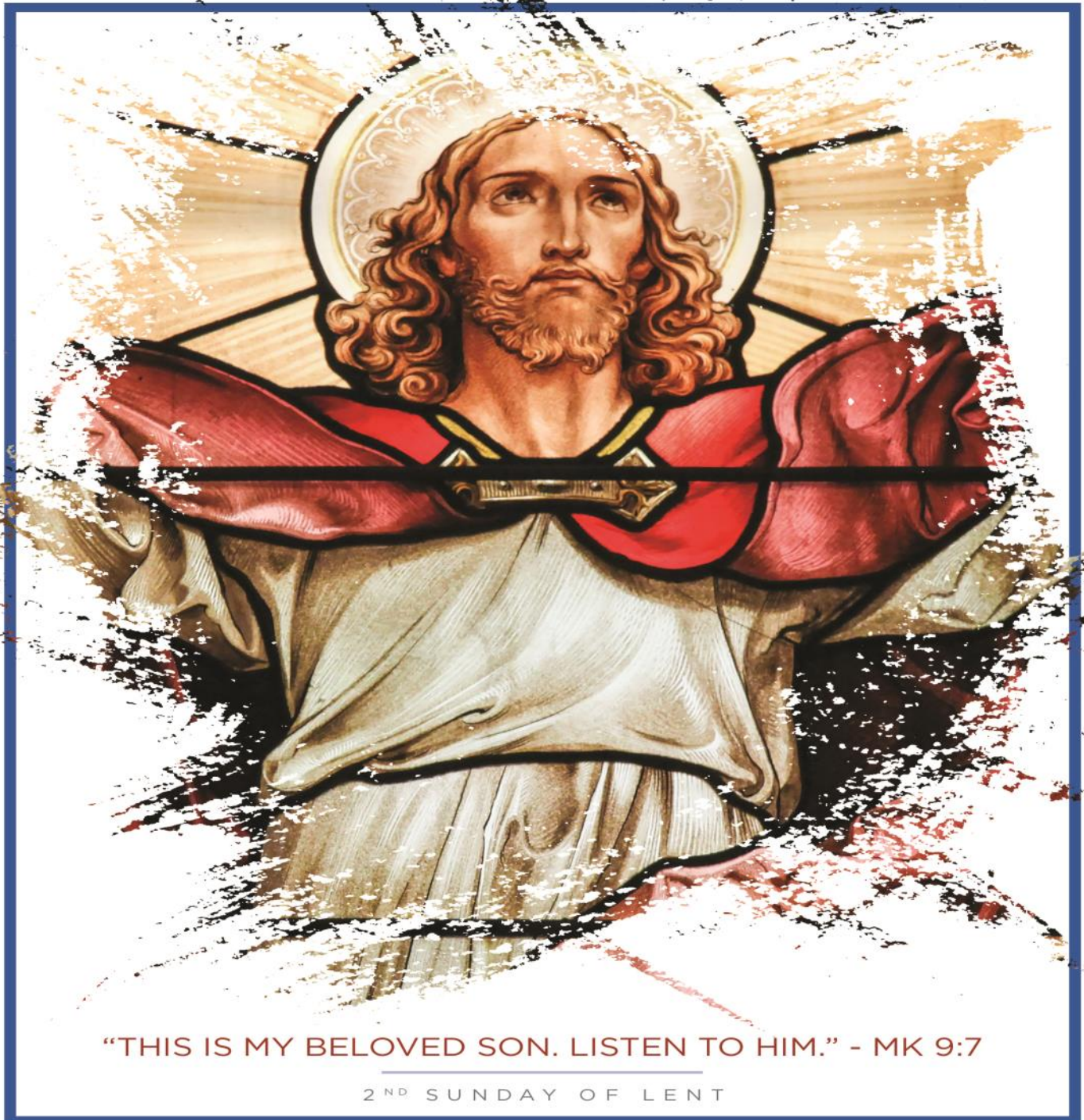


St. Joseph Parish



"THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. LISTEN TO HIM." - MK 9:7

2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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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:

Welcome to the **Second Sunday of Lent**.

This weekend we join Peter, James and John and ascend the mountain where Jesus is Transfigured before our eyes! The Transfiguration of the Lord is a reminder that all of us have gone through moments of Transfiguration in our lives, a moment when we realized that God was with us.

This weekend, our catechumens will celebrate the **Rite of Sending** at the 8:30 AM Mass on the grass and they will be sent to the Cathedral, where Archbishop Gomez will officially declare them to be Elect of the Church. All of us are invited to pray for them as they move forward to full initiation at the Easter Vigil. Scroll down to see their pictures and names.

Mark your calendars – our annual **Lenten Communal Penance Service** will take place on Monday, March 18 at 7:00 PM in the Church. I have secured seven visiting priests from the Long Beach neighborhood to hear your confessions.

Next weekend is **Feed a Baby** – scroll down to see what items are needed and thanks for shopping!!

Thanks to all who participated in our **Lenten Mission** with Fr. Michael Driscoll. He enjoyed his visit to St. Joseph's and is grateful for your hospitality and presence at his conferences. May all of us continue

to grow in the Eucharist – the Embodiment of Love!!

Great news – I'm pleased to announce that after a long search, our new **Director of Faith Formation** is very familiar to you. Marc Leon, our former youth minister is returning as the new Director of Religious Education. Since he left us almost 2 years ago, Mark has grown in his administrative skills and abilities, and most importantly, he and his wife, Jessica are parents of two beautiful daughters. He understands what it means to pass on faith to children. Marc will be with us part time on Sundays, and he'll commence his full-time ministry in late April. Welcome Home Marc and the Leon Family!

Blessings during this Second Week of Lent!

Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I know now how devoted you are to God,
since you did not withhold from me your own
beloved son." (Gn 22:12)

Psalm:

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living. (Ps 116)

Second Reading:

He who did not spare his own Son
but handed him over for us all,
how will he not also give us everything else along
with him? (Rom 8:32)

Gospel:

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them;
from the cloud came a voice,
"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." (Mk 9:7)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The Transfiguration left the disciples with more questions than answers. What had they just seen? What had they just heard? They were confused, but they trusted Jesus. Let's follow in their example, trusting in God's care as we journey deeper into Lent.

Observances for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

Tuesday: St. Gregory of Narek,
Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Blessed Carlo Acutis was born in 1991 and is the first millennial to be beatified. Despite dying of leukemia at age 15, he developed a website that showcases Eucharistic Miracles around the world, demonstrating that holiness knows no age.

Prayer of Trust

Dear Lord,
Your ways confuse me sometimes. Often, I don't fully understand what You are doing. But I believe that You are working in a way that will one day make sense. Until then, keep me close to You, trusting blindly in the ways You lead me. Amen.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

Sunday:

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15,
16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10

Monday:

Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday:

Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21
and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/
Mt 20:17-28

Thursday:

Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday:

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17,
18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday:

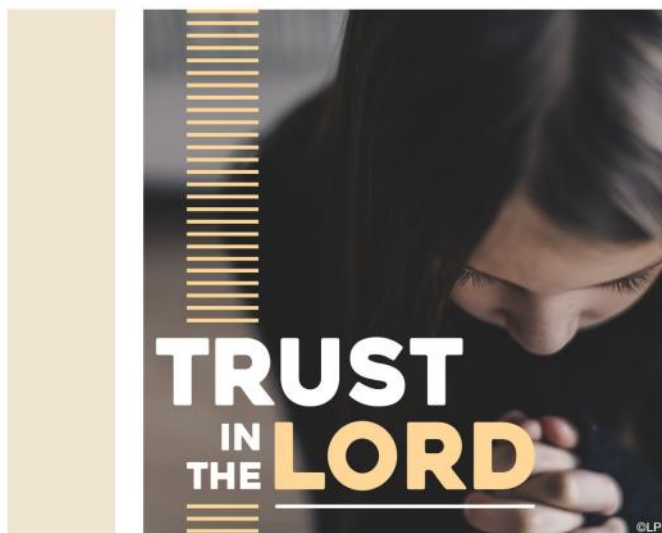
Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,
11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday:

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9,
10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25
Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/
Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-
26, 39a, 40-42



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a college student, my prized possession was an after-market car stereo. It was my pride and joy: glorious audio, eye-catching display screen, and multi-disc CD changer. It drained my hard-earned dollars, but it was totally worth it. It drenched me in music everywhere I drove. On Ash Wednesday of my senior year of college, Father Tom, the Jesuit priest at my university said, “Pray for God to tell you what he wants you to sacrifice for Lent.” I did. In my heart, the answer came: “Give up listening to your car stereo for forty days.” I winced. Not possible, I thought. Can’t do it. I made other plans. The next morning, I was stunned to find that my car had been broken into, and my fancy stereo ripped out and stolen.

God’s command to sacrifice what we love is no joke. This week in Genesis 22, God says: **“Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love — Isaac — and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”** Believe me, I know. We like to be in control. It chafes us that *God sets the terms* of what we must sacrifice, and how. But this is no impersonal, tyrannical process. Remember that God uses their names, Abraham and Isaac. God knows each one of us and the precious gifts He commands us to offer. Finally, our sacrifices are for our own good. Do we trust this enough to do what Father Tom asked me to do?

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: “What do you want me to give up?” He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn’t make it easy.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

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JOIN US

FOR ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

Adoration 6:30pm
Stations of the Cross 7pm

Lenten Guidelines and Practices

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year. Fasting allows for one full meal and two smaller meals not to equal one full meal. Abstinence from meat is obligatory for all who have completed their 14th year of age.

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat for all who have completed their 14th year. As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused. For example, pregnant women (breastfeeding mothers) or people receiving medical treatment are not obligated to fast. Nevertheless, people especially in this category are invited to practice another form of fasting besides food.

OCIA

OCIA

Catechumens:



Long



Noel



Shawn

Candidates:



John



Robert

Pray for our candidates and elects!

OCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the OCIA process who journey to you. Strengthen their faith. Open their hearts to the fullness of your love. Deepen their understanding. Set their hearts on fire for the kingdom of God. We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.

Amen!



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). Deacon Tom & Pat Halliwell will lead Eucharistic Adoration this **Friday March 1st at 8:00 am.**

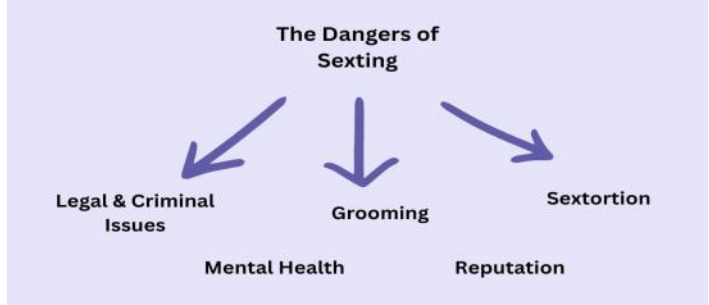


We are looking for additional families that would like to be altar servers at all Masses! Catholic Liturgy is meant to be the Work of the People. Families who attend Mass together are encouraged to serve together in this ministry of service. All families that attend St. Joseph are invited to apply. Families who apply will receive appropriate training in the ministry and will meet with Monsignor Kevin prior to serving. Then they will be added to an Altar Server schedule. We hope that you will join in this special ministry!

Please email the Altar Server Ministry Coordinator, Monica Wissuchek, at stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com to register for the next training in early February. Monica will work with each family to help meet their individual needs, and to train and schedule them for liturgies throughout the year.



Did You Know?



Understanding “sexting”

“Sexting” is the sending of sexually explicit messages or images via text. Sexting commonly happens in conversations between teens and tweens, and usually involves nude “selfies.” When these images are shared or distributed on social media platforms like TikTok, Instagram, and Snapchat, the problem is made worse. Some states have laws against sexting that could have criminal ramifications for teens. To learn more, read the VIRTUS® article “Responding to the Crime of Child Sexual Abuse Materials” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.



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Movement for a Better World



“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” Mt 18:5

March 2-3: Feed-a-Baby Food Drive: We will collect non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence, and New Life Beginnings of Long Beach.

Mar. 23: Easter Food and Book Distribution: As a parish community, we will support 69 families. **Easter is our *most* challenging holiday to recruit drivers!** Contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 or jmsalinaz@yahoo.com. So meaningful to kids!

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



St. Joseph Grief Support



St. Joseph Grief Support Seminars help and offer Encouragement after the death of a loved one.

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Do you sense that something’s missing in your life? Do you feel that if you weren’t so busy you would be happier, healthier, more effective, more fulfilled, and maybe even a better person?

Come to the Welcome Christ Renews His Parish retreat weekend! It’s an incredible experience that will help you discover what’s missing in your life and what to do about it. Whether you want to connect with other people in the parish, improve your prayer life, or just take a break from the craziness of your everyday to have fun, you will find what you are looking for – and more.

Men’s Weekend – April 13-14, 2024 Registration is open.

To learn more and to sign up, visit: stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/.



Seniors Group



The next meeting of the St. Joseph Senior Group will be on **Monday, February 26, 2024**, in the hall. The activities will begin promptly at 11:00 am and will include Bingo, many kinds of card games, Mexican train, and lots of socializing. **Because this meeting will be our last meeting in the old hall, we will be treated to pizza and salad for lunch.** We will still have coffee, tea, water, and snacks to enjoy during the games, and cookies for dessert. We look forward to seeing all our members and any new friends who would like to join us. Information on what will be happening to the Senior Group when the construction begins will be forthcoming.



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