

St. Joseph Parish



6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Blessed are you who are now hungry,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who are now weeping,
for you will laugh."
- Lk 6:21

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

stjosephlb.org

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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 6th Sunday of Ordinary Time! This weekend we hear Jesus proclaim a litany of blessings and woes through the words of Luke's Gospel. The scriptures teach us that we should rely on God and community rather than our own plans. If there is suffering around us, offer comfort. We should desire solidarity with victims of war, with migrants and the poor and find humane solutions. Pray and convert Jesus' statements into opportunities for us to make a difference in our world.

Last weekend was the Together in Mission Pledge Weekend and this weekend is the final Follow-Up weekend! Thanks to many of you who made a pledge or a one-time gift to Together in Mission. We'll have the final numbers in a couple of weeks! The theme of this year's appeal was "Gifts of the heart," which was taken from the great Saint Teresa of Avila who once said, "The greatest gift you can give someone is your heart"! If you have not had a chance to make a gift you can scroll down below to the TIM announcement and pledge envelopes are available in the Church! Remember to designate your gift on behalf of St. Joseph Church in Long Beach! Your gift will help support 73 schools and 62 parishes. Thank you for helping us to meet our parish goal of \$78,797.00! Thank you for your generosity, which allows us to demonstrate the compassion and solidarity that define us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Our annual Easter drive to support 108 families is now underway. 315 children will be recipients of the books that you bring for toddler through 17 years of age. We are really in need of books for teens. You can bring them to the church next weekend, February 22 - 23 or to the PLC.

Did you Know? Parish expenses are up! Here's another example: Our assigned assessment to support the ministries and operations of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is \$92,308.00 for the year. Thanks for being generous in the offertory, for using your envelopes or donating through Faith Direct. It helps!

Enjoy this long President's Day weekend,
Msgr. Kevin



Photos From Our Pastor

Walking out of church last week...



Construction continues!



GIFTS of the HEART

2025 ANNUAL APPEAL

Sharing God's
Overflowing Love



Bulletin Annoucement 2025

Together in Mission 2025: Gifts of the Heart Annual Appeal

This year, as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of the Catholic Church, we invite you to make a special gift to Together in Mission to mark this sacred time of renewal and hope. **Together in Mission 2025 "Gifts of the Heart" Annual Appeal** launches with Announcement Weekend on February 1-2, Commitment Weekend on February 8-9, and Follow-up Weekend on February February 15-16, 2025

As one Catholic community of faith, rooted in prayer, let us reflect on how we can support our underserved parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Did you know that one in every five parishes and one in every four Catholic schools rely on financial assistance to continue their vital ministries? Your generosity directly impacts these communities, providing the resources they need to thrive.

This year's cumulative Together in Mission goal is \$16.9 million, representing the collective efforts of our Catholic family across all five regions. Your parish's goal and progress throughout the year can be tracked on the Together in Mission Leaderboard at togetherinmission.org. Let us come together to make a difference and bring the love of Christ to those in need. Please consider making a special Jubilee Year gift to Together in Mission today!

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose hope is in the LORD. (Jer 17:7)

Psalm:

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. (Ps 1)

Second Reading:

If the dead are not raised, neither has Christ been raised,
and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain.
(1 Cor 15:16-17)

Gospel:

"Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours." (Lk 6:20)

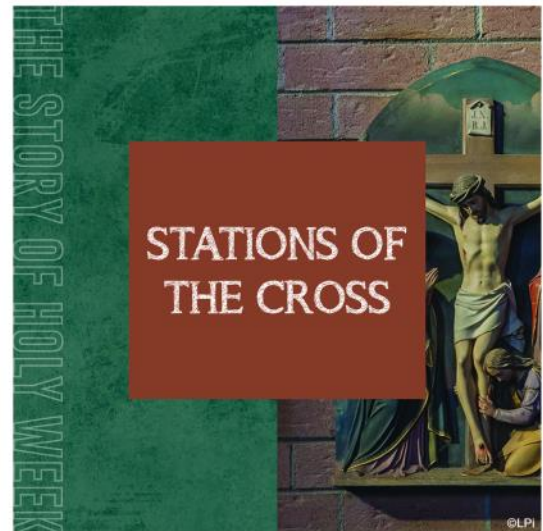
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Too many of us make the mistake of expecting prosperity here on Earth as a reward for following Christ. But Jesus is very clear: sorrow and hardship are a part of life. But when we offer these sufferings to Christ, they become transformed. They become blessed. And so do we.

Observances for the week of February 16, 2025

- Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order;
Presidents' Day
Friday: St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
Next Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, *Explained!*

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have meditated upon Christ's passion and death. Over the centuries, the Stations of the Cross was popularized as a devotional means to experience the places and moments central to the story of Holy Week.

Prayer of God's Blessing

Bless me, Lord, mold my heart
in imitation of Yours.
Bless me, Lord, help me to see
people as You do, and to hear
their needs.
Bless me, Lord, replace my
understanding with Yours.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 16, 2025

Sunday:

Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/
1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

Monday:

Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17,
20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday:

Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4,
3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday:

Gn 8:6-13, 20-22/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/
Mk 8:22-26

Thursday:

Gn 9:1-13/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29
and 22-23/Mk 8:27-33

Friday:

Gn 11:1-9/Ps 33:10-11, 12-13, 14-15/
Mk 8:34—9:1

Saturday:

1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Next Sunday:

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I craved four things as a teenager: success in sports, food, fun and the attention of popular people. However, I noticed that as I acquired them, I was more unsatisfied than before. So, I'd strive even more energetically, achieve more, and the sense of emptiness was greater still. These four things started to feel like burdens or even curses. Soon after, I encountered Christ in my high school youth group. Experiencing his love was totally different than anything those four things previously produced. It produced a lasting happiness.

Jesus utters a kind of four-fold curse in this week's Gospel of Saint Luke's "woes": **"Woe to you who are rich...who are filled now...who laugh now...who are well-spoken of"** (cf. Luke 6:24-26). How marvelous that these correspond perfectly to the four things that obsessed my teenage soul: riches, food, laughter and good reputation. The "woes" the Lord speaks are warnings: when those things are the purpose of your life, you'll be miserable. He is saying, "You'll be happy, or blessed, in the measure that these things do not determine the shape of our lives, and the kingdom of God does."

To some degree, we're all spiritual teenagers, addicted to one or more of those four "woes." How splendid that the Lord wants his to bless us — that is, to satisfy us, make us laugh with joy, and in the kingdom of God, offer us what will truly satisfy us. But first let's admit what is causing our "woes."

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2025 | 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Reconnect. Recharge. Refocus.

"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

"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 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

*Come to the Welcome Christ Renews His Parish retreat weekend!
It's an incredible experience that will help you discover what's
missing in your life and what to do about it.*

Men's Weekend

March 15th, Saturday 8am - 9pm

March 16th, Sunday 8am - 3pm

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

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



“Charity is the form, mover, mother and root of all the virtues.” St. Thomas Aquinas

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

Mar. 30-31 Homeless Visits: The St. Joseph Homeless Ministry group will prepare and distribute food and homeless hygiene kits to 120 of our most vulnerable. Can you help prepare? Distribute to encampments?

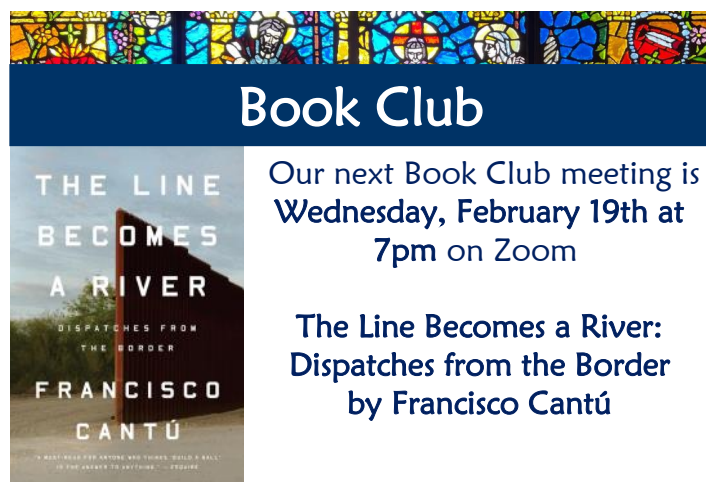
Opportunities: food drive delivery- deliver food from food drives, purchase additional from cash donations. Homeless kits: Inspection and delivery homeless kit donations; purchase from cash donations. For these and many other opportunities to serve, call Tim Clark, 562-431-4385.



Richard Eclarin

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Monday, February 24th at 1:00 pm

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, March 10th at 9:30 am.

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

Contact May Pace,
Bereavement Minister, maypace@gmail.com
Or 562/833-6370

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will be open for 24 hours for prayer and the Sacrament of
Reconciliation from the morning of March 28 through the
morning of March 29.



Visit hope.lacatholics.org/24-hours or scan
here for the locations and schedule.

Follow @LACatholics for more
Jubilee news and events!



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