

# St. Joseph Parish

## The Ascension of the *Lord*

*Men of Galilee,  
why are you  
standing there  
looking at the sky?*

*Acts 1:11*



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**May 29, 2022**

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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](http://stjosephlb.org)

# Our Parish

**PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK**

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**Deacon Tom Halliwell**

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Administrative Assistant:

Michelle Johnson

High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Marc Leon

RCIA:

Deacon Shane & Olga Cuda

olga@stjosephlb.org

## **Parish Ministries & Organizations**

Baptism Preparation	Brenda Pineda	(562) 594-4657
Director of Music	Vivian Doughty	(562) 594-4657
Eucharistic Ministry	Michelle Reyes	emohcschedule@gmail.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	Jan Minter	tchrjan@gmail.com
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(562) 425-0621
Engaged Encounter	Paciano & Molly Diaz	Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Project Achieve	Susie Beeghly	susanbeeghly@yahoo.com
Precious Life Shelter	Cynthia San Jose	csanjose@aol.com
Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(562) 857-3880
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198
Homebound Ministry	Olga Cuda	olga@stjosephlb.org

## **Mass Schedule**

**Saturday**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Indoor Vigil**

**Sunday**

**Mass on the Grass**

**Outdoors**

**8:30 a.m.**

**Indoor Mass**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Indoor Mass**

**12:30 p.m.**

**Daily Mass (M-W)**

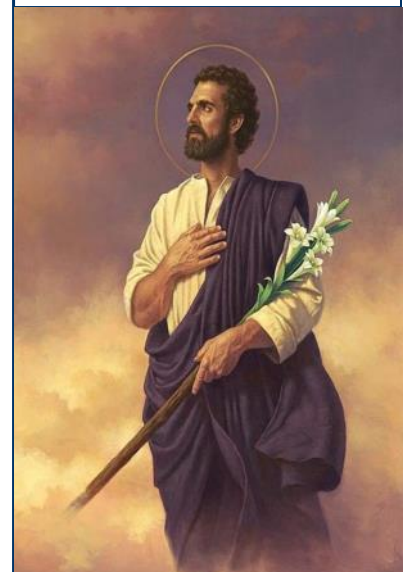
**8:00 a.m. Indoor**

## **Reconciliation**

**Saturdays**

**3:45-4:30 p.m.**

**Inside Church**

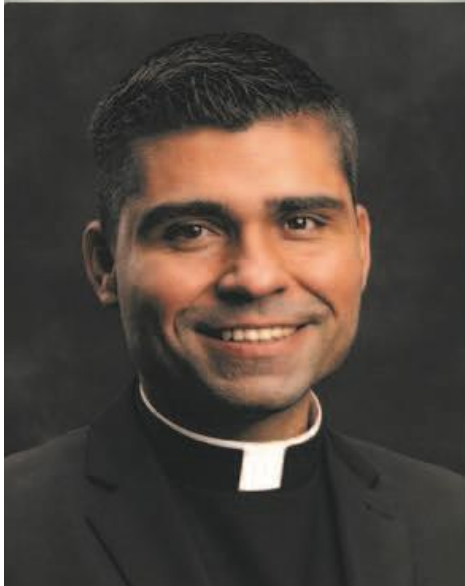






# Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:



With great joy, next Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, our former intern, Deacon Cesar Carrasco will be ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ! Deacon Cesar was with us at the height of the pandemic and he'll forever be remembered as a truly humble servant who graciously adapted to all of the Covid protocols in serving us and the many ways he was present to the students in our school. Deacon Cesar has been assigned to commence his Priestly ministry to the people of St. Marian de Paredes in Pico Rivera. The new Fr. Cesar will celebrate a First Mass with us on Sunday, June 26 at our 8:30 AM Mass on the Grass. Cesar, we are proud of you, we love you and we pray that you'll have many years of joy in your ministry as a Priest of Jesus Christ.

Next Sunday, I will be away attending the First Mass of Deacon Guillermo Alonso, my third seminarian from the Cathedral. Then, I'll go to Burbank to attend the First Mass of Deacon Cesar. I'm grateful for the three Priests who will be here to celebrate our Sunday Masses so I can attend the First Masses.

Please offer your great St. Joseph welcome and spirit of hospitality to the following Presiders:

- Sunday, 8:30 AM on the Grass: Fr. George Aguilera – Pastor of St. Anthony
- Sunday, 10:30 – Msgr. Gary Bauler
- Sunday, 12:30 – Fr. Greg Goethals S.J. – President of Loyola High School

You received the e-mail flyer about my 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to be celebrated the weekend of June 18-19. I look forward to celebrating with you my parish family and I want the weekend to be a “Welcome Home Event” for those who have yet to return and be fed with the Eucharist. Please call, text and invite those who have been away to “Come Home!” If you are attending the Saturday barbecue dinner after the 5:00 pm Vigil Mass, remember to RSVP by June 4<sup>th</sup> so appropriate food and drink can be ordered and prepared. You don't have to RSVP for the light reception that will follow the Sunday Masses. The flyer is also posted below. “Come Home!”

This weekend, people of all faiths will remember and pray for the heartbroken community in Uvalde, Texas. May the little souls who lost their lives be embraced by the arms of the Lord and may the families and all of us who mourn, remember that the Lord heals the broken hearted and comforts all who suffer.

This Memorial Day weekend, we pray for our Veterans deceased and living and we pray that those sons and daughters of our St. Joseph's family currently serving in the military will be safe!

I'm praying for you and your families!

Ascension Peace,  
Msgr. Kevin



# St. Joseph Parish

Celebrates

## Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik's

### 40th Anniversary of Ordination

June 19, 1982 - Ordained a Priest of Jesus Christ

**June 18, 2022 - 5:00 pm Mass**

**Dinner to follow in Hall/Courtyard**

Please RSVP by June 4 at

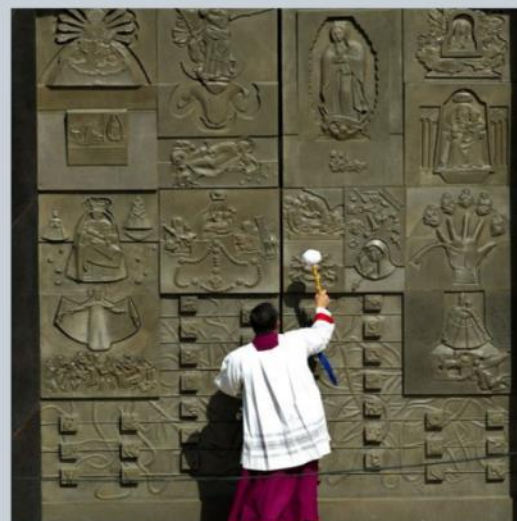
[www.stjosephlb.org](http://www.stjosephlb.org) or scan the QR code



**June 19, 2022 - 8:30 am Mass on the Grass**

**10:30am & 12:30pm - Church**

Light reception from 9:30am-12:15pm







St. Joseph's participation in the worldwide Synod is now completed. I would like to thank all who attended the listening sessions, including the volunteers who moderated the sessions and recorded the comments. Over the next few weeks, we will be publishing the report we submitted to the Archdiocese. This week, we are publishing the comments from the topics of Celebrating and Going on Mission.

Deacon Tom

### Celebrating

- Mass deepens our relationship with God. No matter where we attend, the Mass is always the same, and is a very contemplative experience. Mass helps to cultivate a moral compass for the rest of the week.
- There were many comments that outdoor Mass and viewing Mass on the internet during COVID allowed people to continue to celebrate and deepen the practice of their faith in a way that was somewhat normal.
- Baptisms and First Communion should be celebrated at Sunday Mass.
- Good homilies are impactful and formational. The homilists explain the Gospels and scriptures in terms that we can relate to in our everyday lives. They bring the scriptures to life by sharing their own experiences.
- Many parishioners expressed great affection for our pastor and deacons, with specific reference to welcoming, inclusion and homilies.
- Participation as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, choir, altar servers/acolytes and greeters should be encouraged.
- Cursillo and similar missions invite people to community.
- There is a desire to create more community with smaller groups.
- Our young people commented that Mass is too long. They also suggested more time of silence for reflection. They would like homilies that are short and tightly focused, with very specific points and ties to popular culture. They said that if they were more connected to the Mass, they would better understand the message and be able to apply it to their lives, and appreciate their friends and family more.
- Many Catholics do not fully understand their faith and the richness of the Mass, and would appreciate

opportunities to grow in understanding.

- A better presence on social media would help to reach Catholics and others more effectively.

Summarize any points of view that varied from the majority of comments

- Most people go to Mass out of obligation rather than joyful celebration.
- The church seems more involved in politics than it used to be.

### Going on Mission

- Mission is realized in social justice/service/humanitarian international aid provided by the parish. A large number of comments spoke positively about our parish's social justice ministry, as well as our support of Catholic Charities' ministries.
- We should collaborate with other faiths in reaching out to those who need help.
- The Church has opportunities for people who are open to joining. The Church is a prominent organization that offers support to charities and promotes social justice and is good at role modeling behaviors to support those in need. The Church is effective in being of service to others. The Church has active volunteers who offer their services and then benefit from helping as they continue to grow in their faith formation.
- We need to reach out to young people by going out to where they are, and encourage them to change and give them reasons to want to change, including reaching out to the "nones."
- The Church should encourage involvement in various parish ministries, such as bible study, occasional retreats or lecture series, religious education program, book club, and small Christian community discussion groups.
- Our young people commented that having mandatory service hours is a good thing in their schools and in Confirmation because it makes them give of their time, and they always feel good for helping someone out. Although sometimes they felt uncomfortable, that was when they had the opportunity to grow.
- We should pray for, encourage, and support a growth in vocations, not only for priests but for nuns, deacons, and lay ministers.



AS HE BLESSED THEM  
HE PARTED FROM THEM  
AND WAS TAKEN  
UP TO HEAVEN.

LUKE 24:51

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 29, 2022

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## CONTINUING JESUS' MINISTRY

The celebration of the Ascension of our Lord occurs distinctively this year, when the two most detailed descriptions of the event, both written by Luke the evangelist, are brought together in today's readings. We hear both the concluding verses from Luke's Gospel, the first volume of his work, and the first verses of Acts, his second volume. For Luke, the Ascension is the hinge of his two-volume work. The evangelist apparently thought the story of the Ascension was important enough to tell twice. While his first telling emphasizes the meaning of Jesus' earthly ministry, the second telling shifts to how the community of his followers are commissioned to continue this same ministry. Now the apostles, and by implication all who follow Jesus, will bring healing and hope to a world that desperately needs them. Luke reminds us that we the Church are also summoned by Jesus to participate in his work.

## ABSENCE AND PRESENCE

Appreciating the Ascension within the larger story of Jesus can be difficult. This is partly because of the mystical features of Luke's two descriptions, and also the lack of description in the other Gospels. The Ascension describes both the absence and the presence of Jesus. Why did Jesus have to leave? As Jesus told his disciples, his departure makes possible his continuing presence in a new way, through the work of the Spirit beginning at Pentecost.

The Ascension is more than a departure, for it describes how the bodily, human Jesus is now "at the right hand of God," and that the Father exalts Jesus as Lord of heaven and earth. We need to hold these two together: that Jesus knows our human trials and joys and walks compassionately with us; and Jesus also is our Lord, who pushes us out of our comfort zones toward Christian maturity, and holds us accountable.

## WITNESSES

In the descriptions of the Ascension in today's readings, Jesus tells the disciples "You are witnesses" or "you will be my witnesses." The image of witness evokes a legal proceeding, where a person affirms the truth of an event. Sometimes physical evidence, such as a DNA test, serves as witness to the truth. This same word is used again and again in Acts, as the apostles witnessed to the Resurrection, or to the whole story of Jesus. We are called to witness the truth of the Gospel.

We might witness in at least three ways. In dialogue with others, we can speak the witness, by explicitly sharing the biblical story and what it means for us. We can do the witness, by aligning our actions and lifestyle so as to share love for others. We can be the witness, in our fundamental openness and faithful response to God, and in our grace-filled personal presence with others. We are the best evidence of the truths of our faith.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 1:17-23 or  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Luke 24:46-53





# Safeguard The Children



## Helmets save lives

Bike riding is great fun and a good form of exercise for children — it is also great way to get around. A properly fitted helmet can reduce the risk of a head injury by almost 50%, but many children go without them. Teach your children the importance of helmet safety and enforce rules about wearing them. You can also teach your children to use hand signals to show cars and other riders where they are going, and to follow the rules of the road. For more safety tips, visit [safekids.org/bike](http://safekids.org/bike).



# Movement for a Better World

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Mt 25:40

**June 11-12 – Homeless Kit Drive:** Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness in Long Beach. Shopping lists will be distributed at Masses June 4-5.

**June 14 6:30 PM – Committee Meeting:** Join us in the Parish Life Center for a very important, final meeting of this program year. We will decide what activities to promote and organizations to support in the program year beginning July 1.

**Home Furnishing Special Needs:** We have an active ministry to provide basic home furnishings to those in need; beds, tables, dressers, refrigerator repairs, immanent loss of utility service, etc. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? Please call Tim Clark to learn about many opportunities to serve, (562) 431-4385

## Ascension of the Lord

ASCENSION: the act of rising to a higher level

The Ascension of the Lord takes place **forty days** after the resurrection of Jesus (Easter).

Technically, this day falls on a Thursday, but the celebration is transferred to the following Sunday.

On this day, Jesus was taken up to Heaven in his resurrected body in the presence of his apostles.



### BIBLICAL REFERENCES

1 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51

2 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19

3 As the apostles were watching, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-11

The ascension is also professed in the Nicene Creed and in the Apostles' Creed: "He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father..."

Jesus departs, he ascends to Heaven. He returns to the Father. But this does not mean a separation, for he remains forever with us, in a new way. By his ascension, the Risen Lord draws the gaze of the Apostles - and our gaze - to the heights of Heaven to show us that the end of our journey is the Father... Yet, Jesus remains present and active in the affairs of human history through the power and the gifts of his Spirit, he is beside each of us. **even if we do not see him with our eyes, He is there!** He accompanies us, he guides us, he takes us by the hand and he lifts us up when we fall down... The Lord is with us! Pope Francis, June 1, 2014

“The mission that Jesus entrusted to the Apostles has continued through the centuries, and continues still today: it requires the cooperation of all of us.”

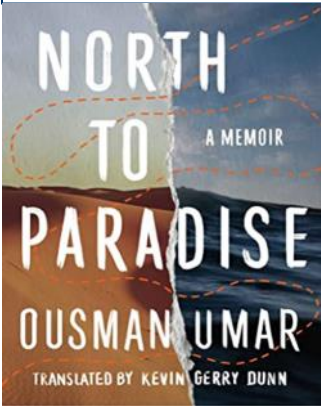
—Pope Francis, May 13, 2018



Getty Images



## Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Wednesday, July 13th at 7pm. We will discuss: **North to Paradise** by Ousman Umar

The inspiring true story of one man's treacherous boyhood journey from a rural village in Ghana to the streets of Barcelona—and the path that led him home.

All are welcome!

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




## In Memoriam

Nancy Miller died peacefully in her home just after midnight during the first hour of

Feb. 24, 2022 at the age of 90. She received constant loving attention from her children, grandchildren and from the devoted care of her compassionate caregivers. She is survived by five children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren who were all gifted by her sweet and unconditional love until her final moment of life.

Her funeral service will be held on **Monday, June 6 at 10:00am** with the interment of her cremated remains immediately following the funeral service.



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\*Boxed lunches will be available for purchase when registering.



## JOIN ARCHBISHOP GOMEZ ON THE SOLEMNITY OF PENTECOST FOR THE Synod Celebration Mass



*Come give thanks to God for the fruits of the Synod in the Archdiocese and ask the Holy Spirit to guide the Church forward in renewal*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5 • 3:30PM**

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555 W TEMPLE ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

For a synodal Church



¡Ven a dar gracias a Dios por los frutos del sínodo en la arquidiócesis y pide al Espíritu Santo que guíe a la Iglesia hacia la renovación!

**DOMINGO, 5 DE JUNIO • 3:30PM**

CATEDRAL DE NUESTRA SEÑORA DE LOS ÁNGELES

**Synod**  
**2021**  
**2023**



Interested in volunteering? For more information and to sign up visit:  
¿Interesado en ser voluntario? Para más información e inscribirse visita:

[synod.lacatholics.org/june5mass](http://synod.lacatholics.org/june5mass)





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