

St. Joseph Parish

September

26

2021



Any who give you a
cup of water to drink
because you belong to Christ,
amen, I say to you,
will surely not lose their reward.

Mark 9:41

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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
Deacon Tom Halliwell

sfcuda@yahoo.com

tom.halliwell@la-archdiocese.org

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Office Manager:

Julie Gianessi

Faith Formation Director: Joe Voigt

(562) 598-0519

religioused@stjosephlb.org

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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	(562) 594-4657
Director of Music	Vivian Doughty	(562) 594-4657
Eucharistic Ministry	Michelle Reyes	<i>emohcschedule@gmail.com</i>
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

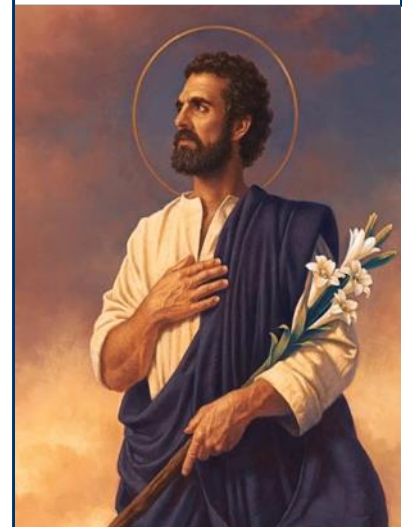
Sunday
Mass on the Grass
Outdoors
8:30 a.m.

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:

Welcome to the season of Autumn! As the days shorten and the darkness of night grows longer, the light of Jesus Christ is always there for you!

Do you like flowers, banners, colors, Christmas trees, Easter lilies and displays? Do you love the seasons of the Church: Easter and Christmas, Lent and Advent? Has God endowed you with a creative spirit and energy? Do you have time to volunteer at this time in your life, to give back to your church and parish family? St. Joseph's is looking for someone to serve as the Liturgical Environment Co-Ordinator. Your role is to collaborate with a team of people to decorate our sacred spaces so that the liturgy calls all of us to a deeper "full, conscious and active participation in the liturgy." The description of this ministry is included in this bulletin. If you believe that the Lord is calling you to this ministry, or have any questions, please call me or send an e-mail through our Parish Office Manager Brenda at 562-594-4657 or brenda@stjosephlb.org

I along with our parish community express sincere gratitude to Alexis Lewis who has served and volunteered as the Liturgical Environment Co-Ordinator for the past 16 years! Alexis, thank you for the many gifts and the ways that you have decorated our sacred spaces so that we could meet the Lord! Your parish family is praying for you!

Next weekend, I will be away attending the annual meeting of the Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre in Nevada. For over 30 years, minus one year during Covid, I've collaborated with this group supporting the Christians and the Lord's Holy Shrines in Jerusalem and the Holy Land. The tension filled conflicts in the Middle East call us to pray and strategize new ways to support the dwindling number of Christians in the Holy Land. Please welcome the visiting Priests who will support your spiritual needs next weekend.

I'm praying for you and your families!

Fall Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin



Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 26, 2021

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;
the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple.

— Psalm 19:8



September 26, 2021

Twenty-sixth
Sunday in Ordinary Time

© J.S. Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved. Photo: a child gives water to an elderly woman; Renata Sedmakova / Shutterstock.com

**Any who give you a cup of water to drink
because you belong to Christ,
amen, I say to you, will surely not lose their reward.**

Mark 9:41

THE FREEDOM OF GOD

Today’s readings remind us that God is free: God acts as God wills regardless of what human beings might expect. In the reading from Numbers, God’s spirit enters two men, Eldad and Medad, even though they had not been with the others who had received the spirit of God. And in Mark’s Gospel, Jesus endorses an unknown exorcist, who did God’s work in the name of Jesus but was not officially sanctioned by the disciples. That God’s spirit is shared widely does not threaten Moses or Jesus. They celebrate the notion that God’s spirit blows where it wills. Moses was shaping the people of Israel, and Jesus similarly was shaping the community of disciples, to encounter a radically free God who doesn’t fit their preconceptions. This encounter, when received with humility, widens their vision and deepens their faith. God continues to shape the Church similarly today, to open us up to God’s freedom.

LOOK WITHIN

A wrestling match of sorts takes place in this section of Mark’s Gospel. Jesus tries mightily to describe what it will mean to be his followers, and the disciples try mightily to avoid the subject. They point to an outsider, and the dangers he poses. Jesus turns the tables and asks his disciples to look within themselves: how are they a danger to Jesus and his work? Jesus uses graphic language, invoking self-amputation, to underscore his point.

Sometimes our most difficult obstacles lie deep within. Like our hands and feet, some attitudes and habits are deeply a part of us, and their removal would be traumatic for us. Yet we know that some beliefs (such as idolatries based on race, wealth, or gender) or behaviors (such as addictions) seriously harm ourselves and many others. We need a prayerful, non-neurotic watchfulness about our inner life. When necessary, we need a fierce resistance to anything that places us or others in danger.

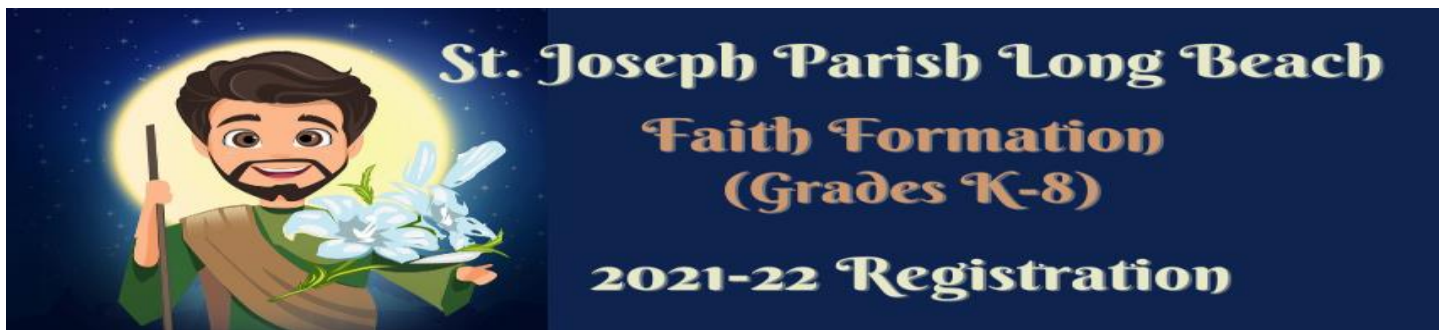
UNITY IN CHRIST

Jesus, in today’s Gospel from Mark, says “whoever is not against us is for us.” Mark was speaking to his own Christian community. From its beginnings, there were tensions in the Church about who speaks for Jesus. Jesus himself always called for unity of heart and a diversity of expression as a sign of the truth of the Gospel. It is no secret that in Christian history and continuing today, divisions have seriously damaged the message and cause of Christ.

In our own time and place, cultural and political divisions have reduced our ability to solve problems and to live together in a just and peaceful society. Perhaps this is a time for Christians to step up, to remember that our unity in Christ is far deeper than the differences that we perceive. We are called to reach out and listen to each other, to honor each other as members of the Body of Christ. Christians can lead the way, and show everyone watching how it’s done.

TODAY’S READINGS

Numbers 11:25–29
Psalm 19:8, 10, 12–13, 14
James 5:1–6
Mark 9:38–43, 45, 47–48



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).





Parish Ministry Opening



LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT COORDINATOR MINISTRY

Liturgical Environment Coordinator (LEC) oversees the environment and decoration of the church and other St. Joseph Sacred Spaces based on liturgical principles and according to the church seasons. The ministry requires some familiarity with church scheduling procedures.

The ministry requires some physical labor and the person needs to be creative, proactive, flexible and work well with people of various skills. The LEC provides supervision during liturgical season preparation of church décor.

As the LEC you will be a member of the Liturgy Committee, and asked to attend meetings as requested. Time commitment varies according to the liturgical season. This ministry for the most part is seasonal, with busy times at Christmas and Easter, which will require a greater time commitment.

If you would like to learn more about this volunteer ministry, please contact Brenda, the Office Manager at 562-594-4657 or email her: brenda@stjosephlb.org



FOREVER A HOLY PRIESTHOOD



Dear Priest Retirement Fund Friend,

As we emerge from this pandemic together as a community of faith, I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and safe.

This year's **Priest Retirement Fund** annual appeal theme, "**Forever A Holy Priesthood**," was intentionally chosen to provide a reverent opportunity to honor in person or loving memory our faith fathers.

The diversity of our archdiocese is vast and so are the backgrounds and heritages of our priests. Ireland, Croatia, Vietnam, Spain, Mexico, and Columbia are just a few countries that represent our retired priests' origins. God has called them, they have served Him well, and now it is time for some to rest or lead in less strenuous capacities.

The **Priest Retirement Fund** provides a financial opportunity to show our gratitude for our retired archdiocesan priests. They have selflessly given years of faithful service to us as individuals, families, or faith communities.

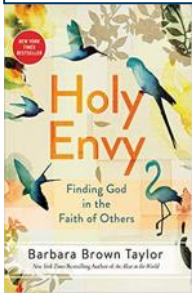
This year, we have **146** retired priests in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, of which **26** are living in assisted living or nursing home facilities. The average age of our retired priests is 81, and most live alone.

Please consider renewing your generous gift today so that we can assist our Fathers of Faith with the burdens of rising medical expenses and increasing costs of living.

Your eternal gift to our aging, holy men who have served the people of God with charity and dignity in our archdiocese will be forever cherished.

Blessings of care,
Dee Smith
Director of Annual Appeals

Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, November 9th at 7pm. We will discuss:

Holy Envy by Barbara Brown Taylor

It is a series of vignettes on Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islamism and Judaism which have influenced the author's view on Christianity.

All are welcome!

For more info, email: agoodlife@msn.com

Safeguard The Children



Keep video games safe

If your children play video games, it is important to know what they are playing and who they are playing with. Although video games may look like a solo activity, many involve teams or groups where players meet online. Talk to your children about what they are playing, and what they are talking about with other players. Remind them about your internet safety rules, and what information they can and cannot share online. You can also research a game's content at the Entertainment Software Rating Board, www.esrb.org. For more information, visit missingkids.org/content/ncmec/en/blog/2021/schools-out-for-summer-gaming-safety-for-kids.html.

Movement For A Better World

"The things we pray for Lord, give us the grace to labor for." St. Thomas More

Thank You! Our sincerest gratitude for the remarkable compassion displayed by our St. Joseph Parish community over this past, extraordinary and challenging program year! The program stewardship information we will distributed at Masses this weekend reports a *25% increase* in assistance to our Long Beach neighbors in need compared to our most recent, pre-COVID program year!

This Weekend – Feed-a-Baby Food Drive:

Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities and New Life Beginnings of Long Beach.

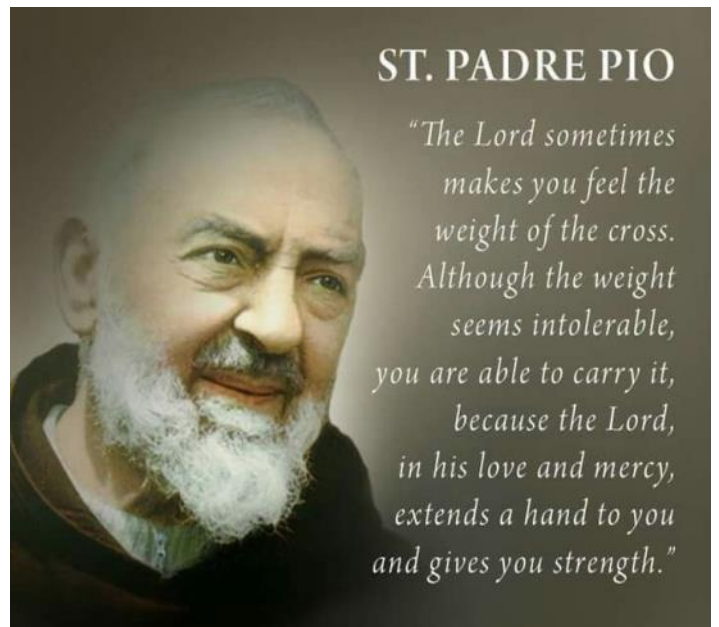
Nov. 6-7 – New Blanket Drive: Collecting new blankets for our Thanksgiving Food and Blanket Distribution and Homeless Ministry.

Family Adoptions: Can you adopt a family on a family-to-family basis for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter? Questions? Please call Donna Luciene at (562) 421-4993 or e-mail Amy Ford at amyford6331@yahoo.com.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest. For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call **Tim Clark (562) 431-4385**.

ST. PADRE PIO

"The Lord sometimes makes you feel the weight of the cross. Although the weight seems intolerable, you are able to carry it, because the Lord, in his love and mercy, extends a hand to you and gives you strength."

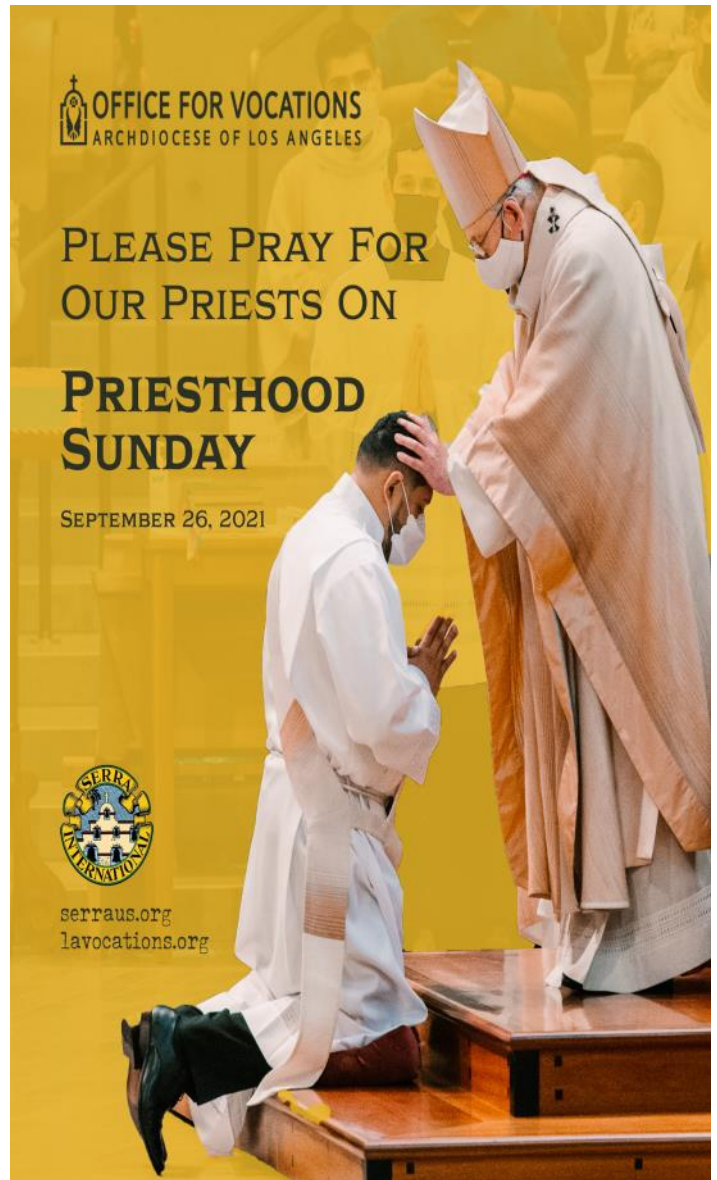




St Joseph School News

St. Joseph Catholic School Student Nondiscrimination Policy

St. Joseph Catholic School, mindful of its mission to be a witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students regardless of race, color, national origin, and/or ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, medical condition, sex, or national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of educational policies and practices, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs, although certain athletic leagues and other programs may limit participation and some archdiocesan schools operate as single-sex schools. While the school does not discriminate against students with special needs, a full range of services may not always be available to them. Decisions concerning the admission and continued enrollment of a student in the school are based upon the student's emotional, academic, and physical abilities and the resources available to the school in meeting the student's needs.



RCIA - The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults



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 contact Olga Cuda at olga@stjosephlb.org

Come-and-See what RCIA is all about !



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For questions, please call (562) 596-6115

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