presented additional challenges due to COVID-19. Street Outreach organizations needed PPE (masks, hand sanitizers and gloves) and more hygiene kits in addition to clothing, comfort items and food gift cards. With stores closed and unable to get together to assemble Humanitarian Bags, we ordered these **items online and used a member's garage as a central distribution point**. In the same manner, we provided the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS) with PPE, hygiene kits and over 250 outfits for CSEC (**Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children**) girls and boys. In total, we provided over 6000 items of PPE, hygiene kits, clothing and food.

ESTHER Ministry contributed a Reflection for **US Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** on how Queen Esther continues to inspire our Ministry. Visit: [sistersagainsttrafficking.org/monthly-reflection](http://sistersagainsttrafficking.org/monthly-reflection)

As our Ministry's namesake, WE are also called upon to fight against modern day slavery happening all around us. Pope Francis reminds us those who suffer from this modern-day slavery are the **"least among us"** and we are called to renew our commitment to improve the human condition.

We thank all those who have volunteered and donated to ESTHER Ministry.

For more info. or to be added to our mailing list, please email: [estherministry1@gmail.com](mailto:estherministry1@gmail.com)

If you want to contribute, please send your donations to:

St. Joseph Church,  
6180 E. Willow St.  
Long Beach CA 90815.

Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church and indicate ESTHER Ministry on the memo line.

## Lenten Observance

### Abstinence and Fasting

Abstinence from eating meat is to be observed on all Fridays during Lent. This applies to all persons 14 and older. The law of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday applies to all persons 18 or older and younger than 59. Fasting means that one full meatless meal per day may be eaten. Two other meatless meals may be taken sufficient to maintain strength, but together they should not equal a full meal. Liquids, including milk and fruit juice, may be taken between meals. If health or ability to work are affected, fasting does not oblige. Private, self-imposed observance of fasting on Lenten weekdays is strongly recommended. Pastors and parents should ensure that children who are not bound by the laws of fasting and abstinence are taught an authentic sense of penance, conversion and reconciliation.

### WE ARE CALLED

This Lent, commit to our global human family through:

- ◆ Daily prayer
- ◆ Weekly fasting
- ◆ Almsgiving

Jesus asks us to care for our sisters and brothers and to recognize him in them. With CRS Rice Bowl as our guide, we can answer to this Gospel call. What you give up for Lent changes lives.

Join our faith community—and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States—in a life-changing Lenten journey with CRS Rice Bowl. During the 40 days of Lent, we will reflect on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family, and on the need to take action to end this global injustice. Online giving is available! Please visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

## Movement For A Better World

*“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” Mt 18:5*

### This Weekend! Children's Book Drive:

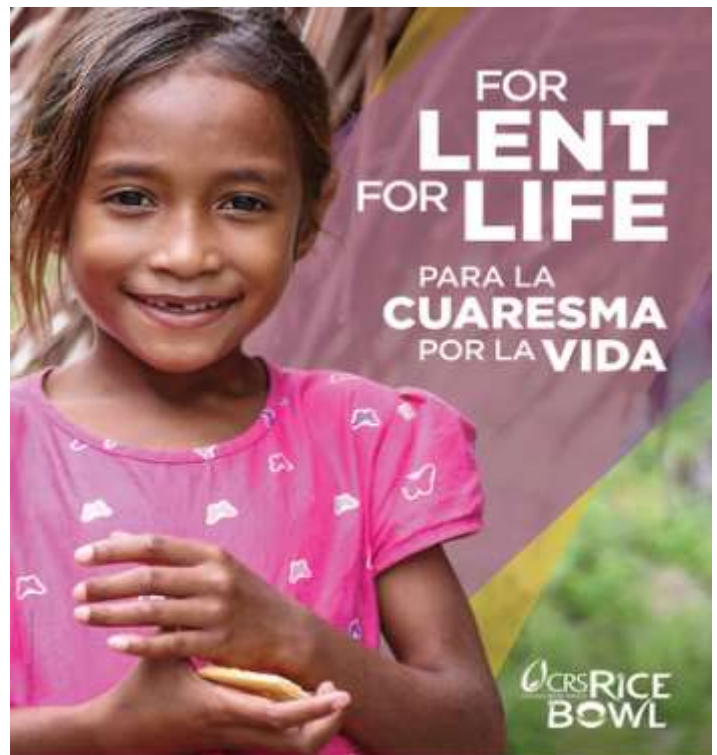
Collecting new and gently used reading books for the 175 children of our 80 supported families for Easter. Books can be dropped off at the parish hall Feb. 27 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm and Feb. 28 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

### March 27: Easter Food and Reading Book

**Distribution:** We will support 80 families in need! Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during our holiday support season when our needs are greatest.

**Special Needs Ministry:** We have an active ministry of providing essential living needs (refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.) to families in need. Three or 4 times per year, we inform by e-mail, the needs we are working to fulfill. May we e-mail that information to you? Can you help to help with a COVID-safe delivery of items to families in need?

Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385



[crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) | [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org)

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# DRIVE-THRU BOOK DRIVE



February 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

Collecting new or gently used children's reading books  
(toddler through 17) for our  
Easter Food and Book Distribution.

St. Joseph Parish Hall  
6200 E. Willow St., Long Beach  
February 27th      1:00 pm to 4:00 pm  
February 28th      8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Would you like us to pick up your donation?  
Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385