

St. Joseph Parish



First Sunday of

Advent

November 28, 2021

Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength
to escape the tribulations that are imminent
and to stand before the Son of Man.

Luke 21:36

6180 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815

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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

Our Parish

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High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Marc Leon

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Deacon Shane & Olga Cuda

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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>
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Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	<i>estherministry1@gmail.com</i>
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Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
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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.

Indoor Mass

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m. Indoor

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear St. Joseph's Family:

This weekend we commence the beginning of a new Church Year! We made it! God has created the Season of Advent for us. The word Advent means "Coming" which contains two elements of preparation: we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and we prepare for the end times when we'll meet Christ at the gates of heaven. Last weekend we passed out the Advent prayer reflection books and with all the noise of December, please take three or four minutes each day and your Advent Prayer will be the pause that refreshes!

You may have noticed the two new redwood benches that are outside the East door of the church. Our parish family is grateful to Aidan Kennebeck, a young parishioner who built the two benches from scratch as part of his Eagle Scout project. He also renovated the two white benches that are in front of the church. Aidan's parents, family and friends have been a great support. Thank you, Aidan, for helping to beautify our campus and be assured of our prayers as you continue your journey to becoming an Eagle Scout!

Last weekend we commenced the 12:30 PM Mass with our contemporary musicians/singers and over 150 parishioners returned to worship the Lord. Spread the word that the 12:30 Mass is back and this Mass will continue to grow in faithful participation.

As you prepare your busy December schedule, please note our Christmas schedule of Masses posted below in this bulletin. Our liturgy team took into account that we are in the midst of the pandemic and tried to accommodate all of you! As you plan to attend a Christmas Mass, please invite your family and friends to join you!

Advent Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin



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First Sunday of Advent November 28, 2021

I will raise up for David a just shoot;
he shall do what is right and just
in the land.

— *Jeremiah 33:15*



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24th

Vigil Solemnity of Christmas

4:00 PM – Outdoor Mass in Courtyard

6:00 PM - Mass inside Church

9:00 PM – Mass inside Church

Saturday, December 25th

Solemnity of Christmas

9:00 AM - Mass inside Church

10:30 AM – Mass inside Church

(No 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Today)

Sunday, December 26

Feast Day of The Holy Family

8:30 AM – Outdoor Mass on The Grass

10:30 AM – Mass inside Church

12:30 PM – Mass inside Church



FIRST

Sunday
OF

Advent

NOVEMBER 28, 2021

There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars.
When these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads
because your redemption is at hand.

Luke 21:25, 28

A NEW BEGINNING

Today, whether at evening, morning, or midday, in many communities of different churches around the world, the first candle lighted in each Advent wreath silently but beautifully announces the beginning of a new liturgical year. This new beginning presents a grace-filled opportunity for us to resolve to live not simply according to the secular calendar of our commercialized society, but according to the spirit of the liturgy. There's nothing wrong—indeed there can be something quite holy—about planning to celebrate God's surprising gift of the Son by surprising our loved ones with thoughtful gifts at Christmas. But how important, amid the rush of holiday preparations, to take the time and to make the effort to appreciate Advent's early twilights and later sunrises, awash in the purples, deep blues, and even the dusky rose colors we associate with Advent. Thus we let nature's own "Advent" prompt reflections on the "Advent" that Jeremiah saw coming.

IMAGES OF THE END-TIMES

How forcefully today's scriptures challenge us to attend to the ominous nature of the Kingdom's definitive in-breaking! The call echoes through Jeremiah's prophecy: "In those days, in that time" and in Paul's letter: "at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his holy ones. Amen." The theme intensifies toward a crescendo in Luke: "there will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth . . . dismay and perplexity." People will be scared to death—literally—"in anticipation of what is coming upon the world," as "seas and waves roar" and "the powers of heaven will be shaken." And all of this will be just a prelude to "the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory." In the face of this "awful" (that is, filled-with-awe) ending, Jesus warns his disciples to guard against two equally debilitating extremes, both of which seem to be trademarks of our contemporary culture: deadening diversion on one hand, and frantic anxiety on the other.

PREPARATION FOR THE END-TIMES

In light of these predictions of frightening end-times, Jesus advises us to embrace his three-fold "Preparation for the End Program": (1) "Beware!" that is, be aware of what really matters, life's true priorities. (2) "Be vigilant at all times," that is, watchful for Christ's coming not only at the end but in the meantime, in family and neighbor, friend and stranger. (3) Above all, "pray." Prayer, communion with God, will help us to remember that for faithful disciples, The End of this world—or our own lives, whichever comes first—will be The Beginning of a joy no one can take from us, fullness of life that will never end. How lovely if this Advent's renewal prepared us to look forward to the moment of Jesus' coming—in his glory or our death—not as a cataclysmic disaster, but as a reason for which to "stand erect and raise (our) heads (in joyful expectation) because (our) redemption is at hand."

TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 33:14-16
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:2
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

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Blessing of the Advent Wreath



The use of the Advent Wreath is a traditional practice which has found its place in the Church as well as in the home. The blessing of an Advent Wreath takes place on the First Sunday of Advent or on the evening before the First Sunday of Advent.

When the blessing of the Advent Wreath is celebrated in the home, it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family.

All make the sign of the cross as the leader says:

Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Response (R/.) Who made heaven and earth.

Then the Scripture, Isaiah 9: (lines 1-2 and 5-6) or Isaiah 63 (lines 16-17 & 19) or Isaiah 64 (lines 2-7) is read:

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

With hands joined, the leader says:

Lord our God,
we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ:
he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples,
he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us,
he is the Savior of every nation.

Lord God,
let your blessing come upon us
as we light the candles of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light
be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation.
May he come quickly and not delay.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R/. Amen.

The blessing may conclude with a verse from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel":

O come, desire of nations, bind
in one the hearts of humankind;
bid ev'ry sad division cease
and be thyself our Prince of peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.




Safeguard The Children



Understanding the dangers of carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide is an odorless, colorless gas that is often undetected. More than 400 people in the U.S. die every year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning, and thousands more are hospitalized. When gas builds up in enclosed spaces, people or animals who breathe it in can be poisoned. Consider installing a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector, and have your furnace, water heater, and other gas or coal-burning appliances serviced regularly, along with your chimney. For more information, visit: nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/other-poisons/carbon-monoxide.



**A Prayer for
the First Sunday of
ADVENT**

Great Giver of all that is, show us how much we have received through your abundant generosity. Satisfy our restless hearts with the assurance of your love for us, that we will grow to desire your potter's hands shaping and molding us. Amen.



Movement For A Better World

"The miracle is not that we do this work but that we are happy to do it." St. Mother Teresa

Dec. 4-5: Christmas Present Drive: Envelopes to purchase a gift for a child of one of our 72 parish community supported families will be available at all Masses. **PLEASE return gifts by 12:00 pm, Sunday Dec. 12!**

Dec. 18 - Christmas Food and Present Distribution: As a parish community, we will support 72 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver?** Please contact Tom and Marie Newton (562) 209-1298 or tjn8343@gmail.com.

Family Adoptions: Can you adopt a family, on a family-to-family basis for 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**.

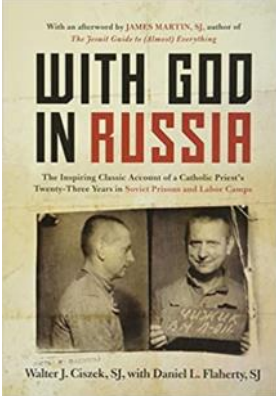
"Advent invites us to a commitment to vigilance, looking beyond ourselves, expanding our mind and heart in order to open ourselves up to the needs of people, of brothers and sisters, and to the desire for a new world."

- Pope Francis





Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, January 11 at 7pm. We will discuss: **With God in Russia** by Walter J. Ciszek

It is the inspiring story of a Catholic priest's 23 years in Soviet prisons and labor camps and his faith in God's goodness to allow him to live through his ordeal.

All are welcome!

For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com



Music Ministry



Do you play an instrument or sing?

Are you called to share your gift of music with the St. Joseph Community? The Music Ministry at St. Joseph's is looking for confident and talented musicians and singers to support the band at the 12:30pm Sunday Mass as well as to Cantor at other Masses. If you are interested, please reach out to the Parish Music Director, Vivian Doughty, before or after Mass, or call the Church and leave a message (562) 594-4657

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.

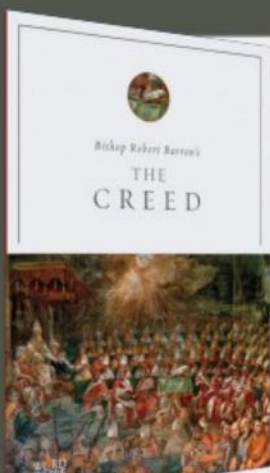
RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry, where you can find out what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. If you, or anyone you know, would like to find out more please contact Olga Cuda at olga@stjosephlb.org

Come-and-See what RCIA is all about !



Bishop Robert Barron's newest study program

THE CREED



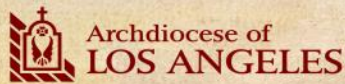
Recent decades have witnessed a surge of the religiously unaffiliated, especially among young people. Many former believers have simply turned their backs on Christianity and no longer accept its teachings. But what are those teachings?

In *The Creed*, a new film series blending documentary conversations and dynamic talks, Bishop Robert Barron guides viewers into the depths of the Nicene Creed, a fourth-century statement of faith that has profoundly influenced Christian spirituality, theology, and liturgy in both the East and West.

Explore the meaning of “belief” and whether it contradicts reason; the creative love of God the Father; the shocking mystery of his Son’s Incarnation, and the great drama of his Crucifixion and Resurrection; the life-giving power of the *Spiritus Sanctus*, or “holy breath,” shared between them; and the mystical reality of the Church, which calls all of humanity out of the world of sin to receive forgiveness and participate in Christ’s divinity—not only in the next world but here and now.

The keys that unlock the beliefs of the Christian Faith are stated succinctly in the Nicene Creed, which we pray at every Sunday Mass. Born at the Council of Nicaea in the Fourth Century after intense debates, this formal statement of faith is the foundation of both eastern and western Christianity. And to this day, most Christians around the world would subscribe to it.

Please join us as we explore the Creed with Bishop Robert Barron in a new study beginning Thursday, January 13 at 7:00pm. To register, please email mike@stjosephlb.org or text 562-370-0769 to reserve your materials. The cost for the study materials is \$15. Registration is open until Friday, January 7th so please reserve your seat and materials as soon as possible. Sessions will be held using Zoom and the details will be provided to those registered prior to starting.



Archdiocese of
LOS ANGELES

90th Procession and Mass in honor of

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE ALWAYS FORWARD IN MISSION AND HOPE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

10:30am | *Procession* | Corner of Cesar Chavez Ave. & Ford Blvd.

1:00pm | *Mass* | East Los Angeles College Stadium

1301 Cesar Chavez Ave. | Monterey Park, CA 91754

Presided by Archbishop José H. Gomez

For more information: (213) 637-7235 | guadalupela.org



PILGRIMAGE OF THE IMAGES OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE AND ST. JUAN DIEGO

OCTOBER

- 15 to 21 - Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles
- 22 & 23 - St. Catherine of Alexandria, Avalon
- 24 & 25 - St. Martha, Huntington Park
- 26 & 27 - St. Gregory the Great, Whittier
- 28 & 29 - St. Mary of the Assumption, Whittier
- 30 & 31 - Mission Santa Inez, Solvang

NOVEMBER

- 2 & 3 - St. Rose of Lima, Simi Valley
- 4 & 5 - Mission Basilica San Buenaventura, Ventura
- 6 - Santa Clara Cemetery, Oxnard
- 7 - St. Mary Magdalen, Camarillo
- 8 & 9 - Sacred Heart, Lancaster
- 10 & 11 - St. Joseph the Worker, Winnetka
- 12 - St. Elisabeth, Van Nuys
- 13 - San Fernando Mission Cemetery, San Fernando
- 14 - St. Charles Borromeo, North Hollywood
- 15 - St. Patrick, North Hollywood

NOVEMBER

- 16 & 17 - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Irwindale
- 18 - San Lorenzo Ruiz, Walnut
- 19 & 20 - Maria Auxiliadora, Lincoln Heights
- 21 - Resurrection, Los Angeles
- 22 & 23 - St. Alphonsus, Los Angeles
- 24 - Our Lady of Victory, East L.A.
- 25 & 26 - St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Los Angeles
- 27 & 28 - Holy Cross, Los Angeles
- 29 & 30 - St. Columbkille, Los Angeles

DECEMBER

- 1 - Precious Blood, Los Angeles
- 2 - St. Kevin, Los Angeles
- 3 - San Gabriel Mission Arcángel, San Gabriel
- 4 - Our Lady of Solitude, East L.A.



LA County Health Department safety restrictions will be followed at the event. All attendees are required to wear facial masks, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status. Restrictions may change prior to the event or additional restrictions may be imposed. Please check for information and updates on safety protocols and requirements prior to attending at Guadalupela.org or scan the QR code.

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