

# St. Joseph Parish



## 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Lk 6:38

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](http://stjosephlb.org)

# Our Parish

**PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK**

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**siknights.net**

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(562) 598-0519

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Liz Moreno

OCIA:

Sr. Eva

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Baptism Preparation

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Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

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Hospitality Ministry

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Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

(562) 431-4385

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Marilyn North

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Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

(702) 401-5247

Engaged Encounter

Paciano & Molly Diaz

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Natural Family Planning

Greg & Beth Gath

(562) 377-5877

Precious Life Shelter

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Boy Scouts

Jeff Baer

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Joe Dang

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May Pace

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Monica Wissuchek

*stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com*

Welcome Christ Renews His Parish

Diane Ohde

*stjlbwelcome@gmail.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:

Welcome to the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time. If you thought last weekend's teaching by Jesus was tough, this week's teaching takes the cake. The Lord says: "Love your enemies! Pray for those who hate you!"

Ouch! This difficult teaching is taken from St. Luke's Sermon on the Plain. The entire sermon is a challenging block of teachings! This Gospel reaches out to us when we must not only hear but act on God's guidance at a critical time in the life of all our social structures: family, nation and the world! We are instructed to go beyond what seems only natural to us – not only to do good to those who do good to you, but to do good to your enemies! The Lord tells us why – "Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most high". Pray for the strength to not only internalize the words of the Master, but to act on them!

During the recent rainstorms, I was reminded of a recent conversation with some priest friends. We were all taught about the three L's – lights, locks and leaks! Back in the day, my home pastor would walk me around the parish plant, as he called it, making sure the lights were turned off in offices and classrooms, double checking that the doors were locked and always looking for leaks. If a staff member left lights on or doors unlocked, there would be a reckoning the next day! Those three L's are not at the very top of all my pastoral challenges, however, during the recent rains, I did walk through all of the buildings, and I'm pleased to report there was not one leak! Two years ago, we invested in all new screens and windows in the residence and classrooms and they work!

Talk about Gospel teachings. Please scroll down and read Archbishop Gomez's latest reflection, titled: "Time for immigration reform, again!" It is a thoughtful and challenging reflection on how the broken immigration system in our country needs to be fixed. Reflecting on the principles of Catholic, social teaching and international law, the Archbishop calls for a coherent, immigration policy that secures our borders and respects the rights and dignity of all human beings. Scroll down in this bulletin to read the Archbishop's letter.

Did you know? Each week I have been highlighting our monthly expenses, which have significantly increased during the past several years due to the inflation costs that have not only impacted your family life, but our parish life. I hope we can all agree that our parish campus is kept beautiful through the efforts of Salco Landscaping. It is a challenge to keep all the trees trimmed, the nearly 2 acres of lawn mowed and flowers replenished. It takes three men every Thursday to beautify the outside of our home. Our annual landscaping budget for Salco is \$35,366. Thanks for being generous in the offertory, for using your envelopes or donating through Faith Direct, our electronic sacrificial giving system. It helps!

In just 10 days, the season of Lent commences with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Scroll down to see our Ash Wednesday schedule, and plan to receive the ashes with the admonition: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel."

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



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Archdiocese of Los Angeles

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Wilshire  
Boulevard

Los Angeles  
California  
90010-2241

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*Time For Immigration Reform (Again)*  
by  
*Archbishop José H. Gomez*

*Angelus News*

“Our national debate about immigration frustrates me. ... Many of our leaders seriously believe the issue can best be ‘solved’ by rounding up and removing everyone caught living in our midst without proper legal documents. This would be a human rights nightmare, involving the forced repatriation of a population roughly the size of Ohio. ...

“Politicians talk in euphemisms about ... making life so scary and harsh for people who are here illegally that they will want to leave the country of their own accord. From the courts and legislatures to the media and popular opinion, there is an outraged, personal tone to our immigration debate that you don’t hear very often in our politics.”

I wrote those words in 2013 at the beginning of my book, [“Immigration and the Next America”](#). I could write the same words today.

I’ve been ministering to migrants for nearly 40 years, from the time I was a young priest in Texas and Colorado. During that whole time immigration has continued to be a flashpoint in American life.

The recent controversies with the new administration in Washington, D.C., reflect a lack of awareness of the history and confusion about the duties of the Church and government.

The Church has been a good partner. Working with the government through Catholic Charities and other agencies, we have helped our nation welcome and settle millions of legal immigrants and refugees.

We work with efficiency and compassion and use the taxpayer monies entrusted to us wisely. On top of that, the Catholic faithful give very generously, not only their money but countless volunteer hours, to help those seeking a new life in our country.

The Catholic Church did not break the nation’s immigration system, but every day we deal with the human damage caused by that broken system: women and children who have been trafficked by coyotes and cartels; people who’ve been living and working in this country for decades but don’t have the rights or benefits of citizens; those addicted by the drugs being smuggled across our borders.

Now, once again, we are dealing with the fears of ordinary men, women, and children in our neighborhoods, parishes, and schools.

We all agree that we don’t want undocumented immigrants who are known terrorists or violent criminals in our communities. They should be removed from our country in a way that respects their rights and dignity as human beings.

But we still need to fix the broken system that allowed them to cross our borders in the first place. Not enough people in Washington seem to be serious about that.

The last comprehensive reform of our nation's immigration system was in 1986.

It was a different world then: the Cold War was going on, the internet was experimental, there was no such thing as a "smart" phone; Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, was two years old.

Forty years is a long time for our leaders to avoid solving an important problem. The failure of political will and courage has truly been bipartisan, and both parties have shown themselves willing to exploit the issue for political gain.

In the meantime, the American economy has changed and so has the global economic and financial system. The mass migration of poor peoples, displaced by wars, disasters, and instability in their home countries, has become a crisis for America and almost every nation in Europe.

The criticism of the Church is misplaced and distracts from the real issues, which are deep and decades old.

In 2013, a very different administration, from the other political party, was in power in Washington. [That administration deported more than 5 million immigrants.](#)

I said then and it's still true today: Deportation is not an immigration policy.

Every nation has the solemn duty to control and secure its borders. But border walls need doors, too.

People are born with the natural right to emigrate in search of a better life, and prosperous nations are called to be generous in welcoming them.

But we cannot let everyone in who wants to live here, so there need to be rules and an orderly process for deciding who we welcome, how many we welcome, and under what conditions.

These are basic principles of Catholic teaching and international law. Other industrialized nations in the West have a coherent immigration policy. America should too.

Government has its responsibility and the Church has her mission. And I am praying that in the months ahead we will find ways to work together for the common good.

Pray for me and I will pray for you.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, mother of Jesus and mother of all the peoples of the Americas, keep us close to her Son in this moment. May she help us to work together as neighbors, in a spirit of unity, to truly become one nation under God.

###



# Ash Wednesday

March 5, 2025

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass with distribution of Ashes indoors.**

**12:00 PM – Holy Mass with distribution of Ashes indoors.**

**5:00 PM – Holy Mass with Distribution of Ashes indoors.**

**6:15 PM – 7:15 PM – Drive-thru in the parking lot – Distribution of Ashes. Please see the map below for driving instructions in the parking lot.**

Let's make it a GREAT LENT at St. Joseph's!!

Blessings,

Msgr. Kevin



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"Today, though the LORD delivered you into my grasp,  
I would not harm the LORD's anointed." (1 Sm 26:23)

### Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

### Second Reading:

Just as we have borne the image of the earthly one,  
we shall also bear the image of the heavenly one.  
(1 Cor 15:49)

### Gospel:

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." (Jn Lk 6:36)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

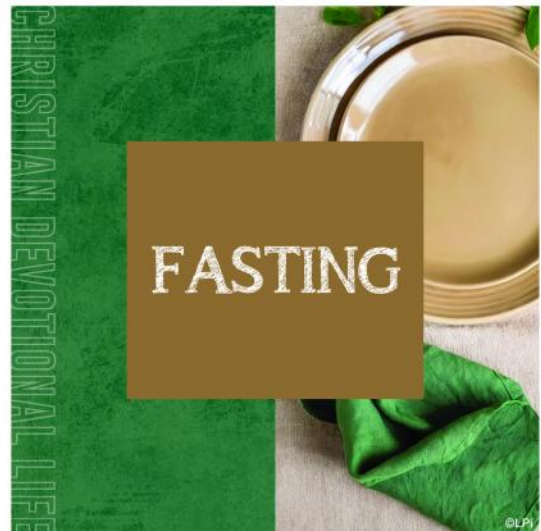
Jesus' message today is one of radical generosity and abundant mercy, and it scandalized the people of his time. It shook them to their core. It should do the same for us. Are we ready to live as Jesus lived? Are we ready to offer love in the face of hate?

## Observances for the week of February 23, 2025

**Sunday:** 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

**Next Sunday:** 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

Fasting was practiced by righteous men and women of the Old Testament and later by Christ himself. It remains an important part of the Christian devotional life today, being most strongly associated with the penitential season of Lent.

## Prayer of Christian Life

Dear Jesus,  
Help me to pray for and bless everyone I encounter, whether that be easy or hard. Help me to act in the mercy I have known through you. Help me to demonstrate generosity, as you have given so much to me. Amen.

©LPi

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of February 23, 2025

### Sunday:

1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/  
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38

### Monday:

Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29

### Tuesday:

Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/  
Mk 9:30-37

### Wednesday:

Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174,  
175/Mk 9:38-40

### Thursday:

Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50

### Friday:

Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/  
Mk 10:1-12

### Saturday:

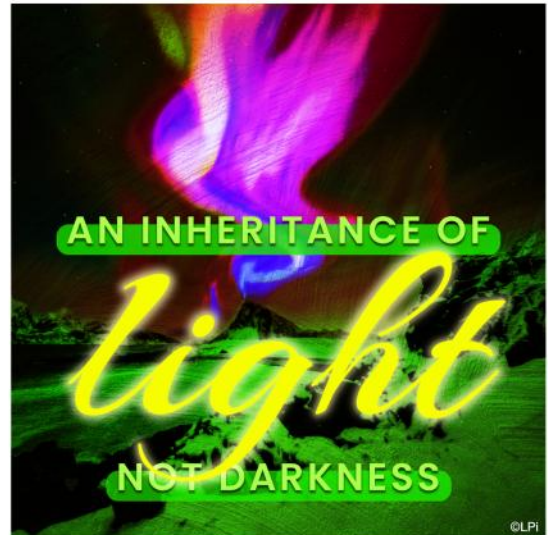
Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/  
Mk 10:13-16

### Next Sunday:

Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/  
1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of my favorite new singers/songwriters is Noah Kahan. I'm a little biased because, like me, he is originally from Vermont. In a fine song entitled "Stick Season," he sings of his hope to "cancel out the darkness I inherited from dad." This lyric articulates his painful recognition of a dark spiritual "inheritance" from his father, and his hope to be free of it. We all inherit some degree of evil from our earthly forebears. It's easy to feel doomed to repeat their darknesses.

But we're not so doomed, thank God. This week's Gospel proclaims this. Whatever good or bad we received from our parents, we have a more definitive and perfect inheritance in God. Jesus commands us, **"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful"** (Luke 6:36). We have a perfect Father in heaven and are destined to inherit and reflect that perfect and merciful love. We have an inheritance of light, not darkness, and thus a whole new possibility of magnanimous love. Like any inheritance, this is a free gift to us.

What are we destined to repeat? Not the darkness of our earthly parents. We are destined to be a reflection of God's life. Jesus liberates us from the inevitability of repeating whatever evils and imperfections are in our familial or cultural upbringings. It's time to claim that perfect inheritance.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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## *Reconnect. Recharge. Refocus.*

*"I attended the Welcome Christ Renews His Parish at St. Joseph in Long Beach. The witnesses that I heard on my retreat were so moving. The men really opened up and shared their backgrounds that made them the men they are today. It was truly an amazing experience. I've never been in a retreat like that where the men were so authentic and so open with their experiences. It is definitely a retreat all men of God should attend and be a part of the renewal of the church." Michael Mantong*

*"Thank you for offering the Welcome Retreat. It has helped me reconnect to several good men and get to know others; I feel my sense of community has expanded for the better." Paul Farrell*

*"I am a 'Cradle Catholic,' with both parents practicing Catholics. My father was an 'Irish Immigrant' who came to this country in June 1929, had to work Sundays but always went to another parish for Sunday Mass (6 AM), so he would get to work on time. I had both a Catholic Grade School (Sisters of Mercy) and Catholic High School (Christian Brothers) education. My mother would make sure my 4 brothers and I attended the adult Sunday Mass after we graduated from the elementary school. So, for most of my adult life, I felt that I didn't need a retreat to strengthen my faith. By attending the 'Welcome Christ Renews His Parish' I heard the various struggles and experiences of other men who, by their recounting those struggles and changes in their habits, both improved their practice of the Catholic faith and made them better spouses, fathers, and human beings. Those stories reinforced my faith and moved me to make sure that I always understand but not judge all other persons. Overall, I believe the time was well spent and I am thankful I was able to do it." Brian Connell*

*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.*

### *Men's Weekend*

*March 15<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 8am – 9pm*

*March 16<sup>th</sup>, Sunday 8am – 3pm*

To learn more and to sign up,  
visit our parish website Or

<https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/>

# LOVE *is a* TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE

Movement For A Better World



"Charity is the form, mover, mother and root of all the virtues." St. Thomas Aquinas

**This Weekend Book Drive:** Collecting new and gently used reading books for over 315 children of our supported families for Easter.

**Mar. 30-31 Homeless Visits:** The St. Joseph Homeless Ministry group will prepare and distribute food and homeless hygiene kits to 120 of our most vulnerable. Can you help prepare? Distribute to encampments?

**Opportunities:** food drive delivery- deliver food from food drives, purchase additional from cash donations. Homeless kits: Inspection and delivery homeless kit donations; purchase from cash donations. For these and many other opportunities to serve, call Tim Clark, 562-431-4385.

## HelpOurMarriage.org

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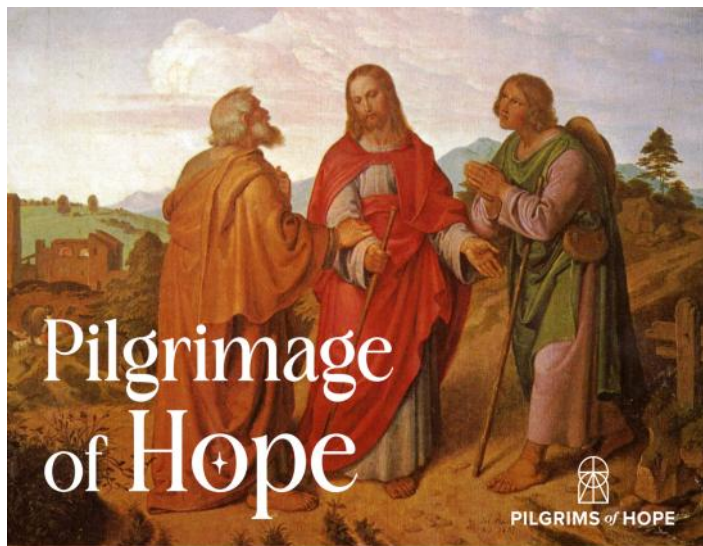
The next weekend in Los Angeles

is on March 28-30, 2025

*Register Now*

**909-900-5465**

[www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org)



**SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 2025  
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

Join a 7.5 mile Pilgrimage of Hope from All Souls Church in Alhambra to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, concluding with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gomez.

Follow @LACatholics for more Jubilee news and events!



Visit [hope.lacatholics.org/pilgrimage](http://hope.lacatholics.org/pilgrimage) or scan here to learn more and register!



## Book Club

CHERISHED  
BELONGING

THE  
HEALING  
POWER OF  
LOVE IN  
DIVIDED  
TIMES

GREGORY BOYLE

AUTHOR OF LISTENING TO THE HEART

Our next Book Club meeting is  
**Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm**  
on Zoom

**Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times by Gregory Boyle**

*"In a world increasingly marked by division and discord, beloved Jesuit priest Gregory Boyle offers a transformative vision of community and compassion."* Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times: Boyle, Gregory: 9781668061855: Amazon.com: Books

All are welcome. For more info, email  
[agoodlife@msn.com](mailto:agoodlife@msn.com)



## Senior Group



Our next get together will be at the  
El Dorado Restaurant on  
Monday, March 10th at 9:30 am.

Please join us for a nice time catching up with old friends and meeting new friends. When you arrive, tell the server that you are with St. Joseph and he/she will direct you to the area we are gathering in. Everyone will order and pay for his/her own breakfast. We look forward to seeing you there. For future reference, we meet there on the 2nd Monday of every month, at the same time. Looking forward to seeing you!

## St. Joseph Grief Support

### Grief support



If you think you can't survive grieving, and  
Your dreams feel shattered, consider joining  
Our support group:

**Tuesday 9:30 -11:30 a.m.** each week

Contact May Pace,  
Bereavement Minister, [maypace@gmail.com](mailto:maypace@gmail.com)  
Or 562/833-6370

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.



## 24 Hours for the Lord

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 - SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

20 PARISHES ACROSS THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES  
will be open for 24 hours for prayer and the Sacrament of  
Reconciliation from the morning of March 28 through the  
morning of March 29.



Visit [hope.lacatholics.org/24-hours](http://hope.lacatholics.org/24-hours) or scan  
here for the locations and schedule.

Follow @LACatholics for more  
Jubilee news and events!



## In Memoriam



**Richard Eclarin**

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church  
Monday, February 24th at 1:00 pm

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.

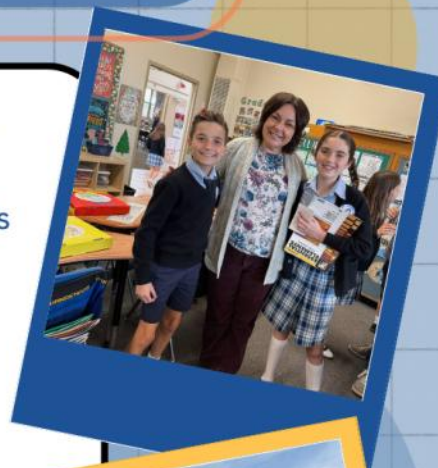
~Amen~



# Thank You for a Wonderful Catholic Schools Week! ✨



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our students, families, and parish community for making Catholic Schools Week such a joyful and memorable celebration! It was a week filled with faith, learning, and community celebrating events like Open House, Grandparents Day, Family Picnic, Spelling Bee, and Student Appreciation Day. Your support and participation truly made this week special!



As 21st-century Learners and Disciples of Christ, we embrace this year's Catholic Schools Week theme —"Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community"—recognizing the blessing of being part of a faith-filled learning environment that nurtures both academic excellence and spiritual growth.

May we carry this spirit of unity, faith, and gratitude throughout the year!



6200 E. Willow St. Long Beach, CA 90815 (562) 596-6115





# St. Joseph Students are Pilgrims of Hope



## Disciples of Christ

Our students live out their faith through acts of service, prayer, and community building. By participating in service projects and fostering a spirit of love and kindness, they reflect the teachings of Christ and bring hope to the world.

## Tenacious Scholars

Our students embrace academic challenges with resilience and curiosity. They integrate faith and learning, striving for excellence while recognizing their studies as a way to serve God and others.



## 21st Century Learners

Equipped with modern tools and rooted in faith, our students are prepared to lead in a rapidly changing world. They develop critical skills, promote global awareness, and learn to innovate with purpose and integrity.



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