

St. Joseph Parish



MAY THE SOULS *of*
the FAITHFUL DEPARTED,

THROUGH the MERCY
of GOD, REST IN PEACE.

1936 - 2025

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Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

This past Easter Sunday night, as I was packing to head to Italy the next morning, the last thing I saw in the news was the message of Hope that Pope Francis offered from the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica in his annual Easter Urbi et Orbi message.

On Easter Monday morning, like the world, I was shocked and heartbroken to hear the news that Pope Francis had gone home "to the house of the Father". I immediately thought of my Easter homily where you heard me talk about having a good death because one gets to see the face of God!

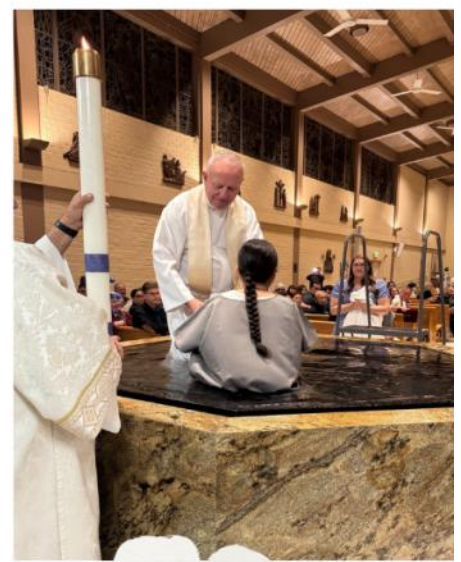
Pope Francis was a trailblazing Jesuit and I will remember him for several ways in which he surprised us during his 13-year pontificate. I remember when he appeared on the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica shortly after he had been elected and his first act was not to impart a blessing but to ask the thousands of faithful in Saint Peter's Square to bless him. From the very beginning, he reminded us that we all have God's divine power and love flowing through us. We were all surprised to see him go back to the hotel, where he had stayed at before the conclave, in order to pay his bill and settle accounts. We were surprised that he chose a name no previous Pope had dared to take – Francis, after the poor man of Assisi. This Pope lived up to that name by caring for the poor, the vulnerable, the immigrant and refugee. We were surprised when on Holy Thursday night, he broke with tradition and washed the feet of prisoners, the disabled, women, and people of other faiths. We were surprised and grateful that this Pope sought to promote and affirm women in the life of the church and especially in the bureaucracy of the Vatican. The church is for everyone!

I write this to you from northern Italy. Our Jubilee pilgrimage is scheduled to take us to Rome next week where I had hoped to see and possibly meet Pope Francis. That will have to wait. Meanwhile, I'll gather with the faithful in Saint Peter's Square, praying for the Holy Spirit to select the candidate who will fill the Shoes of the Fisherman.

Pope Francis rest in peace and eternal light!

Easter love and peace,
Msgr. Kevin

WITH JOY, WE WELCOME YOU AS FULLY INITIATED MEMBERS
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH... CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Many signs and wonders were done among the people
at the hands of the apostles. (Acts 5:12)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.
(Ps 118) Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

When I caught sight of him, I fell down at his feet
as though dead.
He touched me with his right hand and said,
"Do not be afraid." (Rv 1:17)

Gospel:

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the doors were locked, where the disciples were,
for fear of the Jews,
Jesus came and stood in their midst
and said to them, "Peace be with you." (Jn 20:19)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Thomas needed proof to believe the amazing things that had happened. God, in His mercy, gave him that proof — but it was up to Thomas to accept it. Do we accept the proof we see of God's love every day?

Observances for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
Monday:	St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr; St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
Tuesday:	St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Pius V, Pope
Thursday:	St. Joseph the Worker, National Day of Prayer
Friday:	St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday:	Sts. Philip and James, Apostles
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Easter



Devotions, *Explained!*

The rite of sprinkling, also called the Asperges rite, recalls the new life we receive in the waters of our baptism. Though most common during the Easter season, this rite can take place on any Sunday and is used in place of the penitential act.

Prayer of Divine Mercy

O Blood and Water that redeems
and saves, have mercy on us!
O Blood and Water that heals and
restores, have mercy on us!
O Blood and Water that
strengthens and renews, have
mercy on us!
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 27, 2025

Sunday:

Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/
Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

Monday:

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday:

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday:

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday:

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/
Jn 3:31-36

Friday:

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday:

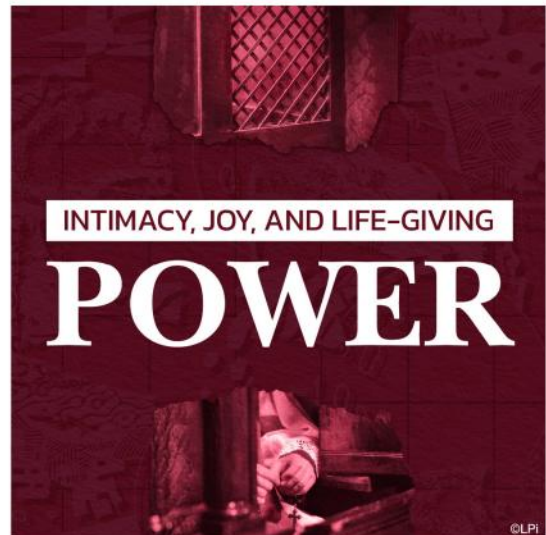
1 Cor 15:1-8/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Jn 14:6-14

Next Sunday:

Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Rv 5:11-14/Jn 21:1-19 or 21:1-14



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's common for Catholics to hear the question, "Why do I have to go to a priest to have my sins forgiven?" I've never liked that question because not only is it clunky (confession is the ordinary way for the pardoning of serious sins, not lesser ones). But it misses the larger context: the wonderful origins of the sacrament itself. And this context is deeply Jewish.

Ancient Jews associated forgiveness of sins with priests offering sacrifices in the Jerusalem temple. It was a solemn, public, and tangible way to access God's mercy. So when the risen Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, "**Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained**" (John 20:23), the upshot is remarkable: he is the new temple and his Apostles are the new priests. Jerusalem is no longer the place to find forgiveness from sin. Jesus' body, the Church, is.

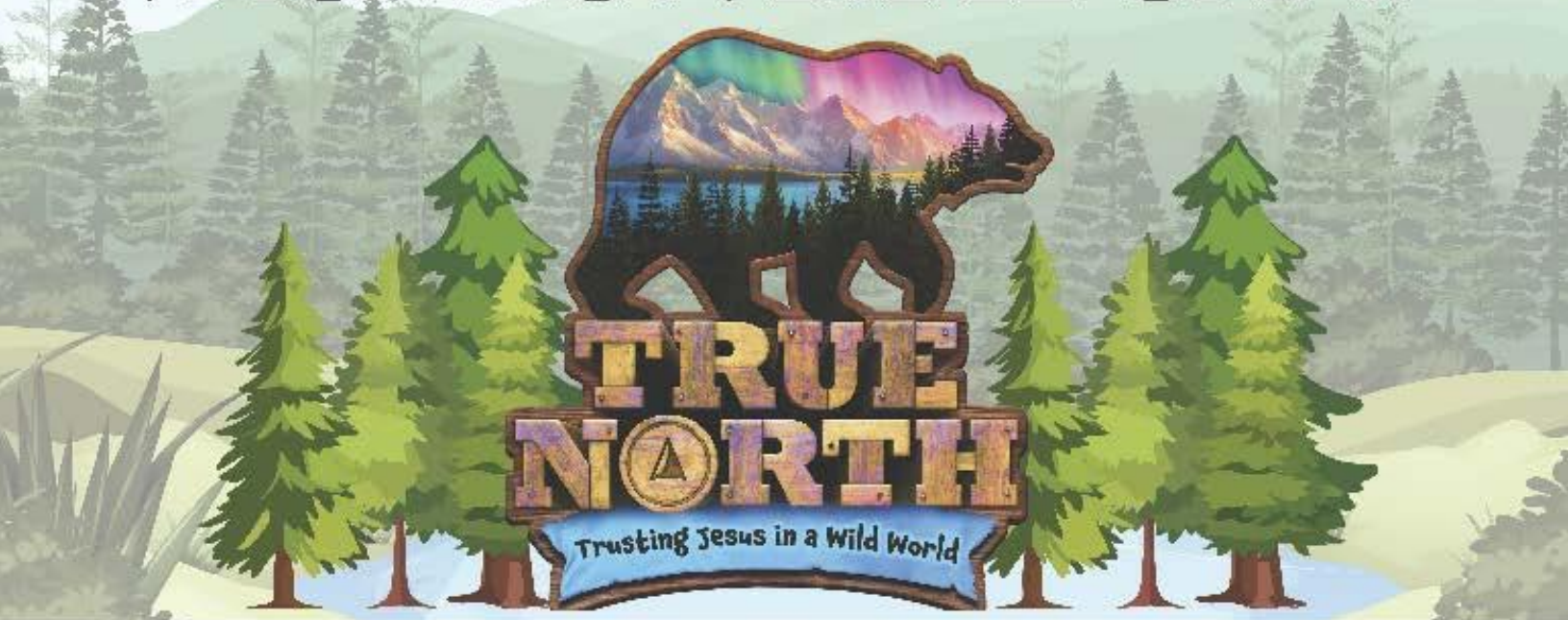
So why should we go to the Sacrament of Confession? For the same reason ancient Jews went to the temple in Jerusalem: to experience the intimacy, joy, and life-giving power of God's eternal forgiveness.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025 | DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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VACATION BIBLE CAMP



EXPLORING MOUNTAINS OF FUN WITH GOD!

This camp is open to kids ages 4 to 11

When: June 16th- June 20th 2025

**Where: St. Joseph Church
6180 E Willow St. Long Beach Ca 90815**

Time: 9:00am to 12 noon.

Cost: \$75

**To register, please contact: Marc Leon -
(562)598-0519 Ext 1**

"True North" Vacation Bible Camp offers children an immersive Alaskan adventure. Throughout this week, kids will learn to trust Jesus as their steadfast friend - their True North. Each day features activities such as Bible Adventures, Imagination Station, Glacier Games, Tundra Treats, and music - all designed to reinforce the message of trusting Jesus in every aspect of life.

This is a community event is hosted by:

- St. Joseph
- St. Cornelius
- Our Lady of Refuge

St. Joseph School Retreats



Each month, each class is given a special opportunity to step away from the classroom and spend time growing closer to God through class retreats. Led by our dedicated Director of Religious Education, Marc Leon, these retreats provide a meaningful time to pause for reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal.

Through team-building activities and moments of prayer, our students strengthen not only their relationships with one another, but also their personal relationship with God. These retreats are a vital part of their faith journey, helping them to see Christ more clearly in their daily lives. Thank you Mr. Leon for your dedication to nurturing our students' relationships with God.



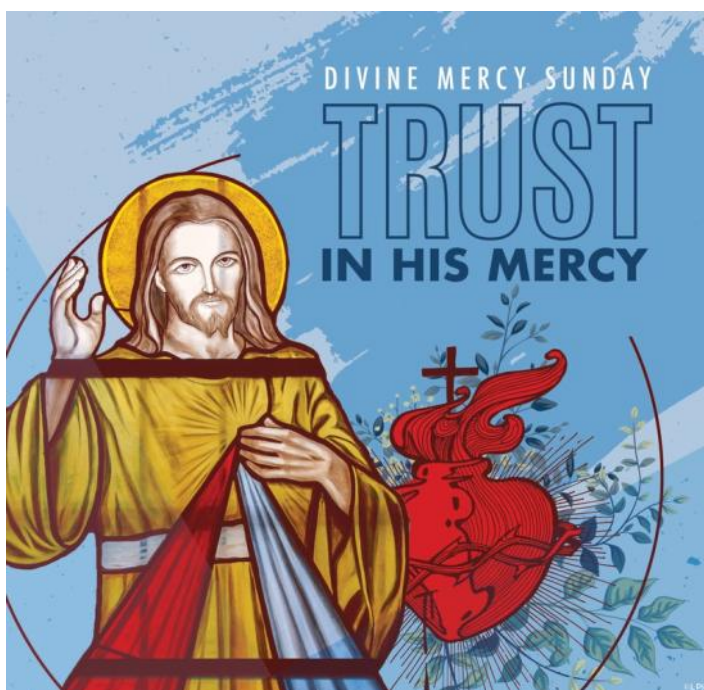


Happy Easter! The tomb is empty!

Easter Distribution: THANK YOU to everyone that helped with, and contributed blessings and hope to 109 families, including over 315 children, for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter! By way of over \$6,500 in Skip-a-Meal donations, our Family Adoptions, and the School's food drive, we provided over 4,000 lbs. of food for Easter, April 12. The children received personally-selected reading books from your generous book drive donations in February!

May 3-4 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.

Opportunities: For many fulfilling ways to serve, call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385. Please be mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations, especially during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.



OCIA ★ COME & SEE ★	
Sr. Eva invites you to join her for a Come & See, Come & Hear evening. For those who might consider sharing their faith with adults inquiring about our Catholic faith. Come & hear what that might entail.	OCIA Order of Christian Initiation of Adults <i>A Journey of Faith</i>
	We Need Help : Seeking individuals to serve as OCIA catechists, who guide adults through the process of becoming Catholic. If you are interested in sharing your faith and helping others on their journey, consider becoming an OCIA catechist.
TUESDAY APRIL 29TH, 2025 AT 7PM	Call for information: 562-594-4657

Did You Know?

Gardens of Healing for survivor-victims in all five of the Archdiocese's pastoral regions

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has created gardens of healing in each of the Archdiocese's pastoral regions, dedicated to those harmed by sexual abuse, in their family, church or community. Located at St. Camillus Pastoral Center in Boyle Heights (San Gabriel Pastoral Region), Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Ventura (Santa Barbara Pastoral Region), St. Francis de Sales Parish in Sherman Oaks (San Fernando Pastoral Region), St. Bernadette Parish in Los Angeles (Our Lady of the Angels Pastoral Region), and Our Lady of Refuge in Long Beach (San Pedro Pastoral Region) these gardens offer a sacred space for all those impacted by abuse to seek comfort and solace. In each garden there is a weeping wall and a plaque with a reflection by Archbishop Gomez, which starts with: "Dedicated to all those impacted by sexual abuse in the Church, their communities, their families – may all who visit find some measure of renewal, peace and comfort in doing so." For more information, visit lacatholics.org/healing-gardens.

Senior Group



Our next get together will be at the
El Dorado Restaurant on
Monday, May 12th 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!

Adoration



Come and spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Experience what Catholic author Matthew Kelly calls "The Classroom of Silence," and respond to Jesus' call: "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

Deacon Joe & Dianne Lumsdaine
will lead Eucharistic
Adoration this Friday, May 2nd
at 8:00 am.

In Memoriam



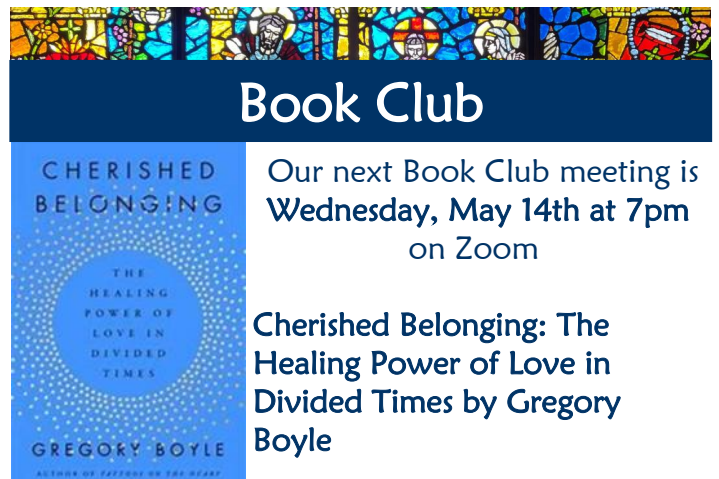
Lolita Heilbron

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Tuesday, May 13th at 11:00 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~

Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm
on Zoom

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Boyle**

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All are welcome. For more info, email
agoodlife@msn.com



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- High school diploma
- Previous experience working with elementary aged children.
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Teaching Assistant (Salary Range):

- Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Studies or related education field
- CA teaching credential or enrolled in credential program
- Salary Range: \$47,402 - \$47,898

CONTACT:

malvarez@sjknights.net



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Madison Alba

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Michelle Johnson

High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Liz Moreno

OCIA:

Sr. Eva

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Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

(562) 594-4657

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Lectors

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(310) 633-1744

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Hospitality Ministry

Deborah Rollinger

(562) 594-4657

Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

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Senior Group

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Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

(702) 401-5247

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Paciano & Molly Diaz

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Greg & Beth Gath

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Precious Life Shelter

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csanjoselaw@aol.com

Boy Scouts

Jeff Baer

(562) 537-6722

Sacristans

Joe Dang

(562) 493-2198

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Bereavement Ministry

May Pace

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Cursillo

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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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