

# St. Joseph Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF

# Easter

APRIL 25, 2021



**I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.**

John 10:11

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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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Sacristans

Joe & Lily Dang

(562) 493-2198

(Brother/Sister)

## 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

3:45-4:30p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot



# Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

As we continue to celebrate the Great 50 Days of the Easter Season, leading to the celebration of Pentecost, be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

This month of April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. We have been praying each Sunday for the protection of children. One of the primary missions of the Church is to keep your children safe. You know how we are doing that in the Archdiocese and **St. Joseph's. Our parish has an active Safeguard the Committee and I meet with them** several times a year. I was just recertified with Virtus training and all of our employees and volunteers continue to be recertified. The Archdiocese of Los Angeles annually publishes the Working together to Prevent Child Abuse brochure, which provides an up-to-date listing of the safe environment policies, programs, resources, contact numbers and other important information about how the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is working to prevent child sex abuse. Copies of the brochure are being given to all school and religious education families. The brochure will also be distributed to all parishioners after Masses this weekend.

**This year's annual Together in Mission program was delayed due to Covid. This is the** only annual Archdiocesan collection to serve our parishes and schools most in need. The Together in Mission weekend has now been scheduled for early June. Some of you are receiving a pledge card and envelope in the mail from the Together in Mission Office. Thank you for prayerfully considering your generous gift which will help us meet our parish goal. Make sure on the pledge card that you credit your gift to **St. Joseph's Church in Long Beach.**

Easter Blessings,  
Msgr. Kevin



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## Fourth Sunday of Easter April 25, 2021

See what love the Father has bestowed  
on us that we may be called the  
children of God.

— 1 John 3:1





# FOURTH SUNDAY OF Easter

APRIL 25, 2021

I am the good shepherd.  
A good shepherd lays down  
his life for the sheep.

John 10:11

## BELONGING

There is nothing like belonging. Many of our deepest experiences in life are of the belonging we feel among family or close friends. We may experience belonging within our parish, even saying we are “at home” in our faith community. Sometimes, we say we belong to a school alumni association or social club. Our deepest belonging, however, is in the heart of God. We are God’s children, precious in God’s sight. We are so treasured that Jesus laid down his life for us. Knowing that we belong to God in Jesus Christ gives us a new, eternal perspective on life. Peter understood this when he explained that his healing of the man who had been disabled from birth had been accomplished through Christ. Jesus describes the relationship between him and those who believe in him in intimate terms—we who are in relationship with Christ know that our very lives depend upon him.

## THE GOOD SHEPHERD

The difference between the good shepherd and the hired hand is the difference between life and death. Unlike a hired hand who only works for pay and would run away at the first sign of difficulty, Jesus is a good shepherd who willingly lays down his life for his sheep. The good shepherd draws the sheep near to him. They belong to him—not as a possession that can be discarded, but as precious ones who are assured that they can rely on his care and protection. The sheep owe their very lives to the shepherd. Without him, they will be scattered and left on their own in what is often a dangerous world.

## BECOMING GOOD SHEEP

No sheep with any sense would wander off and leave the fold. The shepherd provides food and safety. Away from the fold, the sheep risks death in the jaws of wolves or starvation in the desert. Jesus is the Good Shepherd and invites us to be good sheep. Jesus has experienced the best and the worst of all that life has in store. He has known the simple joys and the deep disappointments of life; he has known temptation, anxiety, and fatigue. Jesus walks ahead of us, leading the way. We may be tempted to wander away, lured by temporary pleasures and tempted by the illusion of something better over the horizon. In the noise of daily life, surrounded by messages that compete with God and God’s ways, it is easy to become distracted from what is important and lasting. Jesus, our Good Shepherd, invites us to be good sheep who are so close to him that we hear and recognize his voice. As good sheep, we are called to follow the voice of the Shepherd, trusting that he will guide us to the best pasture, where we can thrive.

## TODAY’S READINGS

Acts 4:8–12  
Psalm 118:1, 8–9, 21–23, 26, 28, 29  
1 John 3:1–2  
John 10:11–18

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Joseph von Führich:  
Der Gang nach Emmaus  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass  
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## Did you know?

# UNITED in PRAYER

We ask you, as the People of God, to unite in a special prayer for victims of child sexual abuse.

### *“A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse”*

*Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people’s wounds  
and transform brokenness into wholeness.  
Grant us the courage and wisdom,  
humility and grace, to act with justice.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.  
Grant that all harmed by abuse  
may find peace and justice.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*

## 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



## Movement For A Better World

*“Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God.” Pope Francis*

**May 12, 7:00 PM Online Committee Meeting:** Many thanks to everyone who participated in our April 14 online committee meeting! We had a sincere and formative discussion of potential ministry activities for our new program year starting July 1. Please join us May 12 to review follow-up and complete that discussion.

**June 5-6, Homeless Kit Drive:** Drive-through collection of urgently needed personal hygiene supplies for people experiencing homelessness. Please stay tuned for an emailed and parish website posting of a shopping list of needed items.

**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

*“Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them.”*

ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX





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