

St. Joseph Parish

MARCH 14, 2021

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF **LENT**

*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 3:14-15

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)

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

Mass Schedule

Saturday
5:00 p.m.
Indoor Vigil

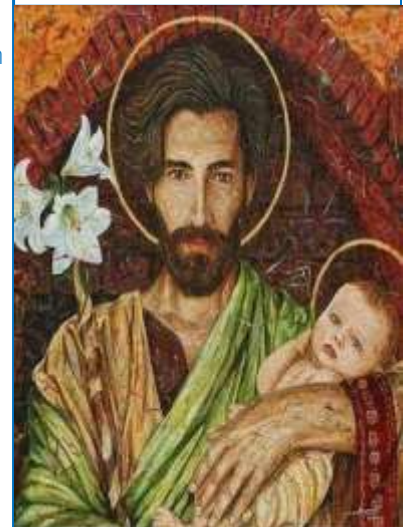
Sunday
Mass on the Grass
Outdoors
8:30 a.m.

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





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family of St. Joseph:

I pray that this Fourth Sunday of Lent finds you safe and being faithful to the promises of your Lenten covenant.

Pope Francis has declared 2021 a **“Year of St. Joseph”**. In his Apostolic Letter **“Patris Corde” (With a Father’s Heart)**, Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a **“Beloved father, tender, loving, obedient, accepting, creatively courageous, and working as a father in the shadows”**.

Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St. Joseph as a Patron of the Universal Church. We are blessed as a community of faith to claim St. Joseph as our Patron Saint. This coming Friday, March 19th is the annual Solemnity of St. Joseph and **we’ll have a Special Mass to honor our Patron and to invoke his name to protect and guide our families.** This Mass will be in the Church at 8:00 AM.

Please remember to pray and sacrifice for our Elect and Candidates as they move forward in their Lenten journey to the Easter Sacraments! Their photos are in this bulletin.

Have a Blessed week and know that I’m praying for you and your family.

Saint Joseph, pray for us!
Msgr. Kevin



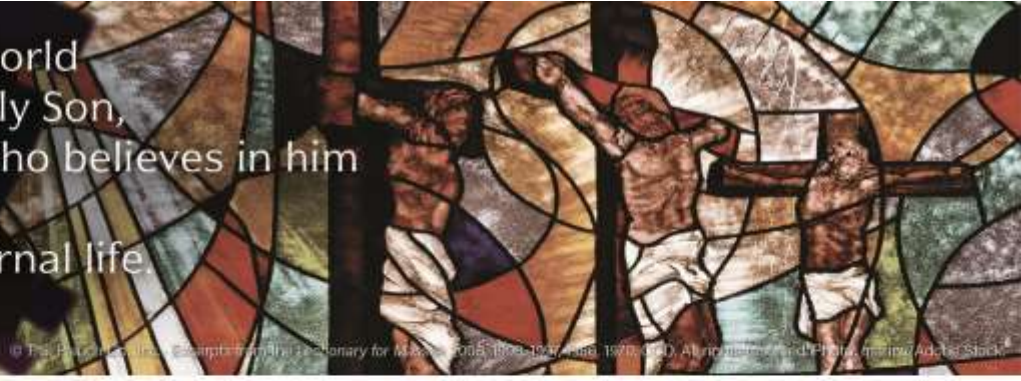
The
Year of
St. Joseph

Honoring and commemorating the 150th anniversary
of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life

JOHN 3:16

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REDEEMING HUMANITY

The end of Second Chronicles claims that “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people” were continuously unfaithful to their covenant with God. This infidelity ultimately led to seventy years of exile in Babylon, after which Cyrus, the Persian ruler who conquered Babylon, allows the people of Israel to return home and rebuild their temple; the Psalmist reflects on the bitterness of those seventy years. Paul is lyrical in praising God “who is rich in mercy” and who “brought us to life” with Christ, while the evangelist recounts preaching by Jesus on this same theme. This is the section of John that includes the oft-memorized John 3:16: “For God so loved the word . . .” All three readings emphasize God’s desire to rescue—or redeem—humanity from pain and suffering.

HUMAN HISTORY . . .

Today’s reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah’s infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a “messiah” (Hebrew), or a *christos* (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

. . . AND DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and the Judeans’ exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is “rich in mercy,” and we are assured that “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called “Laetare Sunday,” or “Rejoice! Sunday.” Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others’), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today’s Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

TODAY’S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6
Ephesians 2:4–10
John 3:14–21

FOURTH LENT
SUNDAY OF
MARCH 14, 2021

Did you know?



How parents can help fight against sex trafficking

Sex trafficking is a serious threat in the U.S. and around the world. Parents can make a difference in their families and in their communities by educating themselves and their children. Know the signs of trafficking or abuse, including changes in behavior, nightmares, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior. Fostering trust and communication between parents and children is crucial to protecting them from exploitation. To read more from the VIRTUS® article “Sex trafficking: What we can do to help,” visit lacatholics.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 or 310-633-1744

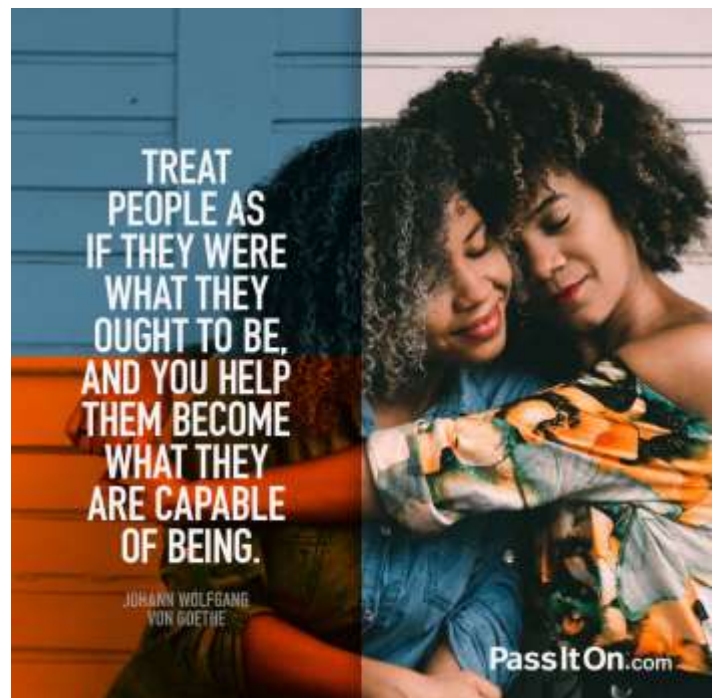
Movement For A Better World

“Live simply so that others can simply live.”
-St. Mother Teresa

March 27: Easter Food & Book Distrition: 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.

April 14, 7:00 PM Committee Meeting: Join our online gathering to help us to celebrate and LEARN from possibly the **ministry’s MOST extraordinary program year.** Refocus on current ministry needs. Assess our personal and financial blessings toward understanding our greatest opportunities of stewardship.

Special Needs Ministry: We have an active ministry of providing essential needs (refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.) to our supported families. May we keep you Informed of those opportunities? Can you help with a COVID-safe delivery of items? Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385



Book Club



Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace by Valerie Schultz

(2020 Catholic Press Association first place award, memoir)

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7pm.

In *Overdue* Valerie Schultz shares her experience in prison ministry and how she learned to see the prisoners as human beings. They possessed all the gifts and flaws that define humanity. Every single one of them a human being created and loved by God. It was no challenge to find God in all things in prison because God was palpably everywhere.

All are welcome!

For more info. email: agoodlife@msn.com



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RCIA

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT AND CANDIDATES!

RCIA

Catechumens:



Shan



Amy



Justin



Sara



Zachary

Candidates:



Charleen



Anthony



Marin



Matt

RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA process who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.
Open their hearts to the fullness of your love.
Deepen their understanding.
Set their hearts on fire for the kingdom of God.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.
Amen!

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