

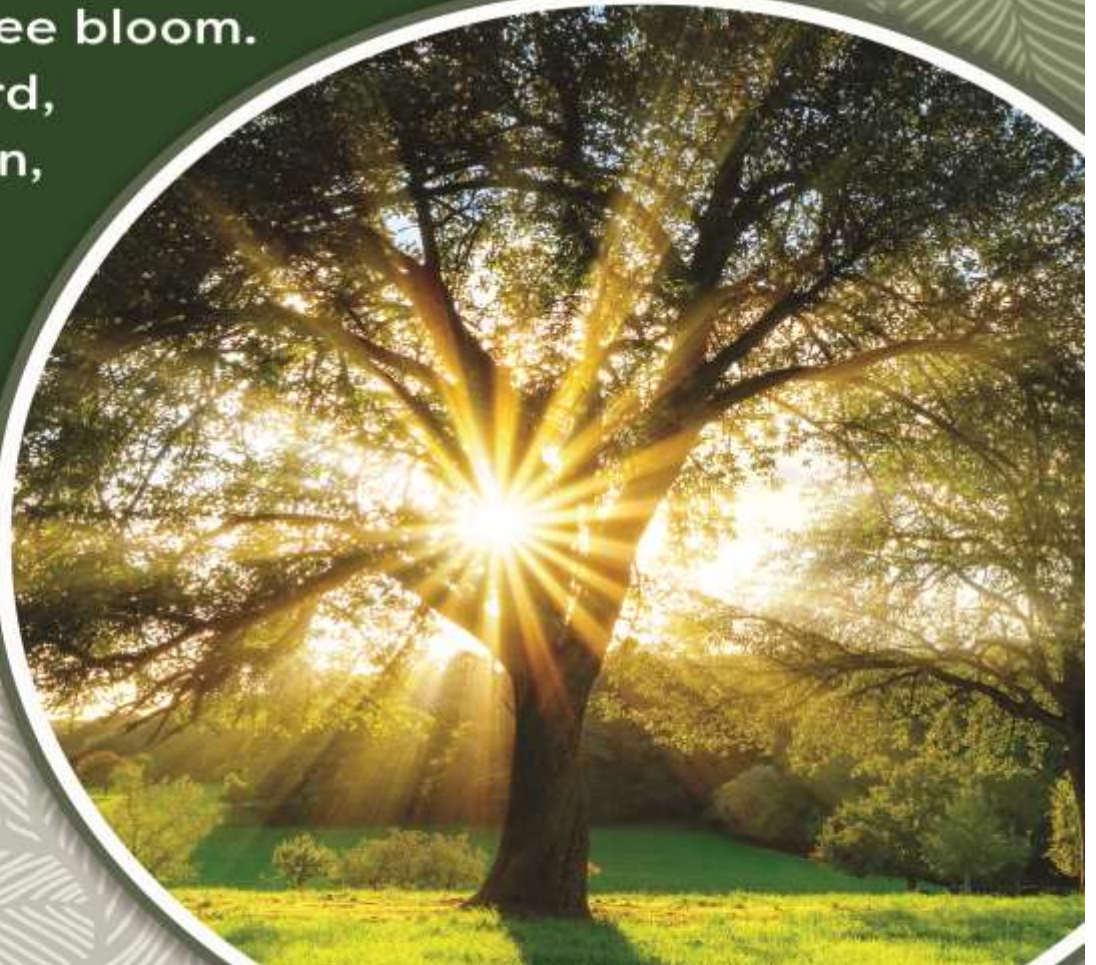
St. Joseph Parish

**Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

June 13, 2021

I, the Lord,
bring low the high tree,
lift high the lowly tree,
wither up the green tree,
and make the
withered tree bloom.
As I, the Lord,
have spoken,
so will I do.

Ezekiel 17:24



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

stjosephlb.org

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(562) 857-3880

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:

A few items this 11th Sunday of Ordinary Time:

Thanks to Deacon Cesar Carrasco for being with us this weekend and sharing the Word of **God with our parish community. Let's all pray for Deacon Cesar as he spends the next year of formation preparing for his Ordination to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ!**

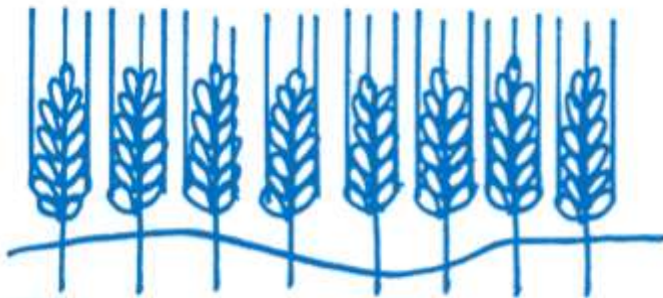
Thank you for participating in the Together in Mission Campaign last weekend. I should have some initial numbers for you next weekend.

Next weekend is Father's Day and during the Mass, we will offer a Special Blessing upon all of our Fathers. Invite your Father or Grandfather to Mass!

On Sunday, June 27th, **we will offer a special Graduation Prayer upon our St. Joseph's Graduates at the 8:30 AM Outdoor Mass.** Our parish invites all of those graduating from 8th grade, High School and College to celebrate the Eucharist and receive this special blessing.

This week I celebrate the gift of life. Next Saturday, June 19th **I'll celebrate the 39th Anniversary of my Ordination to the Priesthood and on Sunday I celebrate my 66th birthday. I'm blessed and grateful to God. I'm remembering my parents and my former pastor who was so influential in my vocation, Msgr. James O'Callaghan. May they be at Peace in the kingdom.** Please say a little prayer for me so that I may have the energy, creativity and light to continue to spiritually guide our faith community.

Gratefully in the Lamb of God,
Msgr. Kevin



**Eleventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
June 13, 2021**

They that are planted
in the house of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts of our God.

—Psalm 92:14

The kingdom of
God is like
a mustard seed
that is the smallest
of all the seeds.
But once it is sown,
it springs up
and becomes the
largest of plants.
MARK 4:31-32



ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JUNE 13, 2021

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THE CHURCH AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Today's scriptures connect the towering cedars of Lebanon from the prophet Ezekiel to the mustard plant of the famous parable of Jesus. Both plants represent the Kingdom of God. Both are also to be understood as symbols of the Church, where "birds of every kind shall dwell" (Ezekiel 17:23) and shelter in the cedar's branches, and the shade of the mustard plant's large branches provide dwelling for the "birds of the sky." Even today's psalm tells of the just one who is like a cedar flourishing in the house of the Lord.

Now, the Church is not the Kingdom, but rather a sacrament, a visible sign of it. They co-exist in the here-and-now but also in the "not yet." As Paul reminds us, we must constantly work to continue building and growing the Kingdom by everyday good works of "the just one." So we are all birds and just ones.

"LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . ."

The Gospel of Mark is nothing if not a testament to the power of parables to illustrate the Good News through story. Jesus was a master storyteller, who understood the importance of using images and concepts to which his listeners could relate. A seed, a mustard plant, would symbolize one of Mark's signature focuses: the Kingdom of God.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Ezekiel proclaimed most poetically to the Israelites, recently liberated from Babylonian captivity, that their God was still their hope, their comfort, their rescue, and their shelter. Those refugees would understand the image of the towering cedar as a symbol of their kingdom, cut down, fallen, captured. By restoring their kingdom, their God was giving them a new creation (the replanted shoot) and a new covenant.

THY KINGDOM COME . . .

Ezekiel said that God would tear off "a tender shoot" (17:22) for this replanting. What does this sound like? Why, Advent, of course, and specifically the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom" (Isaiah 11:1); and again in Isaiah's Messianic texts we hear: "He grew up before us like a tender shoot" (53:2). Jesse was the father of the great king David and, as we know, Jesus came to be that tender shoot, that blossom, the new Davidic King whose throne, the cross, was once a tree.

God's incarnation in Jesus, born fully human, is the fulfillment of the promise to Ezekiel of the renewed and restored cedar, the new Kingdom. That new creation and covenant exists for us in the Church, through the Holy Spirit making the seed planted within us grow, flourish, and spread. Thus we have the faith and courage to be that visible sign of the Kingdom bringing hope and renewal to the world. We must live Kingdom lives before we can convince others to do so.

TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 17:22-24
Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
2 Corinthians 5:6-10
Mark 4:26-34



Registration for the 2021-22 Faith Formation Classes is now open. Classes will be offered both online and in person. Registration for new and continuing students for continuing education and/or sacrament preparation for :

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

Elementary (Grades 1-5)

Junior High (Grades 6-8)

For more information and to register, please go to the parish website (Scan Code to the right with your cell phone camera).

Sunday Elementary Faith Formation Classes (K-5th)

Parent Information Zoom Session: Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 10:30 am

Classes Start: Sunday, September 19, 2021, at 10:30 am

Middle School Faith Formation Classes (6th-8th)

Parent Information Zoom Session: Tuesday, September 28, 2021, at 7 pm

Start: Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at 7 pm



Current and new students need to register. Remember, it is an Archdiocesan requirement to have two consecutive years of religious education to receive sacraments. A copy of the Baptismal Certificate and 1st Holy Communion certificate must accompany all NEW candidates registering for St. Joseph Faith Formation for the first time. Former St. Joseph School and Faith Formation candidate's certificates will already be on file.

Confirmation meets on selected Sundays from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., September through June. Open to all high school students Grades (9 – 12)

For more information and to register, please go to the parish website (Scan Code to the right with your cell phone camera).



Safeguard the Children



Avoiding sexting and building healthy relationships

When teens start dating, they often feel pressure to keep up with their peers and to explore new romantic feelings. But these feelings, combined with teenage hormones and decision-making capabilities, can lead to some poor choices, including sexting. Sending nude images is dangerous and puts the sender and the receiver at risk. Photos can be shared instantly on cell phones and social media, and once out there, the images never go away. Talk to your teen about the consequences of sexting and the importance of building healthy relationships where partners respect boundaries and don't ask for explicit images. For more information, visit missingkids.org/content/dam/netsmartz/downloadable/discussion-guides/your-photo-fate-discussion-guide.pdf.

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 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

[This Weekend, Homeless Kit Drive](#): Drive-thru collection of urgent daily needs for people experiencing homelessness.

Migrant Children Family Unification: Our offer to assist this initiative as a group is pending a response from the City. See the following link for news about the program and ways to offer your support as an individual - longbeach.gov/pages/city-news/lb-humanitarian-family-reunification-efforts/. Catholic Charities is taking a leadership role to administer the program. Financial support can be provided to them directly by mailing to Migrant Children, c/o Catholic Charities, 123 E. 14th St., Long Beach, CA 90813. **Include "Migrant Children"** as a memo.

Multi-Services Center: There is an ongoing ministry to serve breakfasts and lunches to the homeless patrons of the Long Beach Multi-Services Center.

For more information about these initiatives please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless.

The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty.

We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty.

- Mother Teresa of Calcutta



May Collection

Collection	
Faith Direct	\$17,979.65
Website	\$1,660.00
Regular Envelopes	\$34,318.00
Collection-Loose	\$7,023.50
Total:	\$60,981.15

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Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, July 13th at 7pm.

We will discuss:
The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage by Joan Chittister

Sister Joan Chittister—a rabble-rousing force of nature for social justice and fervent proponent of personal faith and spiritual fulfillment—draws on the wisdom of prophets, both ancient and modern, to help us confront the societal forces that oppress and silence the sacred voices among us.

All are welcome!
For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com





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During the most difficult moments in our lives, whether due to the loss of a beloved family member or the stress of losing a job, our Catholic community needs to support each other in good times and bad.

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Our Mission

The **Together in Mission** Annual Appeal is an opportunity for people across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to join together in making a sustainable monthly commitment to those in need. We believe in the hope that will be given through classrooms, from pulpits, on the streets, and the blessed sacraments.

How to make a gift?

Visit togetherinmission.org/give or call 213-637-7672

(M-F 8 am-5 pm) Text **Forward21** to 213-397-0682 to make your 2021 pledge



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