



## ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6180 E WILLOW ST. LONG BEACH, CA 90815 | 562.594.4657 | STJOSEPHLB.ORG

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**

## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT



John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." - Lk 3:16



# 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**





## Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family,

Welcome to the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete or Rejoicing Sunday! We are called to live the Gospel with joy! We will hear Saint Paul tell us to pray with Thanksgiving, and to ask for what we need, because we know that a praying community will do everything possible to ensure the good of all!

Next Saturday, December 21 is our Christmas gift distribution event which will be held at Saint Cornelius Church, located at 5500 E. Wardlow Rd. The cross street is Bellflower Blvd. Please gather at 8:15 AM as our brief program starts promptly at 8:30 AM. As of this date we are still in need of 17 more drivers. If you could give 1-2 hours next Saturday to bring joy to a needy family, please scroll down this e-bulletin for further information and sign up. Delivering the Christmas gifts will help make it a Best Christmas Ever event!!

As you are planning your Christmas Eve/Day schedule please scroll down to view our Christmas Mass schedule and include a Christmas Mass in your family gathering!

I've also attached a Blessing of the Christmas Tree ceremony for your family to incorporate in your Advent rituals. Gather around the tree with your family or by yourself and be reminded that the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree is a reminder that Christ is the Light!

Our Confirmation team is looking for volunteers for our Confirmation Year One Away Retreat on January 18 and 19<sup>th</sup>. If you can help at the retreat site or if you're short on time you can help with check-in here at Saint Joseph's on January 18. If you're interested and want more details, please contact Liz, our Confirmation Coordinator in the parish office. Thank you for supporting our youth in their faith journey!!

Let's pray for one another as Advent winds down and all the Christmas preparations are taken care as we prepare to celebrate the Birthday of Christ our Savior!

Advent Blessings,  
Msgr. Kevin





# *Christmas*

## MASS SCHEDULE

**TUESDAY, DEC. 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

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25TH**  
**SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS**

9:00 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH

10:30 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH





# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a mighty savior;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness. (Zep 3:17)

### Psalm:

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and  
Holy One of Israel. (Is 12:6)

### Second Reading:

The Lord is near.  
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God. (Phil 4:5-6)

### Gospel:

The crowds asked John the Baptist,  
"What should we do?" (Lk 3:10)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Give. Love. Act with justice. This, says John, is how to  
live out your repentance. As Christmas approaches, be  
"baptized" by these words of God's greatest prophet.  
Let them fill you with new life as you await the coming  
of Christ.

## Observances for the week of December 15, 2024

**Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent

**Saturday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the  
Church

**Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent



## Saint of the week

Blessed Alexandrina Maria de Costa (1904-1955) became paralyzed after jumping from a window to escape an attack. She suffered the passion of Jesus each Friday for several years and would survive on the Holy Eucharist alone for 13 years until her death.

## Prayer with St. John the Baptist

Through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, help us to remember the least fortunate, and how caring for them shares in the caring of the beloved Christ-child. Bring Your generosity into our community.

Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 15, 2024

### Sunday:

Zep 3:14-18a/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (6)/  
Phil 4:4-7/Lk 3:10-18

### Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and  
7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/  
Mt 1:1-17

### Wednesday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/  
Mt 1:18-25

### Thursday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab,  
16-17/Lk 1:5-25

### Friday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/  
Lk 1:26-38

### Saturday:

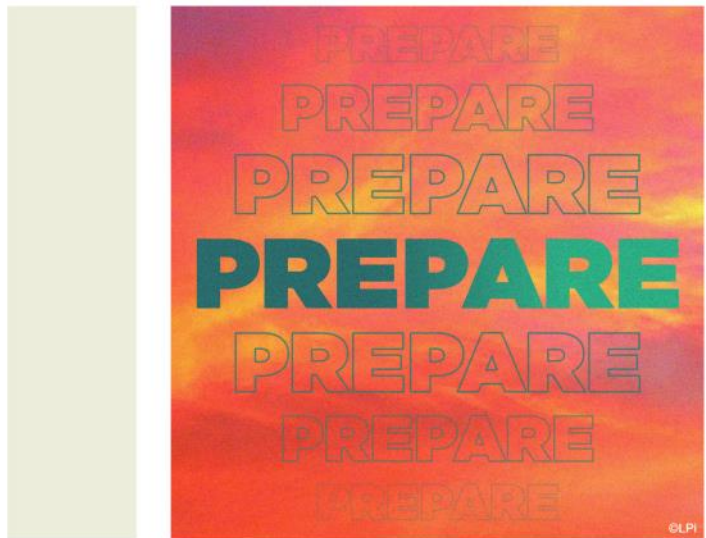
Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,  
20-21/Lk 1:39-45

### Next Sunday:

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 (4)/  
Heb 10:5-10/Lk 1:39-45



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

On a bright Spring morning, a passerby once saw St. Francis of Assisi hoeing a row of beans and asked him, “What would you be doing right now if you knew this was the last day of your earthly life?” The Saint responded, “I’d keep hoeing this row of beans.” Preparing for this world to end — whether by our death or by Jesus’ glorious coming — invites us to live not in the past or the present, but deeply in the present moment.

This same point is on display in the simple advice given by the wild and eccentric John the Baptist. He speaks of the one who is to come who will baptize **“with the Holy Spirit and fire”** (Luke 3:16). Despite the bizarre awesomeness of this announcement, he tells his listeners to engage in the present moment with simple acts of justice and love as their preparation for Jesus’ coming, sharing their clothes and food, eliminating greedy and underhanded practices, being content with their wages. It’s so undramatic. But how many actually did it? We don’t know. How many of us will commit ourselves to these types of humble and demanding practices in our lives? That’s what we should be doing now in our present moment, not worrying about the future.

Advent challenge: Name one way you are doing the bare minimum towards others in your daily life. Or name something you are doing because you are not content with your financial situation. Pray: “Jesus, if it is your will, help me to stop doing these things this week. Help me prepare for your coming.” Then make the appropriate changes.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPi





## Parish Year-end Giving

Thank you all for your continuing generosity to St Joseph and its ministries. Many of you will be considering your Christmas and year-end giving. In addition, to traditional contributions through envelopes or Faith Direct, please keep in mind other opportunities available to you such as:

Gifts of appreciated assets – Gifts of securities, stocks and bonds directly to St Joseph's may provide tax advantages when transferred to a St Joseph Church – Long Beach before they are sold. If you have held your securities for more than one year, you may find that your gift may provide a twofold tax benefit—creating an income tax deduction and avoiding the capital gains tax that would have been due upon their sale. For more information see <https://lacatholics.org/stock/>.

IRA Charitable Contribution - If you are over 70 ½ you may be able to make a gift to Saint Joseph Church – Long Beach through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). To determine if you qualify, please contact our office or your Financial Advisor for details. <https://lacatholics.org/individual-retirement-account/>.

If you decide to utilize one of these methods, please be sure to indicate your donation should go to Saint Joseph Church – Long Beach. If you have any questions, please contact the Parish office.

Please be mindful of distribution request deadlines required by your custodial institution.

Your St Joseph Finance Council



Ask yourself these questions -  
Do you feel that there is something missing  
from your life?  
Are you struggling to find clarity and  
purpose in a busy world?  
Would you like to meet more people in the  
parish?  
Would you like to strengthen your faith?  
Do you want to be a better version of  
yourself?

You're invited to experience a weekend like no other right here at St. Joseph Church! A weekend filled with spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. Learn how to become a better version of yourself as you uncover the path to true happiness. This is the best gift you can give yourself!

Please visit our parish website for more information and to sign up.

[www.stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/](http://www.stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/)



# Thank You

Sending a big 'thank you' your way for your generosity and thoughtfulness to my family and I over these few months. Your kindness is truly appreciated. May the Infant Jesus keep you safe in His love this Christmas season. From Vivian Doughty.





**"Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth." 1 John 3:18**

**This Weekend Christmas Present Drive:** Please return gifts to the Parish Life Center or church by Dec. 15 at 12:30 pm.

**Dec. 22 - Christmas Food and Present Distribution:** As a parish community, we will support 79 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver? We will meet at St. Cornelius.** So meaningful to kids! Please contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 or [jmsalinaz@yahoo.com](mailto:jmsalinaz@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.

## 'Tis the Season for Christmas Music!

### Christmas Weekend Music Schedule

Get into the holiday spirit with our choir leading classic and contemporary Christmas songs. Full schedule below.



#### Christmas Eve:

**4 pm Mass:** (courtyard) will be led by Vivian, Edward & Gia

**6 pm Mass:** (church) will be led by members of the 12:30pm contemporary band.

**8:15 pm Concert in the Church:** will be performed by 10:30 am choir. We will offer a series of beautiful Christmas Octavos intermingled with traditional Christmas Caroling.

**9 pm Mass:** (church) will be led by 10:30 am choir

#### Christmas Day:

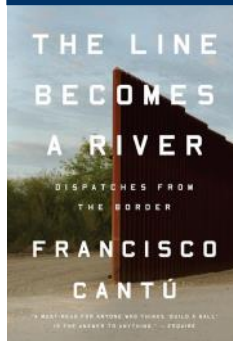
**9 am Mass:** (church) will be led by Vivian, Leah & Aria

**10:30 am Mass:** (church) will be led by Vivian

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is **Wednesday, February 19th at 7pm on Zoom**

**The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border**  
by Francisco Cantú

"A personal, unguarded look at border life from the perspective of a migrant and agent, recommended for those wishing to gain a deeper understanding of current events." —

*Library Journal*

Amazon.com: The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border: 9780735217737:

Cantú, Francisco: Books

All are welcome. For more info, email [agoodlife@msn.com](mailto:agoodlife@msn.com)

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# Annual Christmas Dinner

FOR THOSE ALONE ON CHRISTMAS DAY

WEDNESDAY **25** DECEMBER




**Dinner RSVP by phone: 562-296-9029**

Or Email: [SHChristmasDinner@sainthedwig.org](mailto:SHChristmasDinner@sainthedwig.org)

Reservations are required by December 21



## Senior Group



**Our next get together will be at the  
El Dorado Restaurant on  
Monday, January 13th at 9:30 am.**

Lets welcomer in the new year together. Please 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. For future reference, we meet there on the 2nd Monday of every month, at the same time. Looking forward to seeing you!



### CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH US 18th Annual Nativity Exhibit

Each year, we invite the community to view our international nativity exhibit. This year, the exhibit presents examples of St. Joseph's role in the Christmas story.

Joseph is an important figure in the Christian faith though his appearance in the Nativity scene is often as a supporting player. Joseph is essential to the story- without him the Family would not have traveled to Bethlehem for the census and been there for the Birth. Joseph, the protector, kept Mary and the Child safe and raised Jesus to young manhood. The image of Joseph has changed over the centuries and this year we look to him as central to the Holy Family, and to each family.

Please join us this year and see what we can learn about Joseph through our display and programs. We are delighted to welcome all to our grounds and share the hospitality of the season.

#### EXHIBIT DATES AND HOURS:

MON, DEC 9 - SUN, DEC 22, 2024  
Sunday - Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Friday & Saturday 9:00am - 9:00pm

#### BREEZEWAY STROLL-BY:

After hours, and for an extended period.  
MON, DEC 9 - SUN, JAN 5, 2025  
Monday - Sunday Anytime

Admission is free -  
our special gift to you.  
Donations are always  
appreciated.

#### EVENT DETAILS



For event info contact José at 310-377-4867 ext. 250, [jsalas@maryjoseph.org](mailto:jsalas@maryjoseph.org)  
MARY & JOSEPH RETREAT CENTER 5300 CREST ROAD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES, CA 90275



IF THIS CHRISTMAS IS SOMETHING YOU'RE  
DREADING BECAUSE YOU LOST SOMEONE DEAR TO  
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BECAUSE GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

**WHEN?** TUESDAY DECEMBER 17th 9:30 TO 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH (PLC) 6180 E. WILLOW

**CONTACT:** MAY PACE, BEREAVEMENT MINISTER

562/833 6370

## Did You Know?

**NO**  
**IS A COMPLETE**  
**SENTENCE**

**"No" is a complete sentence.**

A critical boundary to learn for yourself and for your children is the word "no." Saying "no" to something you are uncomfortable with, or that you know is wrong, is sometimes the hardest thing to do, but it is so important. "No" is a complete sentence and should be honored by anyone listening. This is a great way to teach children how to listen to their friends and respect what they hear. This teaches children personal autonomy, which can extend to a child saying "no" to unwanted touches or behavior and potentially protect them from abuse and harm. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "When Boundaries Abound, Our Lives Can Flourish" at [lacatholics.org/did-you-know/](https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/)





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