

# St. Joseph Parish



## 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie.”

- Jn 1:26-27

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)

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# Our Parish

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## 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

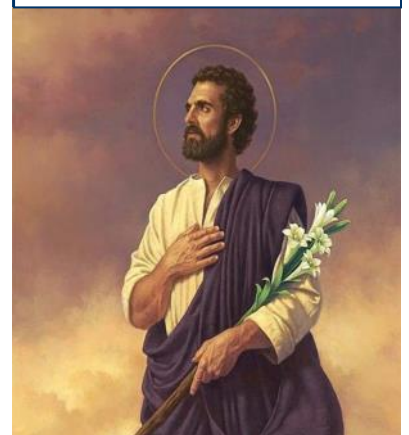
3:45-4:30 p.m.

**Inside Church**

## Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





# 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





## Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the Third Sunday of Advent! Christmas draws near. Are all your preparations complete?? Take a deep breath....another deep breath....and another....now you are at rest!!!

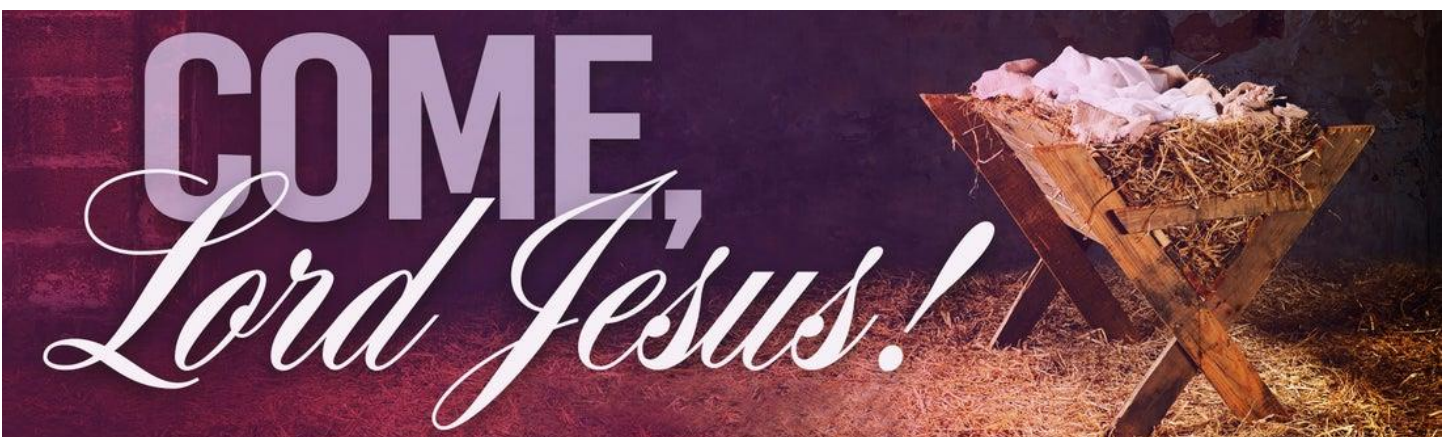
As we gather for the celebration of the Eucharist, this Sunday, we meet John the Baptist, the last of the great prophets and the cousin of Jesus. His mission was simple - to point to Jesus the Messiah. May all our Christmas preparations point to Jesus who was born to rescue and offer us salvation.

We all hope to see you twice next weekend for the Fourth Sunday of Advent with our regular Saturday evening and Sunday morning schedule and then Christmas. Christmas Eve Masses commence at 4:00 PM. The schedule is printed in this bulletin - just scroll up. There will be a total of 9 Masses next weekend – something for everyone!

Thank you for prayerfully, considering your annual Christmas gift to your parish community. A special envelope was included in your monthly mailing and many thanks to those of you who give electronically through Faith Direct! May the Lord bless your generosity and kindness.

May the Lord be with you in all your final Advent and Christmas preparations this coming week!!

I'm praying for you and your families!  
Msgr. Kevin





# *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 illumine 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)



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I rejoice heartily in the LORD,  
in my God is the joy of my soul. (Is 61:10)

### Psalms:

My soul rejoices in my God. (Is 61:10b)

### Second Reading:

May the God of peace make you perfectly holy  
and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body,  
be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord  
Jesus Christ. (1 Thes 5:23)

### Gospel:

"I baptize with water;  
but there is one among you whom you do not  
recognize,  
the one who is coming after me,  
whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."  
(Jn 1:23)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God sends a John the Baptist into every person's life — someone who prepares His way, who calls out His truth. Look for the John the Baptist in your life. Pray you can be this person for someone else.

## Observances for the week of December 17, 2023

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Advent
- Thursday:** St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Advent; Christmas Eve



## Saint of the week

Blessed Maria Franziska Schervier was a German Catholic nun who devoted her life to serving the poor and the sick. She founded the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen and began chapters in the United States where she and her sisters also founded a number of hospitals.

## Prayer

Almighty, just and merciful God, Blessed Frances Schervier spent her whole life giving back to You all the gifts that You had given her. She cared for the poor and the sick and radiated Your loving presence to all that she met. We beseech You now to glorify your servant, Frances. Give her the honor of sainthood if it is in accordance with Your will.

We ask this through Jesus, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

(Prayer Source: [http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF\\_2016/pr\\_canoniz\\_en.pdf](http://franciscansisters-en.sfp-poor.org/images/stories/2016/PDF_2016/pr_canoniz_en.pdf))

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

### Sunday:

Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54  
(Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

### Monday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

### Tuesday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/  
Lk 1:5-25

### Wednesday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

### Thursday:

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12,  
20-21/Lk 1:39-45

### Friday:

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/  
Lk 1:46-56

### Saturday:

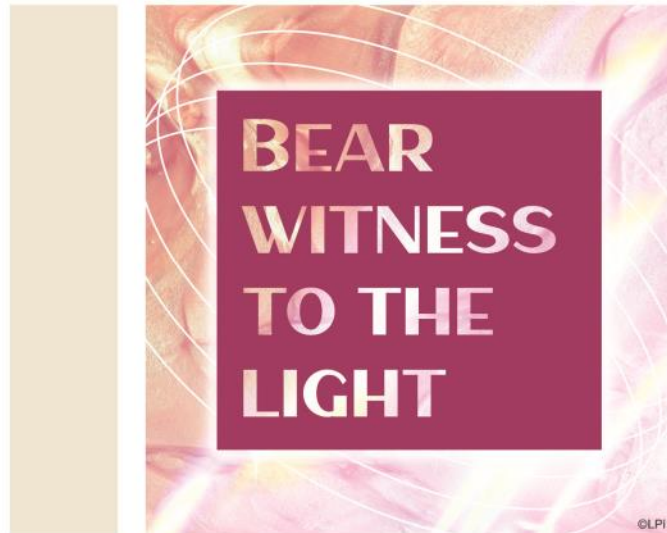
Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and  
14/Lk 1:57-66

### Next Sunday:

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,  
27, 29 (2a)/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Why do we believe in Jesus and the Catholic Church? Why should we continue to do so? We've never seen him face-to-face (at least not most of us, I assume). Most of us have never had mystical visions of angels or saints. We live in the same world as our atheist and secularists friends. Why do we believe in Christ if we've never seen him?

The simple, symbolic answer the Gospel presents to us this week might surprise us: we believe because of John the Baptist. Early in John's Gospel we hear: **"There was a man sent from God, his name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him."** The Baptist powerfully announces Jesus. This is a historical fact, and it is also now a pattern at work in our lives.

John the Baptist stands for the entirety of the old covenant, everything entrusted to the Jewish people. And yet he prophetically opens the door to something entirely new in Jesus, to the revival and fulfillment of God's promises. In every generation, and in every human life, God continues to do this. He has done it through people named Augustine, Francis, Catherine, Theresa, and countless others. In my life, the Baptist's spirit has come through persons named Eric, Paul, Mary, and Ron. I challenge you to name at least three people through whom God has announced the coming of Jesus in your life. Consciously thank God for their testimony. And let's commit ourselves to listening to the spirit of John the Baptist testify again this week so that we might more strongly believe in the light.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023 | 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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# 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 Food and Gift Distribution:** Our most sincere THANK YOU to everyone that helped with, and contributed blessings and hope to families in need: deliveries to 105 families, 2 or more gifts to 250 children, \$6,000 Skip-a-Meal purchases, transportation of over 4,000 lbs. of food, and a School food drive. It was an awesome display of the will and blessings of our parish to make a difference in the lives of so many Long Beach families!

**Home Furnishing Special Needs:** Our Thanksgiving and Christmas distribution angels provided feedback of *many* basic home furnishing needs by our supported families; refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, heaters, immanent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to fulfill these needs as a parish. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? Please call Tim Clark to learn about the types of opportunities, (562) 431-4385.

**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.

A PRAYER FOR THE  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Joy-filled Giver of Life,  
let the anticipation of your birth  
fill us with overflowing joy.  
May our excitement and anticipation  
be a sign to the world  
that you are always near.  
Amen.

Saint Joseph Music Ministry

## 'Tis the Season for Christmas Music!



### Christmas Weekend Music Schedule

Get into the holiday spirit with our choir leading classic and contemporary Christmas songs. Full schedule below.

**Christmas Eve:**

4 pm Mass (courtyard) will be led by members in the 8:30 am group, both current and alumnae

6 pm Mass (church) will be led by members of the 12:30pm contemporary band.

8:15 pm Concert in the Church, will be performed by 10:30 am choir. We will offer a series of beautiful Christmas Octavos intermingled with traditional Christmas Caroling.

**Christmas Day:**

9am & 10:30 am Mass (church) will be led by Vivian

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord



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## Safeguard The Children

**Keeping children safe in holiday crowds**  
This Christmas, your family will likely be in a crowd or two — at school functions, visiting Santa at the mall, Christmas Eve Mass. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, over 400,000 children go missing every year in the US. Crowds are a perfect opportunity for a perpetrator to take advantage of chaos and distraction. Before you head out into the holiday frenzy, talk to your children about some ground rules: Stay together and communicate about where you are headed if you change directions or plans. Consider the “two big steps” rule, which tells your child not to be more than two steps away from you at all times. That way, you can easily keep eyes on each other. For more tips, visit [nationwidechildrens.org](http://nationwidechildrens.org).



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I AM, AND DIRECT  
WHAT I SHALL BE.  
”

- ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

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<https://sjknights.net/schedule-a-tour>

**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](mailto:mike@stjosephlb.org).



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