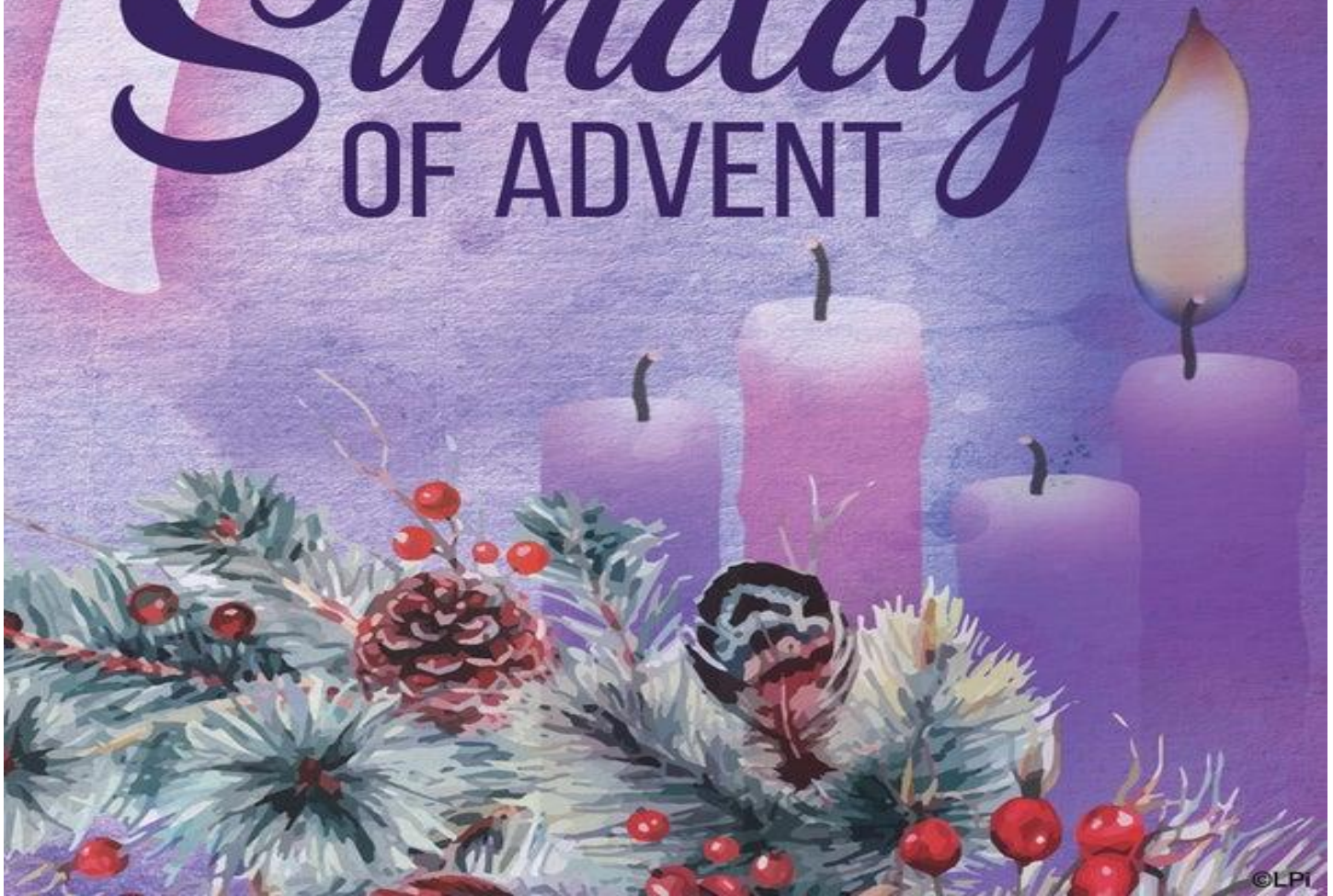


St. Joseph Parish

1st Sunday OF ADVENT



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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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Mary Anne Silvestri

agoodlife@msn.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

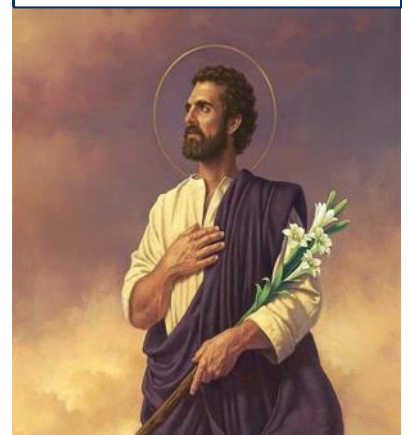
3:45-4:30 p.m.

Inside Church

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

This weekend we commence a new liturgical year with the Season of Advent. Happy Birthday Church!! This is a joyful time of year as we prepare with great hope and expectation to celebrate Christ's birth. May the biblical characters of this Advent, including Isaiah, Blessed Mary, John the Baptist, and Joseph, awaken your spiritual journey with inspiration and hope!!

This weekend I'll conclude my four-part homily series on How to Pray the Mass. Part 4 of the Sacred Liturgy celebrates "**The Concluding Rites**"! How can we go forth on Sunday and proclaim the Gospel? You'll hear some ideas!

This week we welcome Dr. Bill Creasy for some Advent enlightenment and refreshment. Please join us for one of the two sessions he will offer called: "**A Christmas Story.**" Scroll down for further information.

This Friday, December 8 is a Holy Day as we celebrate the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is always a Holy Day since this is the Patronal Feast Day of the United States. Here is our Mass Schedule:

Thursday, December 7 – Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM

Friday, December 8 – Masses at 8:00 AM and 7:00 PM

Our Christmas Schedule is posted below. This year the 4th Sunday of Advent is on December 24th. Advent Masses will be the regular Saturday/Sunday Masses – last Advent Mass at 12:30 PM on the 24th. The **First Mass of Christmas** will be that same afternoon on Dec. 24th at 4:00 PM outside in the courtyard. See Mass schedule below.

Advent Blessings as you pray the daily **Advent Reflection Book**,
Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, with the mountains quaking before you. (Is 63:19)

Psalm:

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading:

The testimony to Christ was confirmed among you, so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 1:6-7)

Gospel:

"Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming." (Mk 13:35)

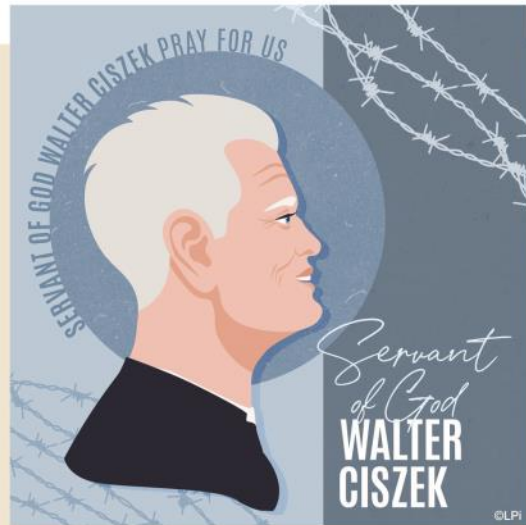
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

Observances for the week of December 3, 2023

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent
- Monday:** St. John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Thursday:** St. Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Friday:** The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday:** St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
- Next Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Advent



Saint of the week

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was a Jesuit priest and theologian who spent 23 years as a prisoner of war during the World War II and the Cold War. His endurance of suffering for his beliefs and his writings reminds us of the importance of religious freedom and the power of faith.

Prayer

We adore You, Most Holy Trinity, and we thank You for the exemplary life of Your Servant, Father Walter Ciszek. We pray that his strong faith in Your loving providence, his great love for You, and his kindness to all people be recognized by the Church. If it be Your will, may he be given to us as a saintly model of these virtues so that we too may be better motivated to dedicate our lives to Your greater honor and glory. We commend our petition through the prayers of the holy Mother of God. For to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship, now and forever.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://www.ciszek.org/Prayers.html>)

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 3, 2023

Sunday:

Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16,
18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

Monday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4b, 4cd-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 8:5-11

Tuesday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17/Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday:

Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
Mt 15:29-37

Thursday:

Is 26:1-6/Ps 118:1 and 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a/
Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday:

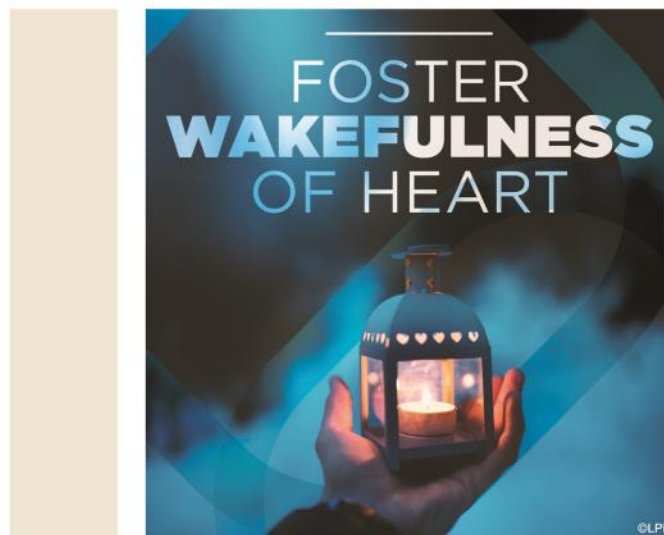
Is 30:19-21, 23-26/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/
Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a, 6-8

Next Sunday:

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
(8)/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? **"Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep."** Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023 | 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©LPI



Christmas

MASS SCHEDULE

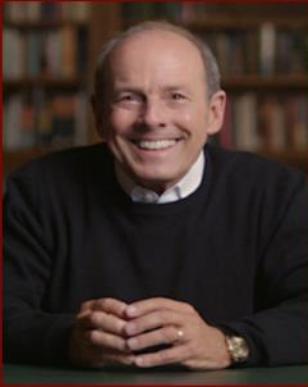
SUNDAY, DEC. 24TH
VIGIL SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

4:00 PM - OUTDOOR MASS IN COURTYARD -
(PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIR)
6:00 PM - MASS INSIDE THE CHURCH
9:00 PM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH

MONDAY, DEC. 25TH
SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

9:00 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH
10:30 AM - MASS INSIDE CHURCH





A CHRISTMAS STORY WITH DR. BILL CREASY

Dr. Creasy has an incredible gift of storytelling uniquely bringing the Bible to life. Give yourself a gift this Christmas season...join us this Advent as we join the over 250,000 people who have thus far participated in Logos Bible Study events and courses.

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 5 AT 7PM-9PM OR
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 AT 10AM-12PM
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH**

GOOD FAITH DONATION ACCEPTED

Bill Creasy is a former professor of English Literature at UCLA and founder of Logos Bible Study, where he taught Scripture to a general audience. His popular and highly rated course covered the entire Bible over five years in local churches and at its peak had over 6,000 weekly attendees in Southern California and Arizona.

**"DR. BILL CREASY'S TEACHING IS SO GOOD I ALMOST WANT TO
KEEP IT AS MY SECRET WEAPON." - FR. MIKE SCHMITZ**



Movement for a Better World



“You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.” 2 Cor 9:11

Christmas Present Drive: Envelopes containing a child’s information of one of the families we will support for Christmas will be available at all Masses this weekend. Please take one, purchase a gift for the child, and return to the Parish Life Center or to church ***by 12:30 pm, Dec. 10.***

Dec. 16 - Christmas Food and Present

Distribution: As a parish community, we will support 71 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver?** So meaningful to kids! Please contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 or jmsalinaz@yahoo.com.

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



In Memoriam

William (B.I.) Mais

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph: December 9th at 10:00 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~



Holy Day

Celebrate the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary

JOIN US FOR MASS ON FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH TO HONOR THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH 7:00PM VIGIL MASS FRIDAY DECEMBER 8TH 8:00AM & 7:00PM



Kindness MATTERS

Thank You! VOLUNTEERS

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers who generously dedicated their time to assemble the beautiful bread baskets for Thanksgiving! Thank you for being a driving force behind our community spirit!





Safeguard The Children



Garden of healing for victim-survivors of sexual abuse

With the continuing support of Archbishop José H. Gomez, the third garden of healing in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles dedicated to victim-survivors of sexual abuse was recently dedicated at Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Sherman Oaks. These gardens are a manifestation of our ongoing care for and support of those impacted by sexual abuse in all its forms. The other two gardens are located at St. Camillus Center for Spiritual Care in Los Angeles. (San Gabriel Pastoral Region) and Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Ventura (Santa Barbara Pastoral Region). The Archdiocese encourages anyone with information regarding sexual abuse to please make a report to law enforcement and/or the Office of Victims Assistance Ministry at (800) 355-2545 or protect@la-archdiocese.org. For more information on the abuse prevention and protection efforts of the Archdiocese, please visit <https://lacatholics.org/protect/>. For more information about the Gardens of Healing, please visit lacatholics.org/healing-gardens.



O God,
 as light comes from this candle,
 may the blessing of Jesus Christ
 come to us,
 warming our hearts
 and brightening our way.
 May Christ our Saviour bring life
 into the darkness of this world,
 and to us, as we wait for his coming.
 Amen.



Seniors Group



The next meeting of the St. Joseph Senior Group will be on **Monday, December 11**. This will be our Christmas meeting and you must have a reservation and paid for your lunch. The Alpha K and K classes will be singing for us promptly at 11:00, so **we ask all of you to be there around 10:30**. We will have lunch after the children perform and then we will play games in the afternoon. We are still collecting new clothing or toys for babies and toddlers for Movement for a Better World Christmas drive. You may bring them to the December 11 meeting. This will be our last meeting in 2023, and we will meet again on Monday, January 8, 2024. I hope all of you have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy 2024.



St. Joseph Grief Support



**Offering support and care
 this holiday season.**

We are offering a session to help you deal with grief.

December 12th, Tuesday 9:30 am to 11:30 am
 in the PLC building.

(This Session is Complimentary)

What We Believe

THE BEAUTY OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH



What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith

The Catholic Church is extraordinary. It is where we encounter God in his Word, his sacraments, and his saints. It proclaims the fullness of life, leaving no person out. It calls all to repent and to believe in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the source of all life and salvation.

Maybe you've been Catholic your entire life. Maybe you're just beginning to explore the Catholic Faith. Wherever you may be in your journey, you will be profoundly moved by the beauty and the richness of the Catholic Church. Join us for *What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Faith* at St. Joseph in the PLC and on Zoom beginning Thursday, January 11th from 7:00pm to 8:30pm and continuing every Thursday for 10 weeks. For more information or to register for the study, contact Mike Santy at 562-370-0769 or by email at mike@stjosephlb.org.

Book Club



Our next Zoom meeting is Wednesday, January 17th at 7pm. We will discuss: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

(Please note the date change)

Intensely suspenseful and deeply humane, this novel makes migrants seeking to cross the southern U.S. border indelibly individual."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Both a moral compass and a riveting read. I couldn't put it down. I'll never stop thinking about it."

-Ann Patchett, #1 New York Times bestselling author

All are welcome!

For more info, email agoodlife@msn.com



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