

St. Joseph Parish

*Did not God
choose those who
are poor in the world
to be rich in faith
and heirs of the
kingdom that he
promised to those
who love him?*

James 2:5

September

5

2021



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TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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

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Deacon Tom Halliwell

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High School Ministry & Confirmation:

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Deacon Shane & Olga Cuda

olga@stjosephlb.org

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Lectors	Steve Koppenheffer	(714) 299-6644
Meditation	Frank Mckown	(310) 633-1744
Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	<i>estherministry1@gmail.com</i>
Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
Senior Group	Jan Minter	<i>tchrjan@gmail.com</i>
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(562) 425-0621
Engaged Encounter	Paciano & Molly Diaz	<i>Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net</i>
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Project Achieve	Susie Beeghly	<i>susanbeeghly@yahoo.com</i>
Precious Life Shelter	Cynthia San Jose	(562) 884-9589
Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(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,

I greet you this Labor Day weekend and pray that your family is well as the Delta Variant continues to impact us by prolonging this pandemic. Summer vacations are completed, our children have returned to their respective schools, many of you have returned to work and some are trying to find work. May the Lord who labors for us, continue to Bless you during all of these transitions in your family life.

Archbishop Jose Gomez has declared a Jubilee Year from September 11, 2021 through September 10, 2022 celebrating 250 years of Catholic faith in Los Angeles on the anniversary of the founding of Mission San Gabriel, the first church in what is now the Archdiocese. The purpose of celebrating this Jubilee, entitled, *Forward in Mission* is to revive the life of faith in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles through the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the raising up of a new generation of missionary disciples. Each of the twenty deaneries in the Archdiocese has a designated pilgrimage site and our local pilgrimage site is St. Anthony's Church in Long Beach. You can access all of the details and spiritual events by going to the website forwardinmission.com or click on the link on our website stjosephlb.org

As our parish commences The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) we'll celebrate an RCIA open house next Sunday, Sept. 12 at 9:30 AM in the parish hall. We invite past parishioners who went through the RCIA process to attend. Here's your role – please invite someone you know who is not baptized or baptized in another Christian faith or has not completed their Catholic initiation and long to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist to attend next Sunday. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will stir the hearts of those who the Lord wants to meet through the RCIA. Our parish is grateful to the Directors of the RCIA – Deacon Shane and Olga Cuda and an amazing team of volunteers. Come and See, meet the Lord and the beauty of the spiritual path of Catholic Discipleship!

I'm praying for you and your families,

Msgr. Kevin



THEN WILL THE EYES OF THE BLIND BE OPENED

the ears of the deaf be cleared;
then will the lame leap like a stag,
then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Isaiah 35:5-6

GOD LIFTS US UP

Our readings this Sunday describe God’s work of liberation for those who are vulnerable. Isaiah portrays the coming of God in terms of the healing of the blind, the deaf, and the lame. James notes that God chooses the poor to be rich in faith. In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus heals a deaf person who has a speech impediment. The readings remind us of the acute struggles of the disabled, the excluded, and the poor. In the last year and a half, the pandemic has reminded us that we are all vulnerable, that illness and death are near us always. Today we hear that God’s presence is revealed when God lifts us up, and when we join God to lift each other up. Our care for others, especially those in greatest need, can be our grateful response to God’s healing of us in our own vulnerability.

BLESSING FOR ALL

The story of the deaf man related in today’s Gospel is one of several descriptions of extraordinary healings in this part of Mark’s Gospel. Mark leads readers to understand that in Jesus, God is fulfilling the divine promises prophesied by Isaiah: “the ears of the deaf (will) be cleared . . . the tongue of the mute will sing.” When the deaf can hear and the mute can sing, this sign of the coming of God means that the gifts of sight and hearing are now available, not only for the individuals involved, but for their families and the whole community around them.

There is a “ripple effect” of blessing extending well beyond individual healing. Those isolated by deafness and speech impediments could now fully participate in common life. With their inclusion, the community itself receives healing. In the Gospels, salvation is always inclusive and wholistic. God brings blessing to one small part of creation, so to extend blessing to all of creation.

BOTH LOVE AND CRITIQUE

For those who first heard today’s passage from the letter of James, it probably struck a nerve. James challenged the local church’s treatment of the poor as compared to the rich. It might strike a nerve for us too, because we live in a society where the wealthy are very much privileged, and the honoring of wealth is deeply ingrained in our cultural value system. James warns the church not to imitate the class distinctions made in the broader society. The Gospel proclaims that we are all equally God’s children.

The church typically lives in a particular place and within a dominant culture. The church is always called upon to reflect upon its faithfulness to the Gospel, discerning whether it absorbs cultural values and attitudes that conflict with the Gospel. The church is called to love and nourish the culture, and at the same time to speak in critique of its idolatries. These challenges continue in our own parish communities, here and now.

TODAY’S READINGS

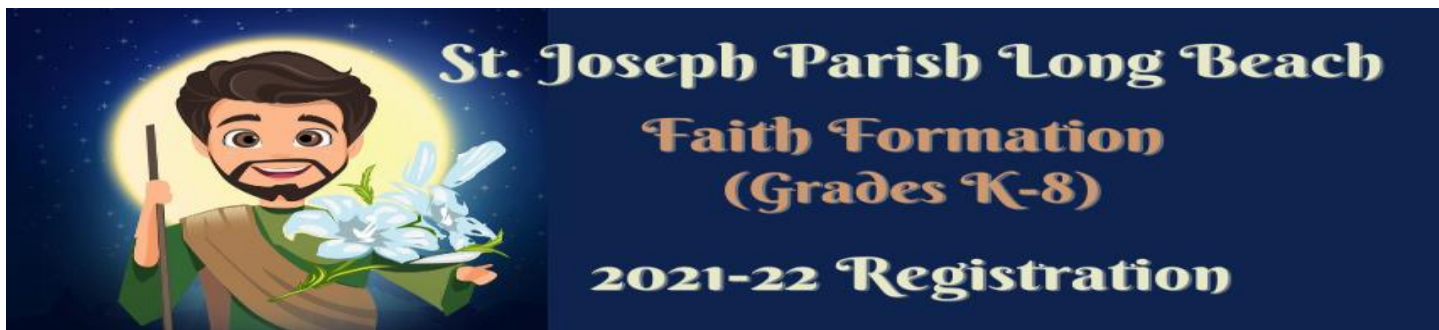
Isaiah 35:4-7a
Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
James 2:1-5
Mark 7:31-37

SEPTEMBER

5
2021

Twenty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

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Healing the Blind Man by Václav Mánes
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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 (Kindergarten)

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: **Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 7 pm**

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.

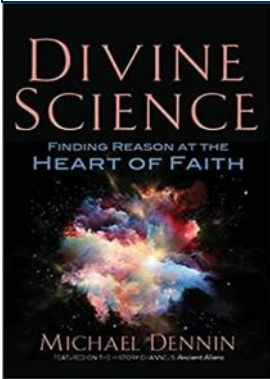
Confirmation meets on selected Sundays from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., September through June. Open to all high school students Grades (9 – 12)

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





Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, September 14th at 7pm. We will discuss: **Divine Science, Finding Reason at the Heart of Faith** by Michael Dennin

Physicist Michael Dennin explains that science and faith do not have to live in conflict and inspires you to accept that you can be a person of faith and of science.

All are welcome!

For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com



Safeguard The Children



Understanding the VIRTUS® “Protecting God’s Children” program

Child sexual abusers often target nurturing, child-friendly environments, where parents and participants assume that no one would ever want to harm a child. Religious organizations are prime examples. The Catholic Church has adapted the VIRTUS® Protecting God’s Children program to send a message to potential predators that child sexual abuse is not tolerated. Through this program, adults learn that through early identification, awareness, and education they can be “proactive” in protecting children and young people from child sexual abuse. For more information, request a copy of the VIRTUS® article “Protecting God’s Children” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.



Movement For A Better World

“You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.” 2 Cor 9:11.

Food from the Heart, Thank You! Many thanks for the parish’s generous support of last weekend’s Food from the Heart family food drive. We donated 35 large boxes of food and \$1,130 from which additional food items were purchased for Catholic Charities of Long Beach.

Sept. 25-26 – Feed-a-Baby Food Drive:

Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities and New Life Beginnings of Long Beach. **Can you help?**

Please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please skip a meal weekly, donating that savings in support our mission. One of many examples are 325 sandwiches and lunches made weekly for Catholic Charities of Long Beach. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church and Skip-a-Meal on the memo. There is also a Faith Direct option for online giving.



RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



**Sunday, Sept. 12th
9:30 AM in the Hall**

For more info, contact Olga
at olga@stjosephlb.org

RCIA is a program for any non-baptized adult interested in becoming a Catholic. It is also for adults baptized in the Catholic faith (or in another Christian faith), who would like to complete the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist.

RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry, where you can find out what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. If you, or anyone you know, would like to find out more please come to our **RCIA Open House** on Sunday, Sept. 12th at 9:30 AM in the Parish Hall (immediately following Mass on the Grass).

All parishioners who have gone through RCIA at St. Joe's are invited to join us – bring a friend!

Come-and-See what RCIA is all about !

Our Refuge in Our Time of Need

*Lord my God,
in you I take refuge;
rescue me.*

—Psalm 7:2

Almighty God and source of life, we cry to you in our distress and beg you to show your kindness to those who are suffering from the destruction of Hurricane Ida.

We pray for those who have died, that they may be at peace with you forever; and for their loved ones who are grieving, that they may be comforted in their loss by your presence in those who care for them.

We pray for those who have suffered injury, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual, and ask you to heal them.

We pray for those who have lost their homes, whose families are separated and scattered, that you may shelter them.

We ask you to strengthen us in our own time of need and to give us the courage to reach out to help others who are also in need.

We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calmed the stormy sea. Amen.

Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles

Cordially invites you to attend the
Prayer Service in honor of the

250TH ANNIVERSARY

of the founding of Mission San Gabriel Arcángel

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 8, 2021

San Gabriel Mission

428 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776

The outdoor event begins in front of the mission church



Opening Mass of the

"FORWARD IN MISSION"

Jubilee Year

11 a.m. Saturday, September 11, 2021

Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

555 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mass begins on the Cathedral Plaza with the
Rite of the Opening of the Holy Door

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