

St. Joseph Parish



THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

6180 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815

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stjosephlb.org

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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.





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Merry Christmas!! Yes, it's still Christmas as this Sunday we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and next Sunday, the Solemnity of Epiphany. The Church's Christmas Season concludes on Monday, January 8th with the Baptism of the Lord. It was a great joy to see so many of the faithful here for Christmas Masses and it was wonderful to meet so many of your family members who came home to visit. I rejoiced when I met so many people who had been recipients of the Invite One Back cards that you sent to family and friends. We pray for their ongoing return to the Lord!!

This Monday, January 1st is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. Because New Years falls on a Monday this year, it is NOT a Holyday of Obligation. We'll have our usual daily Mass at 8:00 AM as we ask the Lord to bless all of our endeavors in this New Year of 2024.

We recently posted the position of Director of Faith Formation on the Archdiocese of Los Angeles website. The full description of the ministry and necessary qualifications can be found by scrolling down past this column and you can find it on the home page of our parish website, stjosephlb.org. May all of us pray that the Lord will send us the best candidate to help meet all our formation needs here at St. Joseph, including the spiritual growth of our children.

I'm offering this New Year's prayer for you and your family:

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, as a New Year begins,

We come to You and ask for your blessing.

We pray that you would give us joy to fill our days,

peace to fill our hearts and love to fill our lives.

Thank you for the plans You have for us in this New Year,

we wait in anticipation to see all that You will do.

Bless all our families, keep them safe and healthy and

may we trust in Your providential care, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

New Year's Blessings and Peace,
Msgr. Kevin

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH
DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION
JOB/MINISTRY DESCRIPTION**

WAGE TYPE: \$26-\$32 hourly or \$50,000 - \$66,000 annually

SUPERVISION: Part Time Paid Staff (Faith Formation Assistant)

Full Time Confirmation Co-ordinator/Youth Minister

Over 40 Volunteers In Faith Formation

Position Objective:

The Director of Faith Formation will provide personal leadership, training, support and oversight with regards to events, programs, catechists, retreats and spiritual growth of early childhood through adults.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Children Faith Formation (Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) Early Childhood and Elementary Faith Formation

- Encourage youth to participate in the daily workings of the church.
- Develop a systematic and intentional plan for adolescent catechesis that utilizes a creative variety of formats, settings, and timeframes.
- Provide resources (print, video, audio) for effective programming,
- Supervise the catechetical classes by:
 - Providing sufficient training sessions for catechists and prospective catechists to become certified according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
 - Organize and plan catechist retreats.
 - Supervising the selection of textbooks, visual aids and scheduling of classes to implement the curriculum.
 - Providing parents with opportunities to become familiar with and participate in the aims and methods of the curriculum. Engage parents in catechetical/spiritual formation.
 - Organize, plan and lead family retreats, family nights, etc.
 - Organize Vacation Bible Camp in the future.

High School Formation (Confirmation) – In collaboration with Confirmation Director:

- Oversee the development of a core support group of youth, catechists, chaperons and other volunteers.
- Oversee and review the overall high school confirmation program.
- Provide administrative support (registration, handbooks, website updates and certificates).
- Acknowledge youth as part of the total church family and therefore, take opportunities to create the youth program within the present structures of the parish and encourage youth to develop leadership abilities.

Adult Faith Formation

- Support adult bible study sessions.
- Develop, organize and plan adult formation speaker series.
- Promote adult formation events and series sponsored by the Archdiocese and other local parishes.

Overall Duties and Responsibilities

Oversee financial records and prepare annual budget for all faith formation endeavors with assistance of Faith Formation Assistant.

- Manage and offer ongoing support for Faith Formation staff and volunteers.
- Provide information and training on Safeguard the Children for all catechetical volunteers and provide record information to the proper authority.
- Member of the Parish Safeguard the Children committee.
- Facilitates the Safeguard the Children Awareness Sessions, Teaching Touching Safety Sessions, and Keeping the Promise Alive Sessions.
- Oversee and maintain Safeguard the Children training records.
- Coordinate sacrament prep programs (First Reconciliation and Holy Communion) with the school.
- Oversee any inquiries about the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children
- Oversee and coordinate the management of Faith Formation Database (PDS).
- Communicate and Coordinate events and activities with the church staff.
- Provide bulletin announcements, website, and social media updates.
- Aid the sacramental preparation programs according to Archdiocesan and Parish Policy.
- Ecumenical endeavors in the Archdiocese, parish and deanery.
- Parent/Guardian information updates.
- Assist in planning Religious Education Congress for parish participants.
- Answer the telephone and respond to catechetical inquiries.
- Attend Pastoral Team meeting once a month.
- Collect and maintain all sacramental records.
- Collect and maintain all registration fees.
- Digital knowledge in Publisher, MS Outlook, Word, Excel.
- Order supplies, maintain inventory and keep RE spaces clean and in good order.
- Provide any assistance or help as needed to the St. Joseph Staff and Parish Life Center.

If you are gifted with strong interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with children and adults in fostering lifelong spiritual growth in the Catholic faith, we hope to hear from you!!

Please email cover letter and resume to Brenda Pineda at brenda@stjosephlb.org or mail to St. Joseph Church, 6180 E. Willow Street, Long Beach, CA 90815.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Your own issue shall be your heir."
The Lord took Abram outside and said,
"Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can.
Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be."
(Gn 3:4-5)

Psalm:

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever. (Ps 105)

Second Reading:

By faith he received power to generate,
even though he was past the normal age
—and Sarah herself was sterile. (Heb 11:11)

Gospel:

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom;
and the favor of God was upon him. (Lk 2:40)

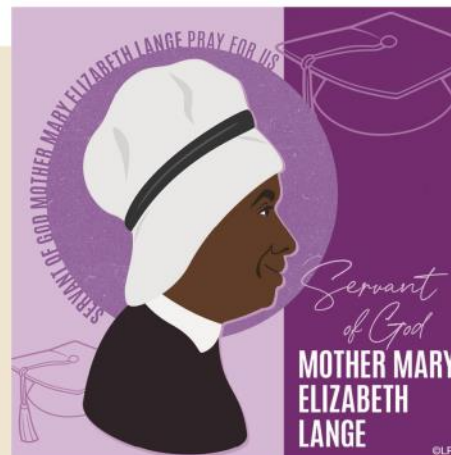
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God's timing is not always our timing. Sometimes, we have to wait years for the answer to our prayer. Never despair. Remember that God keeps His word.

Observances for the week of December 31, 2023

- Sunday:** The Holy Family; New Year's Eve
Monday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
Tuesday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
Wednesday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
Thursday: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious
Friday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Saturday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Saint of the week

Venerable Mary Elizabeth Lange was a trailblazing black Catholic who founded the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first congregation of black religious sisters in the USA. Her faith and perseverance helped break down barriers and create new opportunities for black Catholics.

Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, You granted Mother Mary Lange extraordinary trust in Your providence. You endow her with humility, courage, holiness, and an extraordinary sense of service to the poor and the sick. You enabled her to fund the Oblate Sisters of Providence and provided educational, social, and spiritual ministry especially to the African American community. Mother Lange's love for all enabled her to see Christ in each person, and the pain of prejudice and racial hatred never blurred that vision.

Deign to raise her to the highest honors of the altar in order that, through her intercession, more souls may come to a deeper understanding and more fervent love of You.

Heavenly Father, glorify Your heart by granting also this favor (state your request) which we ask through the intercession of Your faithful servant, Mother Mary Lange.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://nolacatholic.org/news/black-catholic-history-month-mother-mary-lange#:~:text=Prayer,the%20poor%20and%20the%20sick.>)

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps
128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/
Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12,
17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/
Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/
Jn 1:29-34

Thursday:

1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42

Friday:

1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34,
36, 38

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see
11)/Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I remember the first time my older sister asked me if I wanted to hold her newborn son. Terrified, I told her I didn't think it was a good idea. My résumé had nothing to suggest I would be a qualified baby holder. But she warmly told me, "I'll help you hold him." It struck me that she is baby's mother. She is the one who decides who is qualified to hold him. I took him in my arms and soon I began to feel comfortable with that tiny little warm cooing creature in my arms, and soon I no longer feared holding him. Now, twenty-seven nieces and nephews later, holding a newborn child is one of the great joys of my life.

Do we sometimes think that Jesus is given only to the highly qualified, special religious people? In the Gospel of Luke today we hear about the presentation of the Lord in the temple. The newborn son of God is passed around like a baton in a relay race, not guarded like a precious jewel or a breakable china dish. We can see him going from the arms of Mary to Joseph, then to the priest performing the ceremony, then to Simeon the old man, then to Anna the old widow. Each one receiving him and then handing him to the next. A tidal wave of joy and thanksgiving follows wherever he is placed.

Believe me, you are qualified to hold Jesus in your arms. How can I say that with such confidence? Because the mother decides who is qualified. The Blessed Virgin, embodied in the Church, holds him out to you and me. She rejoices to place him in our arms to hold, and to hand him on, too.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 | THE HOLY FAMILY

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Movement for a Better World

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 107 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.

Jan. 13-14: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available Jan. 6.

Home Furnishing Special Needs: Our holiday distributions 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



Adoration



Come and spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Experience what Catholic author Matthew Kelly calls “The Classroom of Silence,” and respond to Jesus’ call: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40). Fr. Athanasius will lead Eucharistic Adoration this **Friday January 5th at 8:00 am.**



Did You Know?



The silent victims of human trafficking

Nearly every public campaign about the evils of sex trafficking involve child female victims. A majority of victims are female, but there are many male victims, and they are mostly silent. Societal expectations often lead men to feel that they should be “strong” and “assertive” enough to avoid being forced into trafficking — but these stereotypes do a disservice to male victims who may feel trapped in abusive patterns, unable to ask for the help they need. For more information and ways to help these silent victims, read the VIRTUS® article “The Most Silent Victims of Sex Trafficking” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Solemnity of
MARY
Mother of God

"By her motherhood, Mary shows us that humility and tenderness are not virtues of the weak but of the strong."
- Pope Francis -

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Merry Christmas

May your **Christmas** be blessed by **baby Jesus!** Wishing you and your loved ones the happiest of Holidays & a **Joyful New Year.** Thank you for all your support and dedication to your St. Joseph Parish community.

Blessings from all of the St. Joseph Staff



Seniors Group

The next meeting of the St. Joseph Senior Group will be on **Monday, January 8, 2024**, in the hall. The activities will begin at **11:00 am** and will include Bingo, many kinds of card games, Mexican train, and lots of socializing. Bring your brown bag lunch, and coffee, tea, water, snacks and cookies will be provided. We look forward to seeing all our members and any new friends who would like to join us. Many blessings to you during this holiday season.



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sign up for TK - Gr. 4 basketball

Saturday Mornings in Jan/Feb

St. Joe's Parish Community

\$60 per player

practices will be 30 minutes prior to games

Want to sign up? Contact stjosephbasketball23@gmail.com

St. Joseph Parish

WE ARE HIRING



Director of
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Submit your Resume & Brief
Personal Introduction to:

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For Full Job Description:
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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.



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