

St. Joseph Parish



8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45

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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

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





Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 8th Sunday of Ordinary Time – our Last Sunday of Ordinary time until June! Once again, we hear a challenging teaching from Jesus who says:” Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?” These words remind us that we all need a lot of humility to recognize that we are all blind in some ways, and that we need one another’s discerning and helpful guidance. Let’s also recognize that we may need to cultivate our awareness that the fault we dislike and criticize in someone else is very often a reflection of our very selves. May the teaching of Jesus cause us to grow in our discipleship with the Lord!

As I write this, Pope Francis is still hospitalized and the Vatican reports that our Holy Father is showing “slight improvement”. We are joining the whole world in praying for Pope Francis and for all those who are caring for him.

Happy Mardi Gras – feast this Tuesday and fast on Wednesday! The Holy Season of Lent draws near. See our Ash Wednesday schedule just above this letter. Lent is the annual journey providing all of us, with a beautiful opportunity to experience a renewed wonder of our Savior Jesus Christ through spiritual disciplines. What is God preparing you for during these 40 days? Where does your spirit need growth and new life? How will you honor and celebrate the three primary disciplines of Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving? Let’s pray for one another, so that our Lenten journey will encourage, heal and renew each other! Scroll down to see other Lenten activities that we encourage you to participate in here at Saint Joseph’s.

This weekend we will again provide a little spiritual resource booklet to accompany you during these 40 days! *Daily Reflections for Lent, Not by Bread Alone, 2025* is written by Daniel P. Horan OFM. Father Horan serves as the Director of the Center for the Study of Spirituality and Professor of Philosophy, Religious Studies and Theology at Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame, Indiana. I think you’ll find his spiritual reflections practical and inspiring!

Welcome Retreat! This weekend we are praying for the 25 women who are participating in the *Women’s Welcome Retreat #4*. Pray that these women of our parish will be renewed and grow in their discipleship, and love for Jesus Christ!

During the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about our Annual Parish Fair scheduled for April 4,5,6. It’s only a month away and thank you for your support!

Next Saturday night we spring forward one hour to daylight savings time! Sunrise and sunset will be one hour later!

I am praying for you, as we commence our Lenten journeys,
Msgr. Kevin

St. Joseph Parish

Season of Lent Schedule

**March 17th - Lenten Evening
of Recollection
with Sr. Eva & Msgr. Kevin at 7pm**

**March 25th - Communal Penance Service
at 7pm**

**Adoration &
Stations of The Cross
Held on the following Fridays:
March 7th, 14th, 21st & 28th
Adoration 6:30pm
Stations of The Cross 7pm**



Beyond Chocolate, Digging Deeper into Lent.



with

Sr. Eva & Msgr. Kevin

Monday - March 17 | 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Followed by a St. Patrick's Party
in the courtyard.

Location: St. Joseph Church
6180 E Willow St. Long Beach, CA 90815
(562)594-4657

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.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Praise no one before he speaks,
for it is then that people are tested. (Sir 27:7)

Psalm:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (Ps 92)

Second Reading:

But thanks be to God who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 15:57)

Gospel:

"A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." (Lk 6:45)

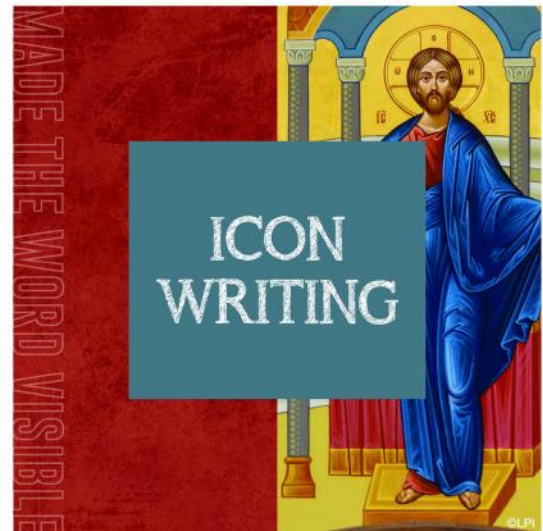
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Remove the beam from your own eye, Jesus reminds us, before removing the splinter from your brother's. This doesn't mean we should not help each other to be holy. But holiness must come from within. If we don't have it, we can't share it. Are we looking hard enough at our own souls?

Observances for the week of March 2, 2025

- Sunday:** 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
Tuesday: St. Casimir
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday
Friday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Saturday: St. John of God, Religious
Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins



Devotions, Explained!

Though an icon depicts an image, it's much more than a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. It expresses the same truths written in the Gospel, but through an artistic medium, mirroring how Christ's incarnation made the Word visible to man in the flesh.

Prayer for Interior Life

Dear Jesus,
Fill my heart so full of
goodness that it produces your
goodness.
Let my thoughts, words, and
actions reflect you.

Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 2, 2025

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday:

Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/
Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday:

Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and
17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:

Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 9:22-25

Friday:

Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:

Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday:

Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
(see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One of the things that older pastors and younger priests occasionally quarrel about is the proper balance between work and prayer. I know one pastor who complains that his younger associate ignores the people and the parish because he wants to spend more time in prayer. And the young priest complains that the pastor gives him too much work to do and no time to pray. The Lord's words this Sunday speak into this tension with an image that can help us find a proper balance between life and prayer.

Jesus says, **"For every tree is known by its fruit. For people do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles"** (Luke 6:44). When we are deeply rooted and cultivating our relationship with Jesus, we are going to bear the fruit of that love in our lives. No fruit, no good prayer. How do we know that we are praying well? We are experiencing concrete fruits of love for others in our lives.

Someone who prays well will, sooner or later, burst forth the "figs" and "grapes" of acts of love. But without concrete commitment to deeds of selfless service to others, our prayer time is as useless as thorn bushes and brambles. Let's recommit ourselves to be men and women of prayer and service. And hopefully the pastors will help their associates to pray *and* serve fruitfully...with minimal quarreling.

— Father John Muir



"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." -African Proverb

Book Drive: *Many thanks* to everyone who supported to this month's book drive for over 315 children of our supported families for Easter. Combining last weekend's Mass donations, the School's, and a generous donation from the Leisure World Library, over ***650 books were collected!*** \$180 was donated from which books missing by age range will be purchased.

March 19 6:30 PM Committee Meeting: Join us in the Parish Life Center as we prepare to support 108 families from our Easter Food and Book Distribution. Share your insights to improve our ministry!

Opportunities: food driver delivery- deliver food from food drives, purchase additional from cash donations. For these and many other opportunities to serve, call Tim Clark, 562-431-4385.

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"Eye opening experience!"

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The next weekend in Los Angeles

is on March 28-30, 2025



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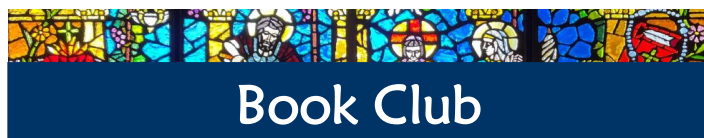
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Come and spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Experience what Catholic author Matthew Kelly calls "The Classroom of Silence," and respond to Jesus' call: "Could you not watch with me one hour?" (Matthew 26:40).

Deacon Tom & Pat Halliwell will lead Eucharistic Adoration this **Friday March, 7th** at 8:00 am.



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LOVE IN
DIVIDED
TIMES

GREGORY BOYLE

AUTHOR OF CAPTAIN ON THE BEAT

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

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!

Welcome Christ Renews His Parish



Please pray for our Women's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish retreat that is happening this weekend. May everything go smoothly and may everyone involved be blessed with energy, wisdom, grace, and joyful spirits. May the women attending the retreat feel the power of the Holy Spirit and experience renewal through Christ and feel a stronger connection with one another and with St. Joseph Parish.

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

Or 562/833-6370

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.

Did You Know?



Talk to your children about photo sharing
With a cell phone, a photo can be snapped anywhere – out on a walk, in the classroom, even in the locker room or a bathroom. So, it is important to talk to your children about when it is appropriate and when it is not to use a camera and how they should think about sharing images they take. Any image they send is shared permanently, and they cannot get those images back. If someone asks your child for an inappropriate photo, he or she should notify a trusted adult immediately. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “5 Keys to Monitoring Kids Online Activity” at virtusonline.org/virtus/free_



St. Joseph TAF Families

"Together as
Faith Families"



Each month, our students gather in their TAF Families to reflect on important religious holidays and explore ways to live as Disciples of Christ.

For February, our students learned about St. Valentine and the spirit of love and gratitude. As a way to put their faith into action, they wrote heartfelt appreciation cards to those who support our school every day. Through these small but meaningful gestures, our students continue to grow in faith, kindness, and service.



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Vivian Doughty

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Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

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Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

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Engaged Encounter

Paciano & Molly Diaz

Ktmr@Sbcglobal.Net

Natural Family Planning

Greg & Beth Gath

(562) 377-5877

Precious Life Shelter

Cynthia San Jose

csanjoselaw@aol.com

Boy Scouts

Jeff Baer

(562) 537-6722

Sacristans

Joe Dang

(562) 493-2198

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May Pace

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Tom & Marie Newton

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Monica Wissuchek

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Welcome Christ Renews His Parish

Diane Ohde

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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.





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