

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASTER,
TO WHOM
SHALL WE GO?

— JOHN 6:68 —

Our Parish

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Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

5:00 p.m.

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30 p.m.

Inside Church

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time. This Sunday we meet Joshua, who has led the Israelites into the promised land. He reminds them about all the miracles that God has performed in their lives, leading them out of slavery in Egypt, journeying through the desert, and finally crossing the Jordan River into the promised land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Joshua asked the Israelites, “Who are you going to serve?” That question is always meant for us to hear and answer. Every day we awake the question is, “Who are we going to serve today?” Of course, we are going to serve God and maybe today you can think of the many small miracles that have taken place in your life that have drawn you closer to God in your faith journey.

This Monday, we commence another year of spiritual and academic life for the students of Saint Joseph’s elementary school. While many public, Catholic and private schools are seeing decreasing enrollments, we are blessed! Arriving on campus tomorrow will be 330 students, an increase from 314 students last year! Welcome back and may all our students in Saint Joseph Parish grow in wisdom, age and grace!

Last Sunday, after all the Masses, hundreds of you stepped onto the construction site and saw the progress that we are making in the renovation of our parish hall. Thanks for stopping by and thank you to all the families who have made a generous donation to support this major renovation. Below are a few of the photos from last Sunday!



Our parish thanks Fr. Memo for being with us these last three weeks. This Friday he will begin his new faith journey as the Associate Pastor at Saint Joseph the Worker Parish in Winnetka, a wonderful community in the San Fernando Valley. I know his ministry will flourish as he’s going to a wonderful home named after Saint Joseph!

Blessings this last week of August,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Therefore we also will serve the LORD,
for he is our God." (Jos 24:18)

Psalm:

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord. (Ps 34)

Second Reading:

This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.
(Eph 5:32)

Gospel:

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life." (Jn 6:68)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Many followers of Jesus could not accept his teachings. To those that remained, he posed a simple question: "Do you also want to leave?" He asks us the same, every moment of every day. Let us answer with confidence, in all that we do: "Only you have the words of eternal life."

Observances for the week of August 25, 2024

Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Monica
Wednesday:	St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday:	22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i (1840–1889) cared for the physical, medical, and spiritual needs of those exiled to the leper colony on the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i. His life of service shed light on the effects of this devastating disease and allowed people to see those afflicted with it with more compassion and love.

Prayer of Declaration

Lord,
In the season when faith is hard,
help me to be as bold as Peter
who picked you above all others
saying, "To whom shall I go? You
have the words of eternal life."
You're my God.
I'm yours.
There is nowhere else I would
rather be.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 25, 2024

Sunday:

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Monday:

2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday:

2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday:

2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 23:27-32

Thursday:

1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 6:17-29

Friday:

1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday:

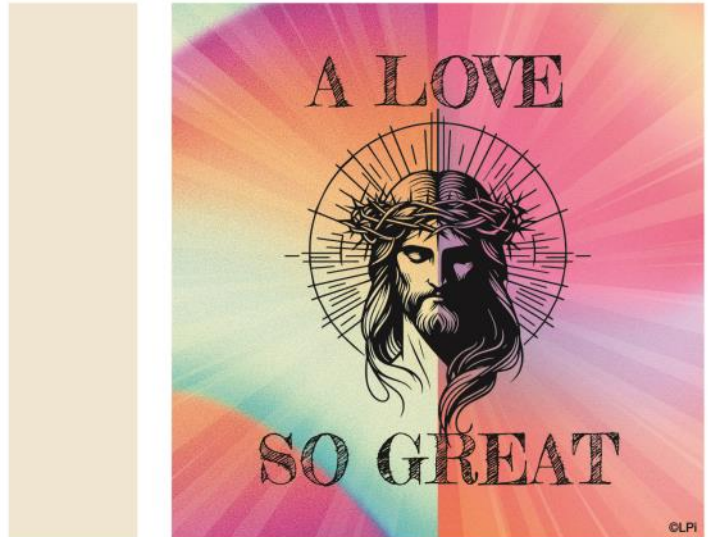
1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday:

Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The famous Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky said, “Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing.” In the Gospel reading this week, Jesus does something harsh and dreadful — he watches his own disciples abandon him. What could possibly be loving about that?

Well, we notice the context is Jesus’ teaching about eating and drinking his body and blood. His followers hear this and say, “**This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?**” (John 6:60). We shouldn’t imagine we’d do anything different, because not even the ones who stay, like Peter, seem to understand what Jesus is saying. Then we hear this devastating line, “**Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him**” (John 6:66). Besides the night of the Last Supper, only now do Jesus’ disciples abandon him. And, painfully, Jesus just lets them go.

The best way to make sense out of this is love. Jesus is God’s love in action. He wants to become one with those whom He loves. He wants to love them as His own body. Yes, the oneness manifested in the Eucharist sounds harsh and dreadful because it is rooted in love which is willing to risk abandonment and separation to attain its goal: to be one body with the beloved. It is both terrifying and wonderful that Jesus will risk losing us in order to be one with us. Our response? Lord, we cannot grasp a love so great, but please help us never to abandon it, either.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2024 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Testimonials From Parishioners who have attended Welcome Christ Renews His Parish at St. Joseph Church

I am a "Cradle Catholic", with both parents practicing Catholics. My father was an "Irish Immigrant" who came to this country in June 1929, had to work Sundays but always went to another parish for Sunday Mass (6 AM), so he would get to work on time. I had both a Catholic Grade School (Sisters of Mercy) and Catholic High School (Christian Brothers) education. My mother would make sure my 4 brothers and I attended the adult Sunday Mass after we graduated from the elementary school. So, for most of my adult life, I felt that I didn't need a retreat to strengthen my faith.

By attending the "Welcome Christ Renews His Parish" I heard the various struggles and experiences of other men who, by their recounting those struggles and changes in their habits, both improved their practice of the Catholic faith and made them better spouses, fathers, and human beings. Those stories reinforced my faith and moved me to make sure that I always understand but not judge all other persons.

Overall, I believe the time was well spent and I am thankful I was able to do it.

Brian Connell

I attended the first women's retreat here at St Joseph. What a game changer. The retreat was fabulous and participating deepened my faith. My prayer life has improved and I am reading the Bible more often.

The best part is my new group of sisters in Christ from the retreat. The group is really special and we still meet monthly because we love the fellowship and connection to our new friends. I HIGHLY recommend this retreat for all men and women at St Joes!!!

Donna Gilchrist

Men's Weekend Register Now October 19th and 20th, 2024

To learn more and to sign up,
visit our parish website Or

<https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/>

Did You Know?



Teach children to evaluate sources

Your children will likely spend a significant amount of time online. All sources are not created equal, so teaching them to evaluate the information online is critical. Using concepts appropriate for their age, teach your children to consider the expertise, motive, and relevance of the information they consume. Being able to separate fact from fiction, and to evaluate the quality of the information received, will help your children assess truth. For more tips, read the VIRTUS® article “Keeping Kids Safe Online By Teaching Them to Evaluate Sources” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

St. Joseph Grief Support

Grief support



If you think you can't survive grieving, and Your dreams feel shattered, consider joining

Our support groups:

Tuesday 9:30-11:30 a.m. each week beginning **July 30- October 29.** Contact May Pace, Bereavement Minister, maypace@gmail.com Or 562/833-6370

OR

Wednesday 7-8:30 p.m. each week beginning **July 31st.** Register at www.griefshare.org/groups/241498 . Contact Liz Ferletic-Frith at elizfrith@gmail.com or 714/488-4524

Women's Silent Retreat



Ladies of the parish! Our annual silent retreat weekend is upon us! Join your sisters in Christ for a refreshing and peaceful weekend at Sacred Heart Retreat House with the Carmelite sisters. The dates are September 13-15, 2024 and spaces fill up quickly. Signing up is easy. Go to www.sacredheartretreathouse.com to register. Please call Marie Newton at 562-209-1298 or Madeline Majick at 562-596-6219 if you have questions or need assistance.

Seniors Group



Our next get together will be at the El Dorado Restaurant on Monday, September 9th at 9:30. Join us for a nice time catching up with old friends and meeting new friends. When you arrive, tell the server that you are with St. Joseph and he/she will direct you to the area we are gathering in. Everyone will order and pay for his/her own breakfast. We look forward to seeing you there. And for future reference, we will be meeting there the 2nd Monday of every month, at the same time, until the hall is finished.

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"True power is service. We must serve all people, especially the poor, the weak and the vulnerable." -

Pope Francis

Food from the Heart: Thank you for your generous support of our Aug 3-4 food drive! We collected over 20 shopping carts of food and \$1,050 in cash donations from which additional food was purchased for Catholic Charities of Long Beach.

Sept 21-22, Feed-a-Baby Food Drive: We will collect non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence, and New Life Beginnings of Long Beach.

Coordinators Needed: *Helpers are available!*

- Christmas Present Drive
 - City of Long Beach, Multi-Services Center. Monitor support opportunities. Coordinate monthly, Coffee in the Park at the facility.
 - Food Buyer, Holiday Food Distributions
- For many fulfilling ways to serve, big and small, call Tim Clark, 562-431-4385.



In Memoriam

Andy Saenz

Funeral Mass at All Souls
Tuesday, September 3rd at 1:00pm

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

~Amen~

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Most Wednesday evenings and
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Further Information:

Leave a message for Vivian at the office 562-594-4657

If you have other musical gifts and talents to share, please reach out to Vivian



Book Club

RICHARD ROHR

Jesus'
Alternative
Plan
THE SERMON ON
THE MOUNT

Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, November 20th
at 7pm on Zoom

Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount by Richard Rohr O.F.M. (September 6, 2022 updated edition)

"Acclaimed spiritual leader and Franciscan priest Richard Rohr explores the implications of Christ's best-known teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, offering a fresh perspective on what it means for Christian life today." [Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount: Rohr O.F.M., Richard: 9781632534163: Amazon.com: Books](#)

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