

St. Joseph Parish

December 25, 2022 Christmas



She wrapped him
in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger,
*because there was no room for them
in the inn.*

~ Luke 2:7

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

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Deacon Tom Halliwell

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Pastoral Council
Finance Council
Safeguard The Children
Parish Bulletin Editor
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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	<i>emohcschedule@gmail.com</i>
Lectors	Steve Koppenheffer	(714) 299-6644
Meditation	Frank Mckown	(310) 633-1744
Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	<i>estherministry1@gmail.com</i>
Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
Senior Group	Jan Minter	<i>tchrjan@gmail.com</i>
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(562) 425-0621
Engaged Encounter	Paciano & Molly Diaz	<i>Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net</i>
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
Project Achieve	Susie Beeghly	<i>susanbeeghly@yahoo.com</i>
Precious Life Shelter	Cynthia San Jose	<i>csanjose@aol.com</i>
Boy Scouts	Gene Wohlgezogan	(562) 857-3880
Sacristans	Joe Dang	(562) 493-2198
Homebound Ministry	Olga Cuda	<i>olga@stjosephlb.org</i>

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.

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.





She wrapped him in swaddling clothes
and laid him in a manger,
because there was no room for them
in the inn.

LUKE 2:7

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Christmas

DECEMBER 25, 2022

LIGHT AND LIFE

The four Gospel portraits of Jesus take very different approaches to his origins. Mark has no record of Jesus' ancestry, except for his connection to John the Baptist. Matthew traces his genealogy back to Abraham; Luke even farther back, to Adam. The Gospel of John outdoes them all, tracing Jesus' origins back to the time before time, before the world was created! Jesus is the eternal Word of God. The Greek term for "Word" is logos, and it is a word with deep implications. The logos exists before creation, because all of creation came to be through the logos and, in turn, the logos will become the light of all it has created. This is what makes Christmas a season light and life. May our lives radiate this light, reflecting the life-giving Word-made-Flesh. Let our discipleship truly and fully make incarnate once again the Word-in-flesh whom we celebrate and adore: Jesus Christ, our Lord!

THE SEASON OF LIGHT

It is customary to celebrate Christmas with lights of all sorts. This even happens in the southern hemisphere, where people aren't experiencing the shorter, darker days of northern climates. From little twinkles on Christmas trees to the glow of candles in church, Christmas is a celebration of the light born today in God's Word-made-flesh. As with other types of lights, the Christ-light takes on different forms. Sometimes its light is direct, while at other times it is a reflection. The lights of Christmas, like Jesus the Light of the world, offer comfort, ease fears, show us the way, and help us to see that God is present here. While we believe that Jesus is the light that no darkness can overcome, it can seem at times it seems as though the gloom around us is overcoming the light. We all are familiar with darkness's different forms that seem to bombard us daily, hourly—minute by minute, if we allow them to. And yet . . .

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The relentless daily reports of darkness can easily lead us not to see the many glimmers of light around us. We who follow the Christ-light must always be on alert for signs of that light around us. Likewise, we who have that Christ-light in us must let it shine forth. No matter how little we think our light may be, we must recall that it is the light of Christ we bear within us. Like John the Baptist in today's Gospel passage, we are meant to testify to the power of light, to help others see glimpses of God-with-us. Our actions must bear good news, they must announce glad tidings. Even small deeds of light can shine brightly, giving birth to Jesus once again each day. On Christmas day and every day we are called to be people of hope, messengers of peace who offer comfort and make God's glory known. Let the light of Christ in your life be one of the season's brightest!

TODAY'S READINGS

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6
Hebrews 1:1-6
John 1:1-18



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

On behalf of our Pastoral Team, Deacon Shane and Olga, Deacon Tom and Pat and Tina Gath, we extend to all of you our best wishes for a joyful and peace filled Christmas! The celebration of the Christmas Feast is our annual proclamation that Jesus Christ was born into the world to let us know that we are all children of God and that we are loved by God! May we strive to live that during these Christmas Days! I'm praying for you and your families!


Christmas Love and Peace,
Msgr. Kevin



The Nativity of the Lord December 25, 2022

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

— John 1:5



Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1st

- 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.

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.

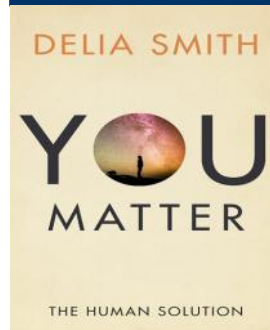
Save the date to visit our classrooms, book fair, and art fair at our annual Open House on Sunday, January 29th after mass! You can follow us on Instagram [@sjknightslongbeach](https://www.instagram.com/sjknightslongbeach) for more information on the latest happenings at St. Joseph Catholic School.



We will have Eucharistic Adoration each first Friday from 8:00-9:00a.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).



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



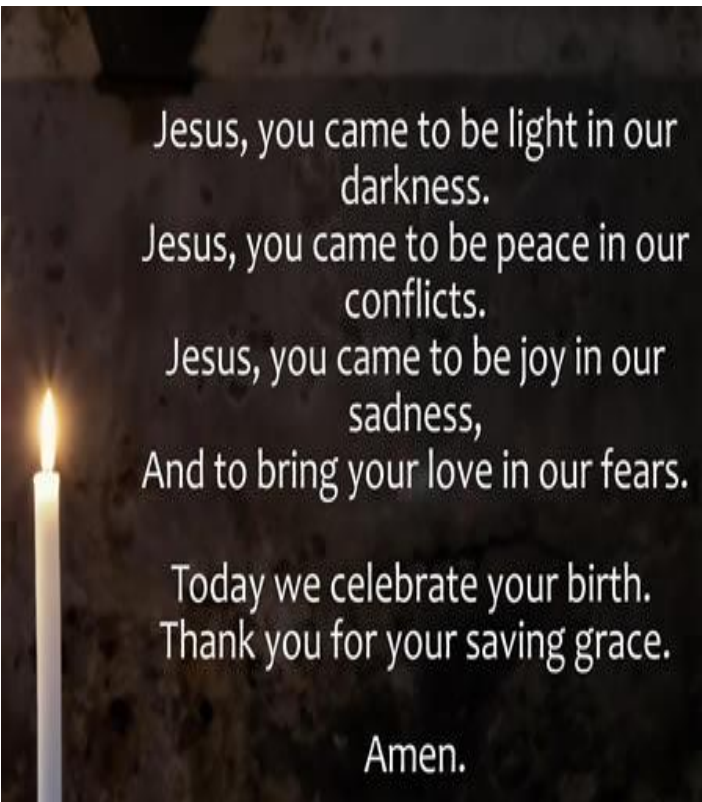
Safeguard The Children

Teach
FIRE SAFETY
to Kids



Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive, but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the “Holiday Safety” article on nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?



Jesus, you came to be light in our
darkness.
Jesus, you came to be peace in our
conflicts.
Jesus, you came to be joy in our
sadness,
And to bring your love in our fears.

Today we celebrate your birth.
Thank you for your saving grace.

Amen.



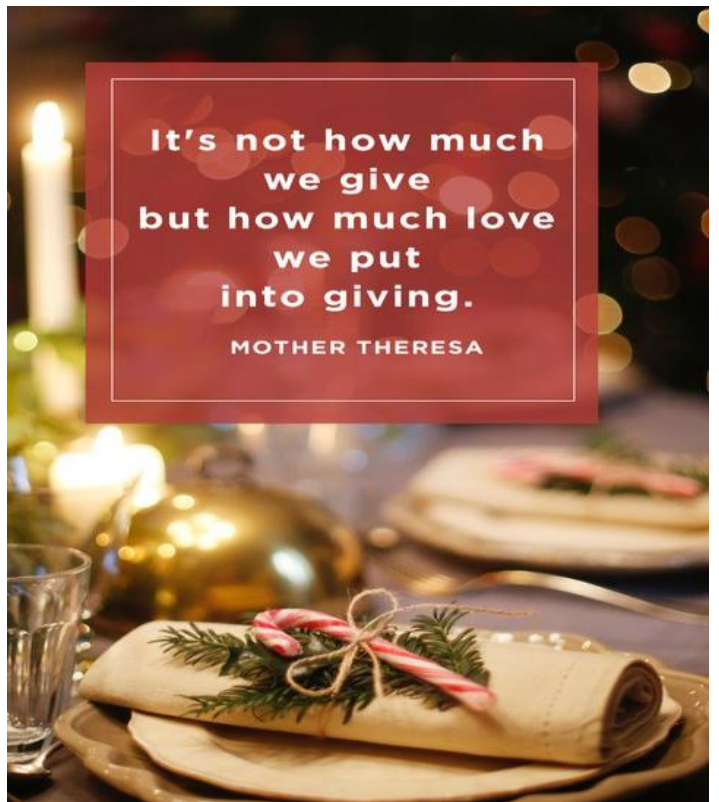
Movement for a Better World

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

- 106 families supported (66 Community, 40 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

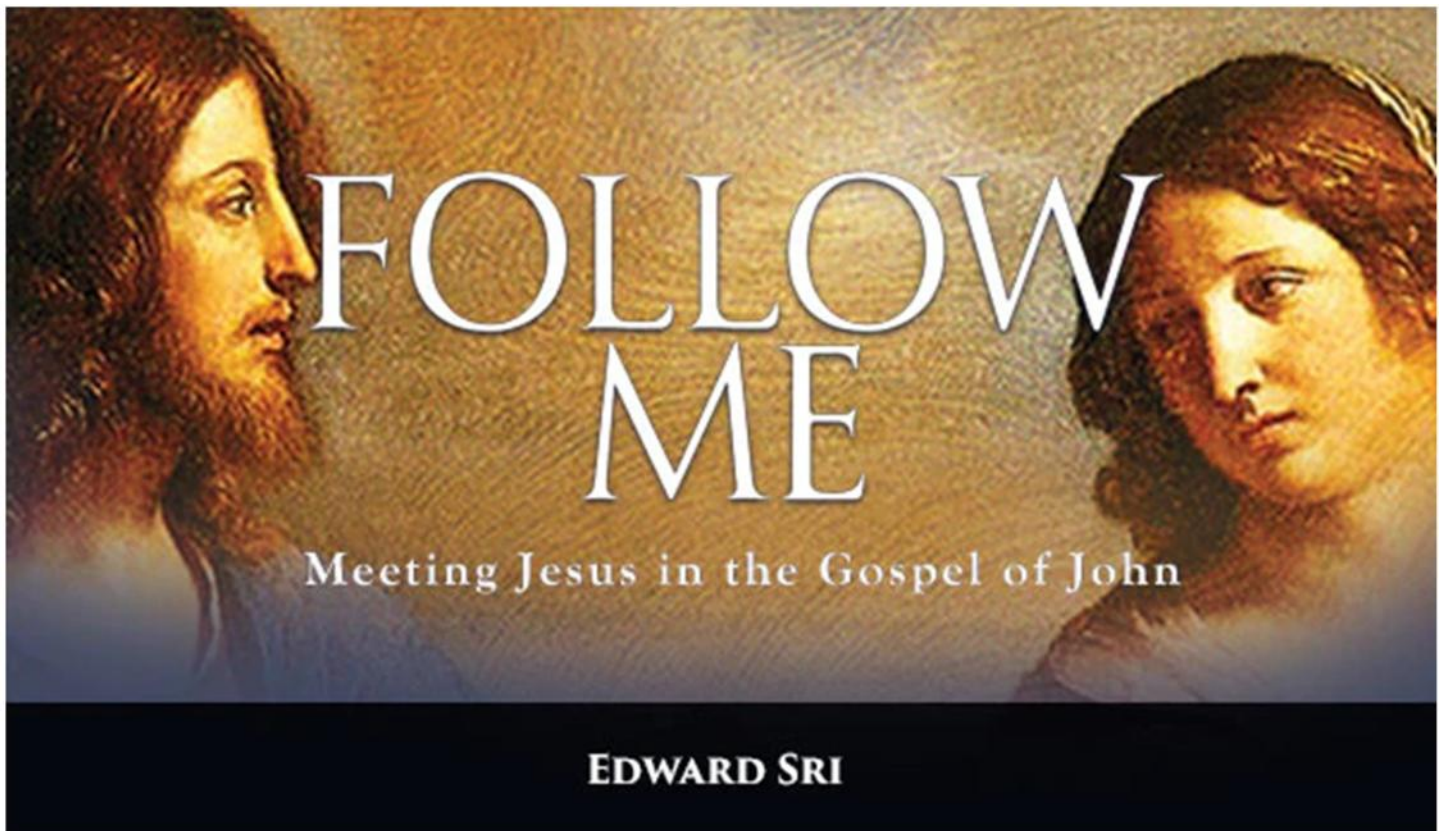
Jan. 21-22: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

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



It's not how much
we give
but how much love
we put
into giving.

MOTHER TERESA



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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