

St. Joseph Parish



Fourth Sunday of
Advent

December 19, 2021

**Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit,
cried out in a loud voice and said,
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”**

Luke 1:41-42

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

Office Manager
Pastoral Council
Finance Council
Safeguard The Children
Parish Bulletin Editor
Website Coordinator

Brenda Pineda (562) 594-4657
Anne Weaver (562) 594-4657
George Zuluaga *Zuluaga@aol.com*
Tony Burgos (562) 596-6115
Brenda Pineda *bulletin@stjosephlb.org*
Mike Santy (562) 370-0769
msanty@verizon.net

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

(562) 596-6115

siknights.net

Fax: (562) 596-6725

Assistant Principal:

Sonia Yurak

Office Manager:

Julie Gianessi

Faith Formation Director: Joe Voigt

(562) 598-0519

religioused@stjosephlb.org

Children's Formation (age3-8th Grade)/CLOW:

Joe Voigt

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	<i>csanjose@aol.com</i>
Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(562) 857-3880
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198

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

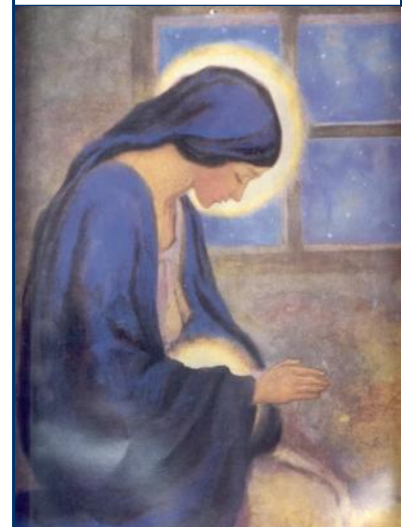
Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

As we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent, we light our final Advent candle as a reminder that the Lord is near. We've navigated through another year of the pandemic and the Lord is always with us.

For the schedule of Christmas Masses, see below. I look forward to welcoming you and your family to the celebration of the Lord's Nativity.

On behalf of our Pastoral Team, we extend to you and your family greetings of Christmas joy! May the Christ Child watch over all of you and keep you safe and healthy!

Thank you for your support of my ministry among you and know that I will remember you and our St. Joseph's family in our Christmas Masses.

Love and Prayers in Christ,
Msgr. Kevin



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Fourth Sunday of Advent December 19, 2021

O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand has planted.

— *Psalm 80:15–16*



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24th

Vigil Solemnity of Christmas

4:00 PM – Outdoor Mass in Courtyard

(Please bring your own lawn chair)

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



FOURTH Sunday OF *Advent*

DECEMBER 19, 2021

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

Luke 1:39-40

INCARNATION AND PASCHAL MYSTERY

For years, Catholic spiritual writers have drawn our attention to the Christmas liturgy’s subtle—and not-so-subtle—linking of Christ’s incarnation with his paschal mystery. In the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke, there are countless intimations of the Passion and cross. The saints of the Christmas octave, dubbed “comites Christi,” Christ’s companions in suffering, form a royal honor guard of martyrs and others who bore witness at great personal sacrifice to the Child we hail as “Prince of Peace,” while the wood of the manger evokes the wood of the cross. But these days, sadly, in the wake of seemingly endless mass shootings at schools, we need no reminders of how close in real life are the cradle and the cross. May our hearts find, if not answers, at least comfort in the prophet Micah’s reminder that, from the pain of a woman’s labor came forth the Child who is our incarnate peace.

COMFORT AND SALVATION

All of today’s scriptures seem to declare Christmas’s “comfort and joy.” Micah declares that, as small as Bethlehem is, the child born there will bring peace that “shall reach to the ends of the earth.” Hebrews proclaims that, despite pain and suffering, the “offering of the body of Jesus Christ” saves us all. In today’s Gospel, bearing the Christ Child within her, Mary, barely more than a child herself, immediately, unselfishly sets aside her own preoccupations—and as a betrothed but as yet unmarried mother-to-be, how many they must have been—to travel in haste, over dangerous terrain, a four-day journey (the scholars say) from Nazareth to Ain-Karem, to the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

BLESSED

Then, just as David leapt and danced before the ancient Ark of the Covenant that bore precious signs of God’s abiding presence, so John leaps in his mother Elizabeth’s womb as Mary arrives, a living ark bearing God’s living presence. Elizabeth joyfully greets Mary in words that we pray daily in the “Hail Mary”: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Why Mary is so “blessed” Elizabeth then explains: “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Likewise, we may dare hope to be “blessed” for “believing that what was spoken” to us “by the Lord”—Jesus’ promise of mercy—will be fulfilled as we share God’s mercy with everyone. For by reason of our baptism and, more immediately and repeatedly, because of our participation in the Eucharist, we too bear within ourselves the living Christ. To whom, or to what situation, do we need to bear Christ this Christmas? Indeed, throughout the year, how selflessly do we set our own concerns aside? How eagerly—“in haste”—do we, disregarding difficulties, traverse whatever dangerous terrain needs conquering to be of service to another?

TODAY’S READINGS

Micah 5:1-4a
Psalm 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

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Safeguard The Children



Fire safety: Close before you doze

If there is a fire in your home, there is a 900-degree difference between a closed door and an open one. Firefighters recommend that you always close doors before you and your children go to sleep. Remembering the simple phrase “Close before you doze” can help prevent toxic gasses and flames from getting in your room, giving firefighters more time to rescue you. Closing your children’s doors before bed is a quick, easy step to keep them safe — and provides an extra layer of security when coupled with working smoke alarms and a family safety plan. For more information, visit momsoncall.com/knowledge-center/close-before-you-doze/.



Movement For A Better World

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” Mt 18:5

Christmas Present Drive: Thank you for supporting our gift drive!

This week - 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 e-mail 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.

A Prayer for
the Fourth Sunday of
ADVENT

Mother Mary, pray for us, that we might be inspired by the way you received your life and God's. Draw us close to your Son, that we might trust Him with our lives, as He learned to trust His Father by His trust in you. Amen.

For it is in giving
that we receive.

— Francis of Assisi

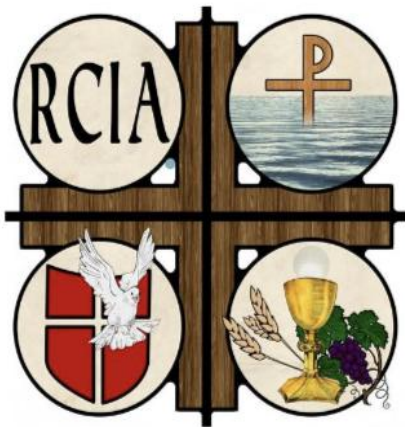
CHRIST: THE LIGHT WHO SCATTERS THE DARKNESS

A star blazed forth in the sky, outshining all the other stars, and its light was indescribable, and its novelty provoked wonderment, and all the starry orbs, with the sun and the moon, formed a choir round that star; but its light exceeded that of all the rest, and there was perplexity as to the cause of the unparalleled novelty.

This was the reason why every form of magic began to be destroyed, every malignant spell to be broken, ignorance to be dethroned, an ancient empire to be overthrown--God was making His appearance in human form to mold the newness of eternal life!

St. Ignatius of Antioch,
Epistle to the Ephesians #19 (107 A.D.)
(Disciple of St. John the Apostle)

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.

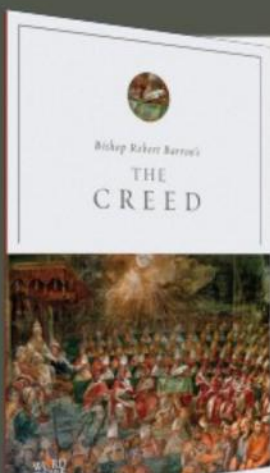
RCIA begins with a period of Inquiry, where you can find out what the Catholic Church teaches and believes. If you, or anyone you know, would like to find out more please contact Olga Cuda at olga@stjosephlb.org

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.

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