



ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and 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." - Lk 1:41-42



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

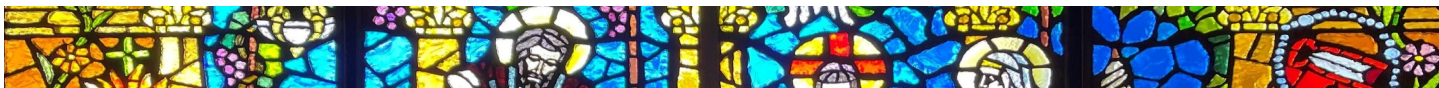
9:00 PM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 25TH
SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

9:00 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH

10:30 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the Fourth and Final Sunday of Advent! This Advent week is shortened due to the arrival of the Great Feast of Christmas! In this Sunday's Gospel, we encounter the Visitation when a pregnant Mary goes to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who is pregnant with John the Baptist. May the words of these two holy women become ours – "May we who believe what the Lord has spoken to us be fulfilled!"

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

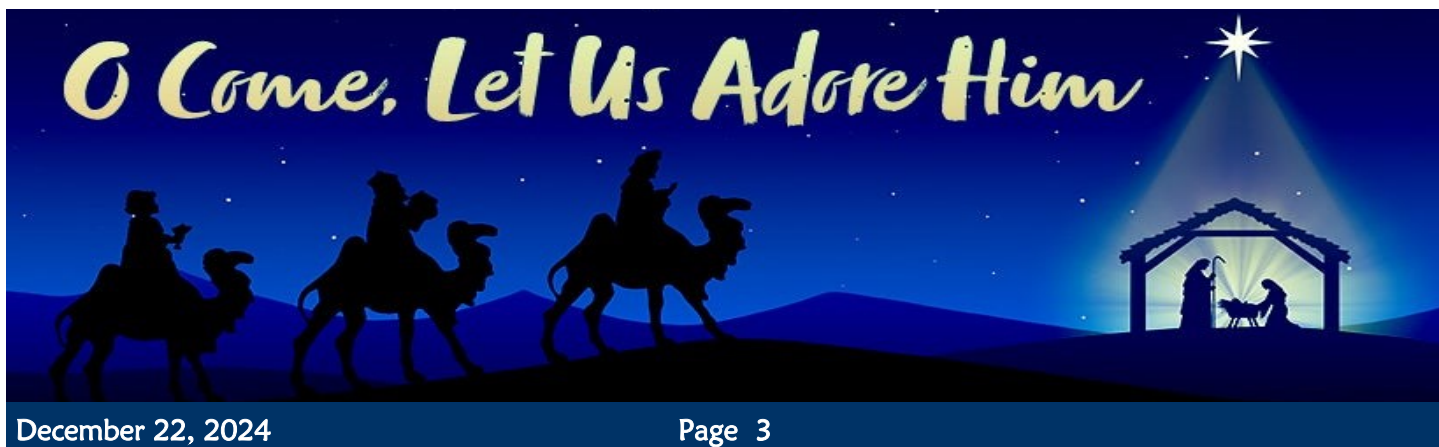
I've also attached a Blessing of the Christmas Tree ceremony for your family to incorporate in your final Advent rituals – scroll down! Gather around the Christmas tree with your family or by yourself and be reminded that the beautifully decorated Christmas Tree is a reminder that Christ is the Light!

Thank you for praying and discerning your annual Christmas gift to your St. Joseph's Family and may your generosity symbolize your appreciation of all the gifts our Lord has given to you!

Know that you and your family will be remembered in the St. Joseph's Christmas Masses and I'm praying that the joyful and peaceful Spirit of Christmas will fill your loved ones and homes!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Love and Prayers in Christ,
Msgr. Kevin





Blessing Of A **CHRISTMAS TREE**

(Begin with the tree lights off)

My Brothers and Sisters,

Amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

Intercessions:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

℟. Lord, give light to our hearts.

With confident faith let us pray as Christ taught us:

All: Our Father...

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord God,

Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.

May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.

May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

℟. Amen.

(Turn the tree lights on)



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

Gospel:

"And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (Lk 1:43)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Blessed are you who believed," Elizabeth tells Mary.
Do we believe? When we hear the voice of God
whispering in our heart, do we listen — or do we
ignore, out of fear and uncertainty? This last week of
Advent, follow Mary's example, and believe.

Observances for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent
Monday: St. John of Kanty, Priest
Tuesday: Christmas Eve
Wednesday: The Nativity of the Lord
Thursday: St. Stephen, First Martyr
Friday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist
Saturday: The Holy Innocents, martyrs
Next Sunday: The Holy Family



Saint of the week

St. Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586), the pearl of York hid priests and allowed Mass to be celebrated in her home, a criminal offence at the time. She was pressed to death. Margaret was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of 40 martyrs of England and Wales.

Prayer for Advent Joy

Dear Jesus,

The news of your coming was met with boundless joy — fill us anew with the wonder of your presence. You are Emmanuel, God with us.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 22, 2024

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10
and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday:

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

Wednesday:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or
1:18-25 *Night:* Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12,
13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14
Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/
Lk 2:15-20 *Day:* Is 52:7-10/Heb 1:1-6/
Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Jn 1:1-18
or 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday:

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6
and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Friday:

1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12/
Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday:

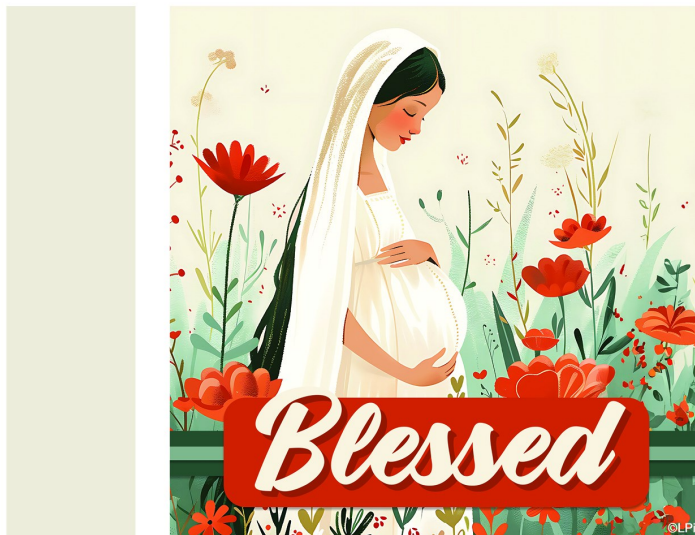
1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/
Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10
(see 5a)/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

The Blessed Virgin teaches us the secret to being blessed, happy, and full of joy. When Elizabeth, her cousin, greets her, she calls Mary “blessed” for two reasons, her motherhood of Jesus, and Our Lady’s belief that **“there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord”** (Luke 1:45). Mary is “blessed” entirely because of her relationship to the Incarnation of God in Jesus, and for no other. This of course makes perfect sense, because as the Lord, as God-in-the-flesh, her son is the source of all blessedness, life, and joy. Mary is blessed because of her contact with Jesus, and by her faith in him.

So, it is with us, too. We become blessed by our “motherly” contact with Christ in our souls through baptism. He lives in us and grows to maturity within us. We bear him to the world. This requires unshakeable faith that his promises to us will be fulfilled, despite all the problems and difficulties that plague us. We become blessed, happy, and joyful in the measure that we are in contact with Jesus and trust in him.

Advent challenges: 1.) This week go to someone who has borne the love of Jesus to you and tell her or him how they have been a blessing to you. 2.) Name someone in your life now to whom God has sent you to bring Jesus’ presence. Pray: “Lord, thank you for the blessing of sending me to bring your presence to this person. Help me bear you faithfully to him/her.”

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024 | 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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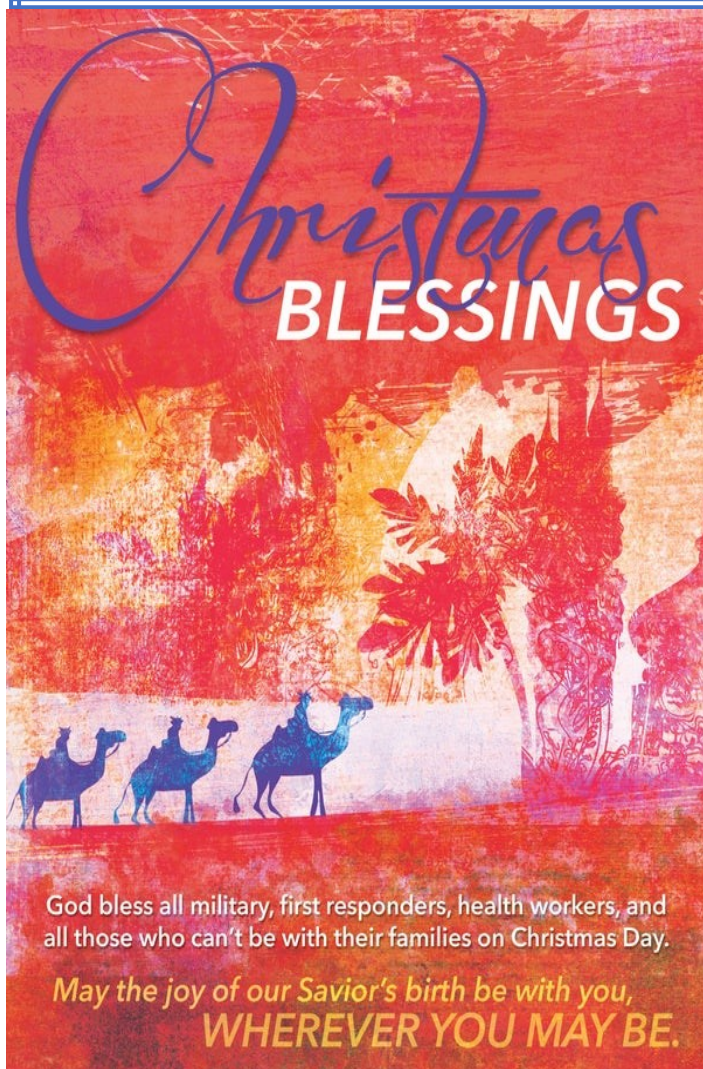


Ask yourself these questions -
 Do you feel that there is something missing
 from your life?
 Are you struggling to find clarity and
 purpose in a busy world?
 Would you like to meet more people in the
 parish?
 Would you like to strengthen your faith?
 Do you want to be a better version of
 yourself?

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/



'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!



"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God." 2 Cor 9:11

Christmas Food and Gifts: Our most sincere **THANK YOU** to everyone that contributed to our Christmas Present Drive Dec. 14-15. We collected over 450 gifts for our Parish Community supported families! Our Adopting Families provided over 150 MORE!

Along with four or more boxes of food, these presents were distributed this weekend to 108 families in need! 4,500 lbs. of food was provided by way of over \$6,000 in Skip-a-Meal donations and our School's food drive. Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Home Furnishing Special Needs: Our holiday distributions provided feedback of many basic home furnishing needs by our supported families; refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, heaters, immanent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to fulfill these needs as a parish. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Jan. 18-19: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available Jan. 11.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CELEBRATION!

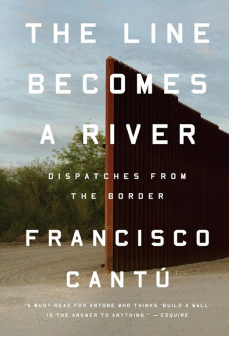
A heartfelt thank you to our 2nd-grade class for planning a wonderful Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass. The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe reminds us of God's boundless love. In 1531, the Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego, a humble indigenous man, sharing a message of hope and unity.



A special thank you to Mariachi Aventurero de Los Angeles for gracing us with their incredible talent and passion. Your music made the event unforgettable!




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

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!

Called to Renew

November 2024 Called to Renew Fundraising Report

Parish Name	St. Joseph Parish
Parish Goal	\$935,000.00
Total Pledged	\$2,872,476.81
*Total Paid	\$2,811,011.42

St. Joseph Grief Support

Grief support



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

Tuesday 9:30 -11:30 a.m. each week beginning
January 28th, 2025. Contact May Pace,
Bereavement Minister, maypace@gmail.com
Or 562/833-6370

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.

Did You Know?



Red flags in gift giving

“Tis the season for giving and receiving gifts, but some gifts are inappropriate for children to receive from adults. Talk to your children about appropriate gift giving – who they should give presents to and who they do not need to give to. Discuss when they should accept a present or not. This would be a good time to establish family rules about gift receiving. For example: friends and family may not accept gifts outside of established holidays, like a birthday or Christmas. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “An embarrassment of riches: establishing a framework for gift giving to kids” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



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siknights.net

Fax: (562) 596-6725

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Madison Alba

Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

(562) 598-0519

marc@stjosephlb.org

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Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Johnson

High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Liz Moreno

OCIA:

Sr. Eva

sreva@stjosephlb.org

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(562) 594-4657

Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

(562) 594-4657

Eucharistic Ministry

Tonet Risko

riskotonet@yahoo.com

Lectors

Steve Koppenheffer

(714) 299-6644

Meditation

Frank Mckown

(310) 633-1744

Esther Ministry

Virginia Young

estherministry1@gmail.com

Hospitality Ministry

Deborah Rollinger

(562) 594-4657

Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

(562) 431-4385

Senior Group

Marilyn North

(562) 519-0154

Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

(702) 401-5247

Engaged Encounter

Paciano & Molly Diaz

Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net

Natural Family Planning

Greg & Beth Gath

(562) 377-5877

Precious Life Shelter

Cynthia San Jose

csanjoselaw@aol.com

Boy Scouts

Jeff Baer

(562) 537-6722

Sacristans

Joe Dang

(562) 493-2198

Homebound Ministry

Patty Brunter

pjbstampin@aol.com

Bereavement Ministry

May Pace

(562) 833-6370

Cursillo

Tom & Marie Newton

tjn8343@gmail.com

Parish Fair

Conny Frost

sjparishfair@gmail.com

Environment

Jessica Gil

bpax.g4@gmail.com

Family Altar Servers

Monica Wissuchek

stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com

Welcome Christ Renews His Parish

Diane Ohde

stjlbwelcome@gmail.com

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.





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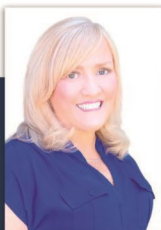
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