

St. Joseph Parish

December 18, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY

of
Advent

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**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."**

Matthew 1:23

6180 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815

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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

Our Parish

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Deacon Tom Halliwell

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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
Bereavement Ministry	May Pace	maypace@gmail.com
Engaged Encounter	Paciano & Molly Diaz	Ktmr@5bcglobal.Net
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Project Achieve	Alida Steinhauser	alida.steinhauser@gmail.com
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Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198
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Book Club	Mary Anne Silvestri	agoodlife@msn.com
Environment	Jessica Gil	tpatia10nov@gmail.com

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

Eucharistic
Adoration

First Friday of the Month
8:00-9:00 a.m.
Inside Church



FOURTH SUNDAY OF

Advent

DECEMBER 18, 2022



Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,
which means "God is with us."

MATTHEW 1:23

Dear Parish Family:

As we celebrate the Fourth and final Sunday of Advent, in today's Gospel we meet St. Joseph, our patron. In a dream, an angel instructs Joseph to take Mary as his wife as she will bear a son and they are to name him Jesus. When Joseph awoke, he did all that the angel commanded him to do. May we awaken to the presence of the Lord in all our final preparations and activities for the Great Feast of Christmas.

On Page 5 of this bulletin and I've included the Blessing of a Christmas Tree. Gather with your family or children and take delight in this little ritual that reminds us that the Lord is near.

Our Christmas Mass Schedule is posted in this bulletin and on the home page of our website stjosephlb.org

Our Parish Offices will be closed on Monday, December 26, 2022 (observance of Christmas Day Holiday) and January 2, 2023 (Observance of New Year's Day Holiday).

For New Years weekend, our regular Sunday schedule resumes:
Saturday, December 31 – Vigil at 5:00 PM
Sunday, January 1 – 8:30 AM Mass on the Grass (**bring a lawn chair**)
10:30 AM and 12:30 PM in the church.

In this final week of preparation, take some moments to be quiet and to reflect on all the spiritual gifts that the Lord has awakened in you!

I'm praying for you and your family,
Msgr. Kevin



TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 7:10-14
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
Romans 1:1-7
Matthew 1:18-24

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Christmas Mass Schedule

Saturday, December 24th - Vigil Solemnity of Christmas

4:00 PM - Outdoor Mass in Courtyard

(Bring your lawn chair)

6:00 PM - Mass inside Church

9:00 PM - Mass inside Church

Sunday, December 25th - Solemnity of Christmas

9:00 AM - Mass inside Church

10:30 AM - Mass inside Church

Dear Parish Family:

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to you and your family!! As we celebrate the Birth of Jesus, I send Christmas greetings to you with sincere gratitude for your loyalty and gracious gifts during this past year. This has been a most challenging year and globally the world yearns for peace. The Son of God, Emmanuel with us, is the light that's always scattering the darkness.

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!

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

Love and Prayers in the Birth of our Lord, Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik
Pastor

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.

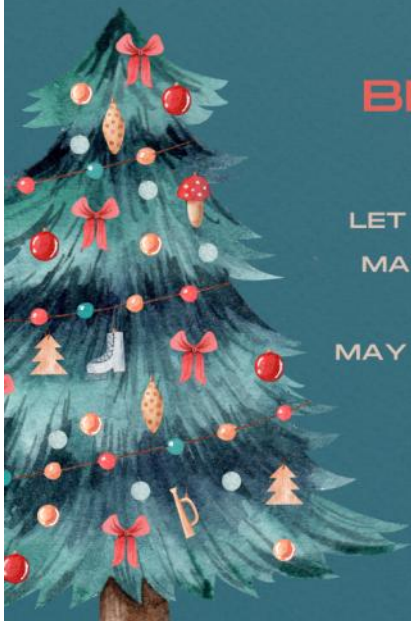
℟. LORD, GIVE LIGHT TO OUR HEARTS.

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 ILLUMINATE 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)

St. Joseph Catholic School is now accepting applications for Alpha K and Kindergarten for next school year. We also have limited spots available in select grade levels from 1st Grade through 8th Grade. Our 2023-2024 Early Acceptance Pool is now open and we will be offering rolling acceptances to applicants who apply before February 1st. After February 1st, 2023, applicants will be placed into our General Applicant Pool and will be notified regarding acceptance in March 2023.

Students enrolling in Alpha K must be four years old by September 1st, 2023. Students enrolling in Kindergarten must be five years old by September 1st, 2023. Parents can apply now online to schedule a campus visit and student pre-screening. Go to our website (www.sjknights.net) to apply and learn more today.

Save the date to visit our classrooms, book fair, and art fair at our annual Open House on Sunday, January 29th after mass! You can follow us on Instagram @sjknightslongbeach for more information on the latest happenings at St. Joseph Catholic School.



Christmas Eve Concert

Please join Music Ministry for a 1/2 hour of music and carols in the church on Christmas Eve at 8:30pm. Mass follows at 9

Eucharistic Adoration



We will have Eucharistic Adoration each first Friday from 8:00-9:00 a.m., beginning on January 6, 2023.

Come spend an hour with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

We invite you to begin the New Year by responding to Jesus' call: "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

Movement for a Better World

"I have found the paradox that if I love until it hurts, then there is no hurt, but only more love."
St. Teresa of Calcutta

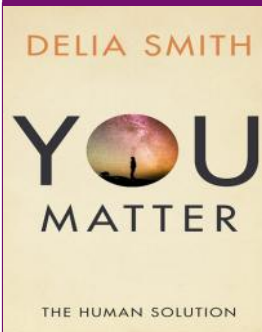
Thanksgiving and Christmas Contributions!
THANK YOU, and abundant Christmas blessings for your generosity!

- 105 families supported (66 Community, 39 Adoptions)
- 285 children supported
- 260+ blankets distributed
- 600+ Christmas gifts and teen gift cards
- 15,000 lbs. food
- \$2,500 family gift cards from targeted donations
- 2 School food drives
- \$12,000 Skip-a-Meal donations

Jan. 21-22: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Wednesday, January 11th at 7pm.

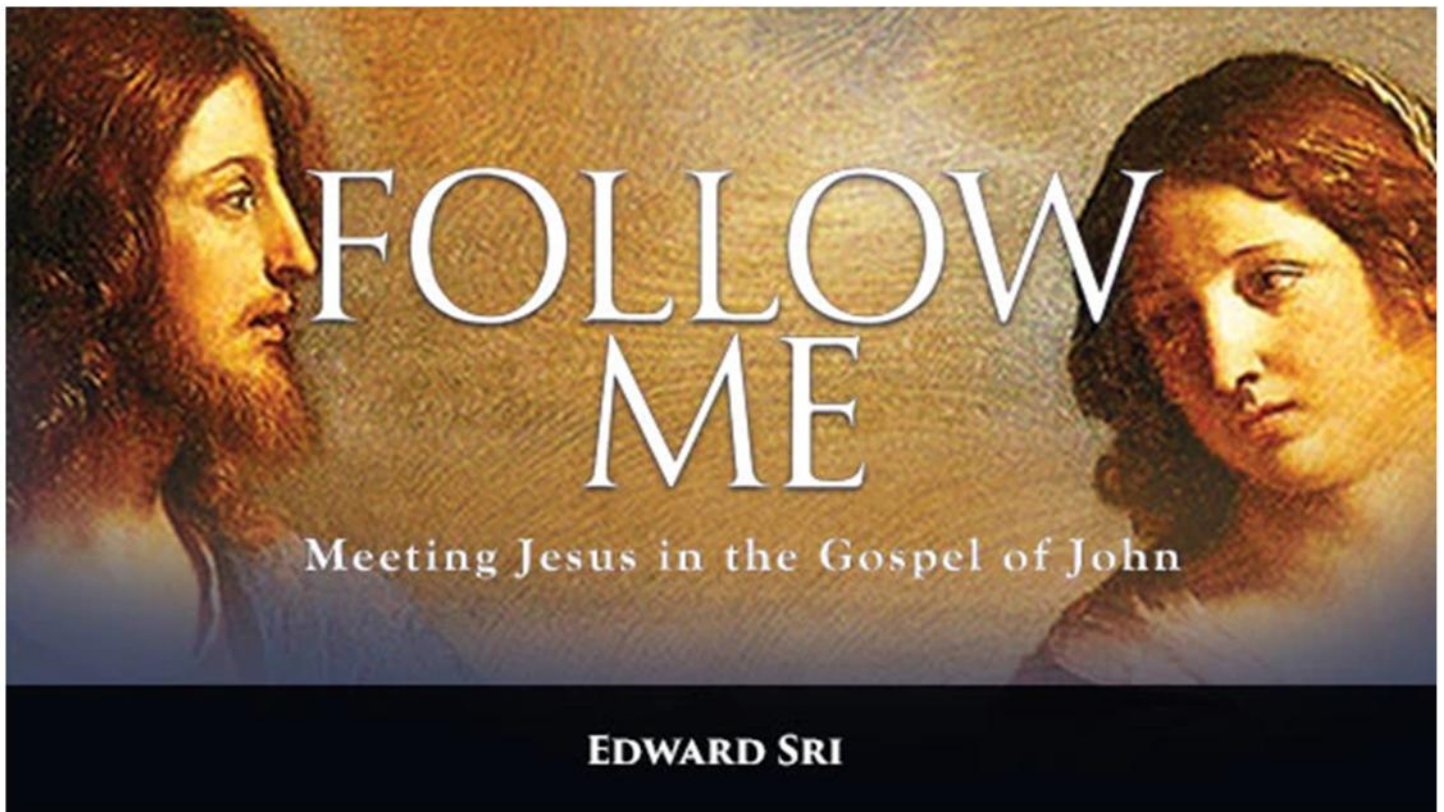
We will discuss:

You Matter: The Human Solution by Delia Smith

Ms. Smith, UK's best-selling cookery author and owner of the Norwich City Football Club, encourages people to think more deeply about the phenomenon of existence, what it means to be a unique human person, and how in unity with one another we can build a better future.

All are welcome!

For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com



Being Catholic takes more than simply believing in God or doing what he asks of us. Jesus wants you to be more than just a believer—he wants you to be his disciple and friend. To help you answer this call to deeper friendship with Christ, St. Joseph Long Beach will begin Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John on Thursday, January 12th at 7:00pm in the PLC and on Zoom. For more information or to register, please contact Mike Santy at 562-370-0769 or mike@stjosephlb.org. Cost of the materials and online video is \$20. You will not only benefit personally from being part of this study; you will also help us to grow in fellowship as a parish as we grow closer to Christ together.

Follow Me invites you to experience the joy of a renewed friendship with Christ. You will learn what it takes to follow him. You will experience the joy of divine friendship, and you will see how God— and only God—can satisfy the deepest desires of your heart.

Participants of Follow Me will receive a workbook and will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. The eight 30-minute videos, presented by Dr. Edward Sri, will guide you through the Gospel of John. Dr. Sri will explain how Christ's encounters with others in the Gospel are examples of how he lovingly and persistently calls each of us to a more intimate and life-changing relationship with him.

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