

St. Joseph Parish



ALREADY
BLAZING!

— LUKE 12:49 —

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPi

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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Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time! The author of the Letter to the Hebrews pleads with us: “Persevere in running the race and to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus.” Today so much of our world is in deadly conflict with the Word of God. This weekend we will hear Jesus say, “I have come to set the earth on fire”! Through our Baptism, the fire is in us, and the Lord wants us to burn with zeal in defending his Name and proclaiming our faith!

This week, our School Faculty and Staff return to begin a week of preparation to commence a new school year. This Monday, August 18, I am taking our Parish Staff and the School Faculty and Staff to the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels for a Day of Recollection and Retreat. Our mission is to grow in our discipleship with Jesus Christ, to be united as one Body in Christ and to serve you more boldly. We will be gone all day and so please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday. Please pray for us!

Next Saturday at 6:00 PM is the big event with the celebration of our 70th Anniversary as a Parish Community and the reopening of the renovated and remodeled St. Joseph Center. Reservations are closed as we have over 600 parishioners attending. See you at the Party!

Have a Blessed Week,
Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite
to take three men along with him,
and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern
before he should die. (Jer 38:10)

Psalm:

Lord, come to my aid! (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin
that clings to us
and persevere in running the race that lies before us. (Heb 12:1)

Gospel:

Jesus said to his disciples:
"I have come to set the earth on fire,
and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus tells us that he has come to set fire to
the earth. What can we give him as kindling?
Let us look into our souls and see where the
fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that
our souls may be consumed by its life-giving
flames.

Observances for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:	20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Thursday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Friday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Next Sunday:	21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



Devotions, Explained!

Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, Gregorian chant is a form of sacred music used in liturgical settings and prayer. It has been synonymous with Catholic musical worship since the first millennium.

Prayer for Bravery

Dear God,
In the moments when my faith
is met with others' disdain or
ridicule, give me the grace to
be grounded in You. Remind me
that Your mission matters, and
that You alone bring comfort,
healing, and salvation.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of August 17, 2025

Sunday:

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/
Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday:

Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40,
43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22

Tuesday:

Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/
Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday:

Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday:

Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday:

Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab, 6c-7,
8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday:

Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/
Mt 23:1-12

Next Sunday:

Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, “You shouldn’t be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don’t. If I stop pushing you, it means I don’t think you have any more potential.” He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week.

“Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?” he asks, “No, tell you, but rather division” (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That’s why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents’ wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let’s thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— *Father John Muir*



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Now accepting students for:

First Communion

Quest (3rd, 4th, 5th graders)

Middle School

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CONTACT US



Director of Faith Formation: Marc Leon



(563) 594-4657 Ext:231



marc@stjosephlb.org

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



**SESSIONS: BI-WEEKLY SUNDAYS
MOST HOLIDAY WEEKENDS OFF**

TIME: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

BREAK: 12:00PM - 12:20PM

MASS AS A CLASS: 12:30PM - 1:30PM

SCAN HERE



*Register
Now*

(562)598-0519 EXT 2



A Special Opportunity for the Men of our Parish

From Men who have attended

"I attended the Christ Welcome Christ Renews His Parish retreat 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

Men's Weekend Retreat:

Saturday, September 27 & Sunday, September 28, 2025

Sign Up Now!

For more information or to sign up for the retreat
please visit the parish website

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

EXPLORE HOW TO **LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN**
IN THE MIDST OF A PAGAN CULTURE IN

First Corinthians

AN 11-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
TIM GRAY



Dates – Times – Location

Starting Wednesday September 10th
at 9:00am in the PLC (Sr. Eva) and
Thursday, September 11th at 7:00pm
on Zoom (Mike and Chris)

Cost – Registration

The cost for the study guide is \$20.
Please register by sending email to
sreva@stjosephlb.org or
mike@stjosephlb.org.

For More Information

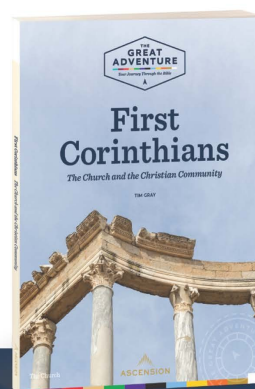
Contact: Mike at mike@stjosephlb.org
or Sr. Eva at sreva@stjosephlb.org.

St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians addresses many of the same topics in the news headlines today: scandals, promiscuity, debates and controversies, and issues related to prosperity versus poverty. Clearly, the struggles faced by the early Christians are in many ways similar to our own.

First Corinthians: The Church and the Christian Community explores the key elements of the gospel message that Paul introduced to a new and growing Church. Presenter Tim Gray examines Paul's advice for living an authentic Christian life in a pagan culture, as well as his teachings about the nature of grace, the Church as the body of Christ, and the most powerful gift of all—the Eucharist.

“This study has given me a renewed love of the Word, a desire to learn more, and most of all a closeness to Jesus that I have not experienced before.”

—Linda F.



Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!



"It is a kingly act to assist the fallen."
-St. Mother Teresa

Food from the Heart: Thank you for your generous donations for families served by Catholic Charities of Long Beach.

Opportunities! Thanks to all who generously supported our FOURTEEN Movement for a Better World initiatives during our 2024-2025 program year. **Essential Home Furnishings-** Can you help pick up parishioner donations and deliver them to families in need? **Multi-Services Center-** Can you serve as a point of contact with the City of Long Beach HHS Multi-Services Center? For this and many other opportunities to serve, call Tim Clark, (562) 431-4385.



Meditation



St. Joseph's Meditation Group currently meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00PM via Zoom. Our weekly session is based on the teachings of Fr. John Main, OSB. Meditation is an age-old Christian practice and open to everyone. No experience is required and beginners are welcome. For more information, contact Frank McKown at (310) 633-1744 or frmckown@gmail.com



AUGUST 22

The Queenship of Mary

This feast day recognizes Mary as the "Queen of Heaven and Earth" and celebrates her special role in salvation.



Did You Know?

Back to school safety tips

As your children head back to school, parents should begin laying the groundwork (if they haven't already) for open communication about the school's safety guidelines and policies. Talk to children about safe adults and keep lines of communication open about who they see and interact with, how they feel about their school days, and what they are learning. Remind children regularly that they should find a safe adult if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable in any situation. For more tips, read "Talking to Kids About Safety and Boundaries for Back to School" by visiting <https://parequirements.com/blog/talking-to-kids-about-safety-and-boundaries-for-back-to-school>.



Women's Retreat

September 12th Women's Silent Retreat

Ladies of the parish! Please join your sisters in Christ for a refreshing and peaceful weekend with the Carmelite sisters at Sacred Heart Retreat House. Our parish weekend is September 12-14, 2025.

Registration is open now. To register go to sacredheartretreathouse.com/retreats.

If you have any questions or need help registering please contact Marie Newton by phone at 562-209-1298.

This is a wonderful time of spiritual renewal. Don't delay as the weekend fills up quickly.



Grief support 13 week sessions from
June 3rd — August 26th

Meetings are held on

Tuesdays 9:30 -11:30 a.m. each week

You can start on any week.

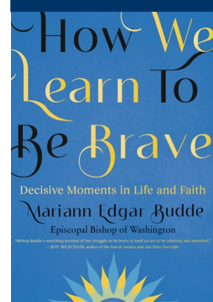
For more information Contact May Pace,
Bereavement Minister,
maypace@gmail.com

Or 562/833-6370

CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.



Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is
**Wednesday, August 20th at
7pm on Zoom**

**How We Learn to Be Brave by
Mariann Edgar Budde**

'An inspirational guide to the key junctures in life that, if navigated with faith and discernment, pave the way for us to become our most courageous selves, by the bishop of the famed Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C." How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith: Edgar Budde, Mariann: 9780593539217: Amazon.com: Books

All are welcome. For more info, email
agoodlife@msn.com

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Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

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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.

Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.





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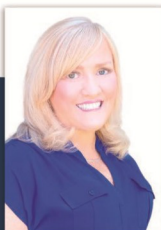
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