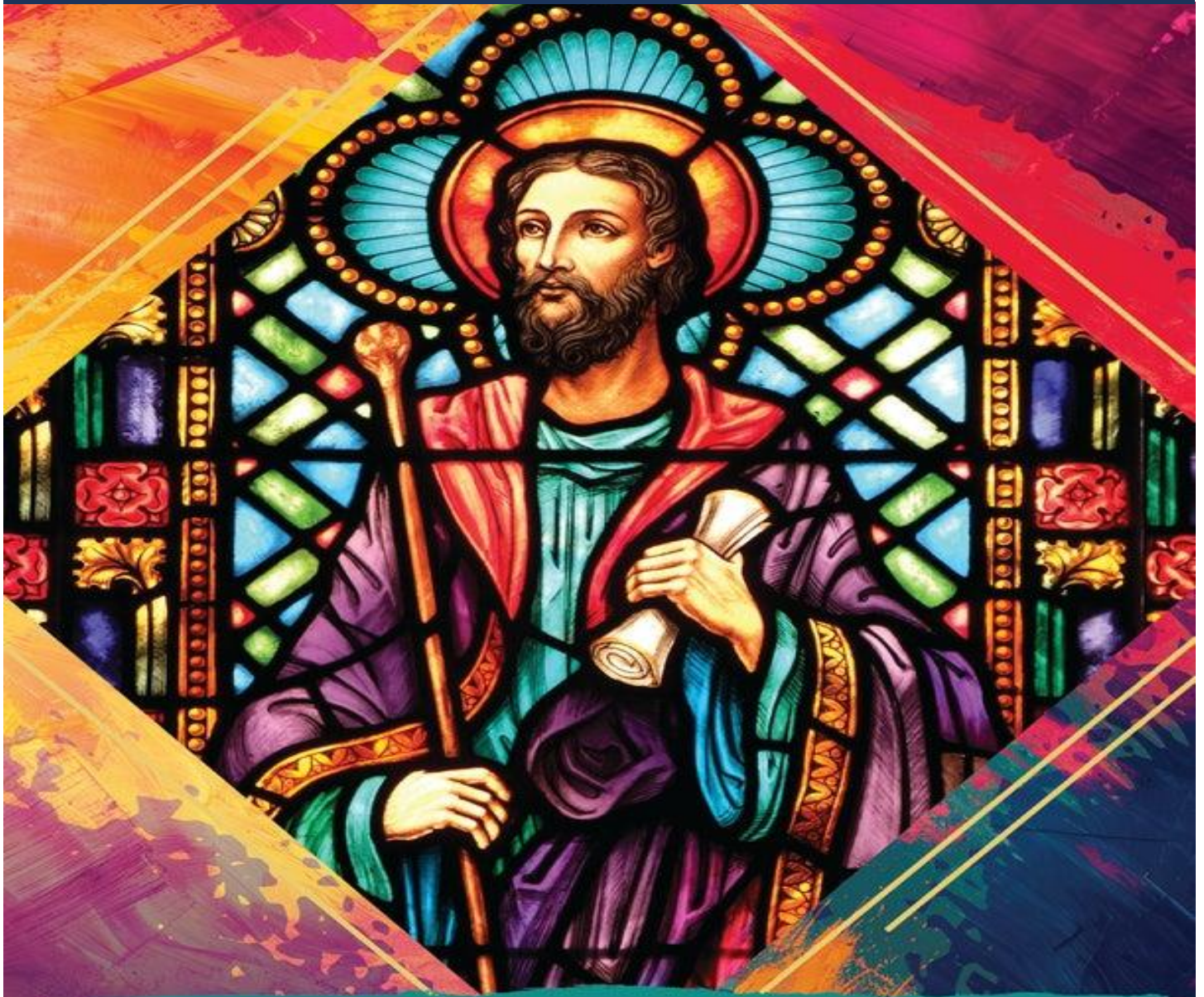


St. Joseph Parish



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.
- Lk 4:18

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

sfcuda@yahoo.com

Deacon Tom Halliwell

dcntom@stjosephlb.org

Sr. Eva (Adult Faith Formation Director)

sreva@stjosephlb.org

Office Manager

Brenda Pineda

(562) 594-4657

Office Assistant

Joyce Castaneda

(562) 594-4657

Pastoral Council

Shelley Padilla

(562) 594-4657

Finance Council

George Zuluaga

Zuluaga@aol.com

Safeguard The Children

Parish Office

(562) 594-4657

Parish Bulletin Editor

Brenda Pineda

bulletin@stjosephlb.org

Website Coordinator

Mike Santy

msanty@verizon.net

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

(562) 596-6115

sjknights.net

Fax: (562) 596-6725

Assistant Principal:

Madison Alba

Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

(562) 598-0519

marc@stjosephlb.org

Children's Formation (1st-8th Grade)

michelle@stjosephlb.org

Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Johnson

High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Liz Moreno

OCIA:

Sr. Eva

sreva@stjosephlb.org

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Baptism Preparation

Brenda Pineda

(562) 594-4657

Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

(562) 594-4657

Eucharistic Ministry

Tonet Risko

riskotonet@yahoo.com

Lectors

Steve Koppenheffer *lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com*

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

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 Third Sunday of Ordinary Time! The Scriptures for this Sunday invite us to follow Jesus who returns to his hometown of Nazareth, where he enters the synagogue and begins to preach. When Jesus announced that he is the Anointed one to carry out all the promises of God, he concludes by proclaiming "Today, the scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing," the hometown folk were scandalized. They all thought they knew Jesus as they had witnessed him growing up in their midst. They suffered from the same lack of faith that hinders many disciples today. Perhaps you know someone who suffers from the same lack of faith, and this weekend you are invited to pray for them.

Last weekend we prayed that we would be granted sufficient rain, and that the winter storms would sustain life all around us. The forecast for this weekend is rain and hopefully our prayers are answered. For those who attend the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass on the grass, please know that if it is raining Mass will be moved into the Church.

PLEASE HELP - I'm forming a new committee to help us come up with guidelines and regulations regarding the use of the hall and gym by Parish and School groups and outside community groups. If you have any experience in hospitality, catering or writing rental agreements, please contact me and I'll be in touch. Please e-mail me at stjoseph@stjosephlb.org with your contact information and a brief description of your experience or expertise. The time commitment would include attending a few meetings this spring. Thanks for helping us to maintain the beauty of our newly renovated hall/gym.

This week we celebrate **Catholic Schools Week 2025**. There will be an Open House on Sunday, January 26 from 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM. This will include an art show and the opportunity to visit our classrooms and see the latest works by our amazing students. Scroll down to see the bulletin announcing all the events for Catholic Schools Week.

Our annual Together in Mission pledge Sunday will be the weekend of February 8-9. Many of you will be receiving the pledge envelope in the mail at home and as we have done in the past, please bring it to Mass, and we will fill out the forms together. Our parish goal this year is the same as last year - \$75,333.00! Thank you for prayerfully considering your annual Together in Mission (TIM) gift. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

Blessings on your week,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God,
interpreting it so that all could understand what was read
(Neh 8:8)

Psalm:

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:12)

Gospel:

He said to them,
"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."
(Lk 1:21)

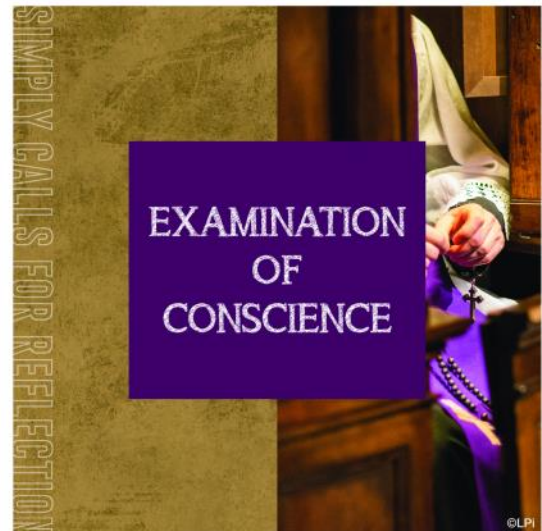
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scripture passage he reads in the synagogue, a missive of promise and hope from an ancient prophet. But he invites us to be part of his work, here and now, in our own lives, our own communities. Be part of the fulfillment.

Observances for the week of January 26, 2025

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
- Monday:** St. Angela Merici, Virgin
- Tuesday:** St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:**
- Thursday:**
- Friday:** St. John Bosco, Priest
- Saturday:**
- Next Sunday:** The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life



Devotions, *Explained!*

The practice of examining one's conscience dates to the very beginning of the Christian faith. It simply calls for reflection on one's actions, making note of lapses in judgment that should be confessed in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Prayer of Mission

Spirit of the Living God,
Anoint me to bring your love,
light, and freedom to the places
you call. From the heights to the
depths: you are there, you are
actively moving, and when you
call, you will also provide.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 26, 2025

Sunday:

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15
(see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30
or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Monday:

Heb 9:15, 24-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4,
5-6/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday:

Heb 10:1-10/Ps 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11/
Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday:

Heb 10:11-18/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 4:1-20

Thursday:

Heb 10:19-25/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/
Mk 4:21-25

Friday:

Heb 10:32-39/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 23-24, 39-
40/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday:

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/
Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday:

Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A young couple in my parish told me they were expecting their second child, a baby boy. I knew that their five-year old only child Emma had been desperately wanting to be a big sister for years, so I said, "Emma must have been so happy when you told her the news." "Actually," they said, "she burst into tears. She wanted a baby *sister*!" How often in life God wonderfully fulfills our desires and we are sad because we don't approve of the way he does it. We want to control the gift and the delivery method.

The same thing occurs in the Gospel this week when Jesus announces in his hometown that the promise of an Anointed One bringing glad tidings to the poor is **"fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21)**. After a moment of elation, his fellow townsfolk realize *this man* is the way God is fulfilling his promises, and they erupt into a violent outburst. So Jesus departs. How sad for them.

Every single Sunday at Mass, including this one, some version of this happens to many of us. God's word announces the fulfillment of God's promises in Christ, and we easily overlook or disdain it. His way is almost never according to our narrow expectations. What's required of us is to set these aside, and to embrace a new openness to God's gifts, no matter how he wishes to give them. God is fulfilling his promises the way He likes — why be sad?

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025 | 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

*Looking for an opportunity to grow in your faith
and meet others in the St. Joseph Community?*



Connect with other Parishioners that have the desire to grow in their faith. Experience Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat weekend. It is an incredible experience that will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it. This is important! Take the time and sign up for the Men's weekend. Women's is currently full.

Openings are still available for Men's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat. Come to the retreat weekend! You will grow in your Faith and it will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it.

Women's Weekend
Full-Waitlist Only
March 1st and 2nd, 2025

Men's Weekend
Register Now
March 15th and 16th, 2025

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

"Thank you for offering the Welcome Retreat. It has helped me reconnect to several good men and get to know others; I feel my sense of community has expanded for the better." Paul Farrell

"I had an amazing experience at Christ Renews His Parish. I met incredible women who shared their spiritual stories with me. I feel closer to the Lord and it deepened my faith and relationship with God." Minnie DeVico

"I attended the Welcome Christ Renews His Parish at St. Joseph in Long Beach. The witnesses that I heard on my retreat were so moving. The men really opened up and shared their backgrounds that made them the men they are today. It was truly an amazing experience. I've never been in a retreat like that where the men were so authentic and so open with their experiences. It is definitely a retreat all men of God should attend and be a part of the renewal of the church." Michael Mantong

To learn more and to sign up,
visit our parish website Or
<https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/>

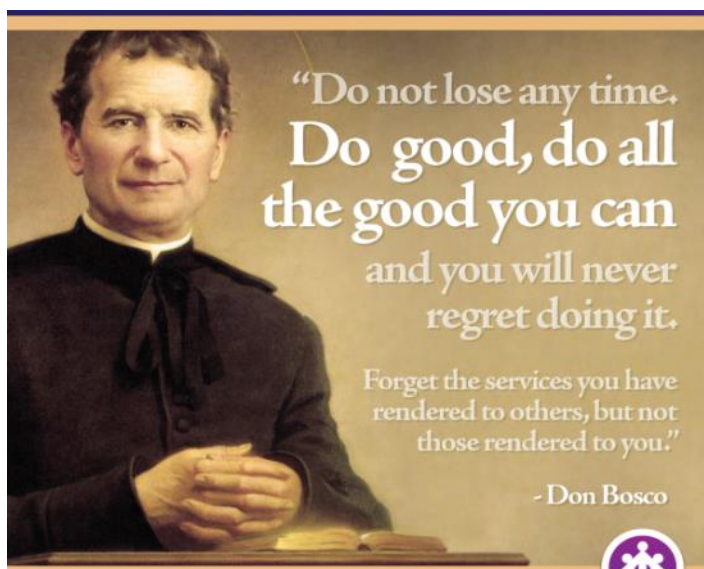


“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” 1 John 3:18.

Homeless Kit Drive: Many thanks to all who supported our homeless kit drive including the School’s kit drive! Jan. 18-19 we contributed supplies for over **225 kits** and **\$565** from which another **40 kits** will be made. These will support the homeless patrons of Catholic Charities of Long Beach and our St. Joseph Homeless Ministry. Please join our next *homeless encampment visits March 30-31!*

Feb. 22-23 Book Drive: Collecting new and gently used reading books for over 315 children of our supported families for Easter.

Opportunities: food drive delivery- deliver food from food drives, purchase additional from cash donations. Homeless kit coordinator: Lead the inspection and deliver homeless kit donations, purchase additional from cash donations. Can you help? Call Tim Clark, 562-431-4385.



Frank Sharkany

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am

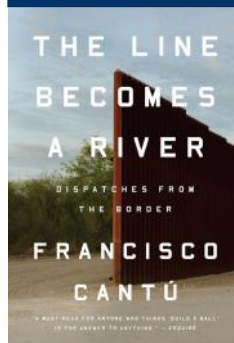
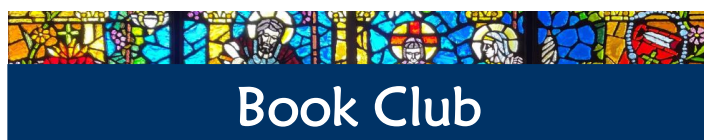
Gloria Sirotnak

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Friday, February 7th at 10:00 am

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~



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, February 10th at 9:30 am.

Let's welcome 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!

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.

Forming Disciples of Christ: Pilgrims of Hope in Action



At Saint Joseph, we nurture the hearts, minds, and souls of our students, guiding them to grow as Disciples of Christ. Inspired by the 2025 Jubilee Year theme, "Pilgrims of Hope," we focus on our students complete development—spiritual, emotional, and academic. Through Gospel-centered lessons and acts of service, we prepare compassionate leaders who bring light to their families, communities, and the world.



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Celebrating Catholic Schools Week: Community and Unity

This year's Catholic Schools Week theme, Community and Unity, highlights the shared mission of parents, grandparents, teachers, and clergy in fostering faith-filled education.

Parents and grandparents, as primary faith educators, play a vital role in guiding children spiritually through prayer, Mass, and daily Gospel living. Their example forms a foundation that supports both academic and spiritual growth.

As a parish community, we are blessed by the commitment of these faith-filled role models who shape the next Disciples of Christ.



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Classroom Snapshots

Miss Elizabeth Masters has been a part of the faculty at Saint Joseph Catholic School for five years, and she has been teaching first grade for three. She enjoys connecting with her students and being able to provide them with a safe space so that they may be able to grow and so that they will love to learn and read. When asked about her philosophy, Miss Masters says, "I wholeheartedly believe in educating the whole child rather than just educating them academically. I also believe in educating them spiritually, mentally, and supporting them emotionally."

In first grade reading, the focus is on phonics, phonemic awareness, blending, and fluency. Students also work on building vocabulary and understanding what they read. For writing, they learn narrative, informational, and opinion writing while practicing punctuation, grammar, and capitalization. In math, Miss Masters teaches addition and subtraction up to 20, place value, comparing numbers, measuring with objects, using tally marks to collect data, and solving word problems to build critical thinking skills.



Ms. Masters
1st grade

"Our school feels like it's one big family. Not only among the students, but also with the administration and the parents."

Responsibility and independence are practiced and encouraged daily in her classroom through routines, organizing supplies, and turning in thorough and neat work. She leads by example; always applying the golden rule and showing her students how to always do the same. Miss Masters firmly believes that the School-Wide Learning Expectations are a crucial part of the experience at Saint Joseph School, as learning to be Tenacious Scholars, 21st Century Learners, and Disciples of Christ are vital abilities that students will remember and apply throughout the rest of their lives. "

By: Juliana and Alexandra - 8th grade



Ms. Yurak
2nd grade

"Everyone in the St. Joe's community is invested—in faith; in academics; and, most importantly, in developing oneself. "

For nearly twelve years, Ms. Yurak has been teaching the Second Grade at Saint Joseph School. In second grade, students learn reading comprehension. Ms. Yurak helps them understand what they read and hear. In writing, they work on paragraphs, grammar, and expressing their ideas. For math, she teaches them how to add and subtract 2- and 3-digit numbers.

Ms. Yurak loves watching her students grow—whether it's solving problems on their own, getting better at schoolwork, doing homework without help from parents, or staying organized with their assignments. She thinks of herself as more of a coach than a teacher. To her, the "team" includes both the students and their parents. Her goal is to push each student to do their best and set high expectations for their future success.

By: Michelle - 8th grade

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Classroom Snapshots

Ms. Perez has been teaching at St. Joseph for thirteen years and loves helping her students grow and learn. She enjoys setting up fun, hands-on centers and incorporates music, art, games, puppets in her classroom to keep students engaged while learning.

In reading, she focuses on teaching letters, sounds, and basic CVC words. For writing, she teaches pencil use and letter formation. In math, she introduces number recognition, counting, patterns, and sorting. She also encourages independence and responsibility by setting clear goals and using positive reinforcement to guide her students.

She believes in the importance of setting clear expectations and using class and individual rewards to help students feel proud of their achievements. Her favorite moments are when students teach her something new or share a fresh perspective. Her goal is to help her students become confident, caring, and creative individuals who are ready for kindergarten and beyond.



Ms. Perez
Alpha K

"I love seeing my students grow in self-help skills and independence throughout the year."

By: George - 8th grade



Ms. Dellavalle
Kindergarten

"I want my students to be happy, respectful, responsible, and kind humans."

Ms. Dellavalle has been teaching at Saint Joseph's Elementary School for 40 years. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing students finally "get it." As she says, "I love seeing when those little lightbulbs go off in their heads."

Ms. Dellavalle teaches important basics like phonics (the sounds of letters), how stories have a beginning, middle, and end, and simple math like addition and subtraction. But more than that, she focuses on helping children become independent and responsible. She teaches them to own up to their actions, try things before saying, "I can't," and be honest.

Students learn to think critically, be responsible, and grow into kind and respectful humans in her classroom.

By: Dylan - 8th grade



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



As we prepare for the 2025 Jubilee Year, themed "Pilgrims of Hope," celebrate this time of grace and renewal with us. Explore how we shape Tenacious Scholars and Disciples of Christ in a 21st-century learning environment. We look forward to seeing you!

Sign up
for your
tour
today!



ST. JOSEPH MASS & OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 26, 2025

Open House following
8:30am Mass



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Zoom - Thursdays at 7:00pm

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PLC and Zoom

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Sr. Eva - PLC

Mike/Chris -Zoom

Registration: \$20

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at 562-370-0769

or mike@stjosephlb.org

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January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month
"Born for such a time as this" Esther 4:14

January is a month when ordinary people worldwide become extraordinary advocates for freedom. A time to shine a light on this hidden crime and take meaningful action against it.

Human trafficking isn't a distant problem or just an overwhelming statistic—exploitation is the reality for tens of millions of victims locally and globally.
We have the power to change this.

Thanks to your donations and support this past year, **ESTHER Ministry**:

- provided direct relief to 27 adult sex trafficking survivors in Long Beach and 10 of their children;
- delivered humanitarian backpacks to homeless women who were displaced after a fire at Lydia House and to other HT street outreach organizations;
- helped furnish and stock a home providing short-term residential therapeutic services for at-risk girls aged 12-17; and
- supplied the Department of Children and Family Services with over 2,500 emergency response items, including diapers, backpacks, school supplies, hygiene products, and comfort items, for at-risk youth in Long Beach.

This crisis is ever-evolving which means we must stay vigilant to know the signs of exploitation, keep up with the trends and be prepared to take action.

[Get and stay educated.](#)

Put your awareness into action and make a difference in the fight for freedom today.

Let's unite to combat human trafficking and inspire change!

TO DONATE – Make your donation to:

St Joseph Church.
6180 E. Willow Street
Long Beach, CA 90815
*Please include ESTHER Ministry
on the memo line*

Questions/Contact Us @
estherministry1@gmail.com



Knights of Columbus

Council 3629

Family Super Bowl Party

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Doors open @ 1:00 PM, St. Maria Goretti Hall

3954 Palo Verde Avenue, Long Beach, 90808

**The Knights of Columbus, Council 3629
Invites you and your family for a day of
Fellowship, Football, Food and Fun!**

RESERVATION: \$10 per person + side dish

FAMILY RESERVATION: \$25 + side dish

(\$25 per family includes 2 parents and all their kids under 21)

A Potluck Side Dish or Dessert to share helps with keeping costs low

Walk-ins without reservations are welcomed at \$20 per person.

RESERVE with Tony Diaz: bstdad2@msn.com thru February 2nd.

**Admission Includes:
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BBQ Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage, Beer, Wine, Water & Soda—All Day

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