

St. Joseph Parish



FIFTH SUNDAY OF

Easter

MAY 2, 2021

By this is my Father glorified,
that you bear much fruit
and become my disciples.

John 15:8

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(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 journey through this joyous Easter Season, today we hear Jesus say that He is the Vine and we are the branches. If we stay connected to the Vine who is Christ, our lives will be strengthened in faith and we will see as God sees.

Last December Pope Francis announced that this year of 2021 is the “Year of St. Joseph”! In honor of the husband of our Blessed Mother, Pope Francis wrote a letter about St. Joseph entitled, “Patris Corde”, translated means “With a Father’s Heart”. I encourage you to read the letter and become better friends with St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of our parish family. This weekend, May 1st is the annual celebration of St. Joseph the Worker.

In “With a Father’s Heart”, Pope Francis revealed to the world that for over 40 years, every morning he has offered a prayer to St. Joseph taken from a 200-year-old prayerbook. Join me and our fellow parishioners by offering this prayer:

*Joseph my beloved Father,
all my trust is in you.
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain.
Since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,
Show me that your goodness,
Is as great as your power. AMEN!*

Included in this bulletin is a letter from our beloved Sr. Eva as she updates her sojourn in Zambia, Africa. Let us pray that the Risen Lord will continue to bless her new ministry as she inspires her community and students to be attached to the Vine of Christ!

I’m praying for you and your families!

Easter Peace and Joy,
Msgr. Kevin



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**Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 2, 2021**

Let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

— 1 John 3:18



Letter From Sister Eva

Dear Msgr. Kevin and friends at St. Joseph's

As I write this letter, I am over two months in Zambia. I arrived Jan.14th with two other sisters-one staying with me in the International Novitiate House and the other on route to Malawi. Unfortunately, the border is closed and so she is staying in Roma. Both of us had the opportunity **of taking a week's course in F.E.N.Z.A.-Faith and Encounter.** It was an amazing week with topics such as Interculturality, state of the Nation, Religions in Zambia, Funerals in Zambia, initiation into maturity, traditional healing in Zambia Islam, Pentecostalism, Witchcraft and Satanism in Zambia. I found the witchcraft session unbelievable. Even after being converted and accepting Christianity the people still fall back on the witch doctors. They hold so much power over the ordinary people and even though this center goes about village to village showing how fraudulent some of their doings **are the people still find it hard to ignore them. Certainly, the culture has a lot of contradictions like other cultures ...in it. In my opinion it is still very male dominated, even more so in the church.** Of course, this is my opinion in such a short time being here! I hear the men are more involved in the church in that they are catechists yet I see 85 percent attendance are women. We are able to **attend church despite covid ...wearing masks and staying six meters apart. The overflow stays outside.** but I have to say on the whole you would not think there was a virus, except they do not congregate after the mass, which I believe is not the case before covid.

My life here in Roma starts at 5:15 with the cry ...loud, of the rooster. Our Mimi-bus leaves after morning prayer to attend the parish mass at Parish of the Assumption for the 6;30 mass. Even with covid morning mass is well attended with 22 R.S.C. in attendance! We have three communities in Roma based on the same campus, Our Regional House, where the provincial resides, the Roma house where the school sisters reside and the International novitiate where I reside. We have a primary and secondary school accommodating over 800 girls ranging from 7 to 19 years. It is a sight to see them **walk down the main entrance in single file ... all in uniform. It must take some of them 20 mins. to** reach the main gate from their classroom. The Roma girls, as they are known came 8th in the whole of Lusaka despite where some of them come from. The sisters have a number of scholarships for those who cannot afford the already minimal fee.

In the novitiate we have 7 first year novices, 3 second year novices out on Apostolic experience and two making final vows this May. At this time, we hold in prayer 11 aspiring young women!!!! **So, I ask you too to keep these women in your prayers The harvest is huge but the laborers few.**

Continued on next page...

Letter From Sister Eva Continued...

The liturgies are long. Every Mass has a different choir and they are all inspiring in that beautiful harmonies are heard at every Mass. They have many small base communities who take it in turn to clean the church and lead and organize the Sunday masses. The offertory is very moving in that the people bring up gifts of food to the priest. They bring food and every day practical items. What is moving for me is the poor bringing up their contribution!!!! Eggs, maize, vegetables and fruit, yet poorly dressed and may have walked over an hour to get there. I can barely understand the Pastor **even though he mostly speaks English. His homilies are in line with the Pentecostals...long and LOUD.** Because of covid there was no R.C.I.A., no catechetical classes, no zooming. Our schools have opened and so far, so good with all the restrictions in place. They are taking minimum holidays in **order to catch up on time lost. I am amazed at the classrooms.... 40 in each.... nothing on the walls** and very little text books. All is taught from the black board and the students take notes! I have ventured to take a few classes 80 to 120 students in the hall. I find them very open to learning, love to meditate, know a lot about Mary Aikenhead our foundress! We have a mixture of Catholics and **the other denomination is Pentecostal. They preach a gospel of Abundance If you pray right and give to the church then you will be blessed with money and so live an affluent lifestyle.** If that does not happen, they are told it is because they are not praying good enough. Needless to say, a lot leave, some come back to the Catholic church others just fall away from God altogether. However, all the girls have to attend religion classes.

Our campus is big in that it houses both schools, a rental block of apartments for other students attending college or other institutions, and Mary Aikenhead village where our teachers rent their houses for a minimal amount. On Sundays our playing field is used for soccer for the teen boys and the basketball court is also used. I can hear their cries of delight as I say my beads out in the grounds on Sunday afternoon .Indeed it is a totally different world and a different mindset towards the rest of the world.

I will try and send a few photos so feel free to share whatever to whomever you wish. As soon as covid is over and you can travel you must come and visit! Keep me in your prayers as I do you and all at St.Joes.

Love and blessings,
Sr.Eva

In 1815, following training at the Bar Convent in York, Mary Aikenhead founded the Religious Sisters of Charity. Love was the compelling force behind all of her life's work. Her warm-hearted caring love sprang from her deep tender love for God which was rooted in faith – a faith which enabled her to find God in all things and to love Him in all people. The work of Mary Aikenhead included the establishment of schools, hospitals and orphanages for people in need.





FIFTH SUNDAY OF Easter

MAY 2, 2021

I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and I in them will bear much fruit,
because without me you can do nothing.

John 15:5

THE FRUIT OF FAITH

In today's Gospel, Jesus likens our relationship with him to a plant with many branches. We, the branches, are called to remain so close to Jesus that we bear fruit, loving one another as Christ loves us. Saul bore the fruit of his faith through powerful witness that drew others to Christ. And the branches that grew into the early Church were extraordinarily fruitful. What is the fruit of your faith in Jesus Christ?

VINES, BRANCHES, AND FRUIT

Few activities are as disappointing as cultivating garden plants, watering them, and ensuring that they receive sunlight and nutrients, only to receive one or two vegetables or flowers to show for all the effort. Jesus uses the metaphor of the vine and branches to describe how closely we are called to remain with him—so close that we bear the fruit of his life and love in the way we live. When we do this, Jesus says, we give glory to God the Father, which Jesus did perfectly through his life, passion, death, and resurrection. Like plants that rely on the sun and nutrients from the soil, we rely on the Lord Jesus through whom we can do all for which we are called. Without the Lord, we can do nothing.

LEARN FROM THE FIRST ONES

The story of the early Church that we hear from the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season is instructive and inspiring. We learn how the community grew in their understanding of what it means to remain close to Jesus in the most challenging of situations. They lived in word and deed as Christ had taught and bore the fruit of their faith in their daily decisions, in small ways and in dramatic moments. Faced with Saul who had persecuted Christians and who presented himself as a disciple, Barnabas risked believing Saul's testimony. Through Barnabas, the community accepted Saul, with increasing numbers of people being led to belief in Christ as a result. We too are called to live in word and deed, taking to heart Christ's command to love one another, even when it is challenging to do so. We may find inspiration in the way the early believers drew consolation from the Holy Spirit, finding wisdom and strength to keep the commandments and do what pleases God.

TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 9:26–31

Psalms 22:26–27, 28, 30, 31–32

1 John 3:18–24

John 15:1–8

Did you know?



Beware of the dangers of online enticement

The events of 2020 pushed most of our lives more fully online than ever before: working from home, virtual schooling, Zoom get-togethers. This past year also saw a dramatic increase in reports of online child abuse, including online enticement. Enticement involves an individual communicating online with someone believed to be a child, with the intent to commit a sex offense or to abduct the child. Online enticement can happen to any child using the internet. Parents should be very aware of what their children do online, including who they talk to and what sites they spend time on. For more information, visit:

missingkids.org/blog/2021/rise-in-online-enticement-and-other-trends--ncmec-releases-2020-

March Collection

Collection	
Faith Direct	\$14,927.88
Website	\$3,829.16
Regular Envelopes	\$49,102.00
Collection-Loose	\$4,966.00
Total	\$72,825.04

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:

stjosephlb.org/about-us/giving

Movement For A Better World

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Mt 5:7

Migrant Children Family Unification: We are discerning options we might either provide as a group or recommend to the parish regarding the City's unaccompanied migrant children program. Let us know if you'd like to contribute to that discussion. In the meantime, here is a useful link : longbeach.gov/pages/city-news/lb-humanitarian-family-reunification-efforts

May 12, 6:30 PM Online Committee Meeting: Many thanks to everyone who contributed to our April 14 online committee meeting! We had a sincere and formative discussion of potential ministry activities for our program year starting July 1. Please join us May 12 to review and complete that discussion.

June 12-13, Homeless Kit Drive: Drive-through collection of urgently needed personal hygiene supplies for people experiencing homelessness. Please stay tuned for an e-mailed and parish website posting of a shopping list of needed items. **Skip-a-Meal Donations-** Please skip a meal weekly, donating that savings in support of our mission. One of many examples are 325 sandwiches and lunches weekly to Catholic Charities of Long Beach and monthly breakfast to the patrons of the Multi-Services Center. Questions? Please call **Tim Clark (562) 431-4385**



Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life...The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love...Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

— Pope Francis —



In addition to being the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the foster-father of Jesus, St Joseph was a carpenter. Through his work of manual labour, Joseph provided for the Holy Family, and shared in the divine plan of salvation.

Joseph, the “Just Man”

The Gospel of St Matthew describes Joseph as a “just man”, which in the language of the Bible means one who loves and respects the law as the expression of the will of God. Like Mary, Joseph too was visited by an angel, who appeared to him in a dream. And, again like Mary, her spouse, Joseph said “Yes”, when the angel revealed that the Child she bore was conceived of the Holy Spirit.

The special characteristic of Joseph is hiddenness, remaining in the background. No word of his is recorded in the Gospels. He is not mentioned after the finding of Christ in the Temple. Probably by the time Jesus began his public life, at the wedding in Cana, Joseph had already passed to the next life, although we don’t know exactly when or where he died. And the place of his burial remains a mystery.

Work: Participation in the Divine Plan

As is true of many fathers, Joseph raised Jesus to follow in his own profession as a craftsman; in the Gospels, Jesus is called “the son of the carpenter”. The life of St Joseph shows us the dignity of human work, which is the duty and the perfection of human beings, who in this way exercise dominion over creation, share in the work of the Creator, offer their service to the community, and participate in God’s plan of salvation. Joseph loved his work. He never complained of weariness, but as a man of faith elevated it to the exercise of virtue. He found contentment in his work, because he did not aspire to wealth and did not envy the rich; for Joseph, work was not a means to satisfy his own greed, but an instrument to support his family. And, following God’s commandment, on the Sabbath St Joseph observed the weekly rest and took part in the celebrations. We should not wonder at this noble conception of the humble work of manual labour: already in the Old Testament, in fact, God was seen symbolically as a winegrower, a sower, a shepherd.

The feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

This feast was officially instituted by Pope Pius XII on 1 May 1955, in order to ensure that workers not lose this Christian understanding of work; but earlier Popes had already prepared the ground. Blessed Pius IX in a certain way had recognized the importance of Saint Joseph as a labourer, when he proclaimed him Patron of the Universal Church. The principle of work as a means to eternal salvation would be taken up again by St John Paul II in his encyclical *Laborem exercens*, where he refers to “the Gospel of Work”. And Cardinal Angelo Roncalli – who became Pope St John XXIII – when he was elected to the Throne of Peter had thought of taking the name Joseph, so devoted was he to the saint who was the foster-father of Jesus. Many other saints, especially St Teresa of Avila, had a particular devotion to Saint Joseph.

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