

# St. Joseph Parish



**STRIVE**  
TO ENTER  
THROUGH THE  
NARROW GATE.

— LUKE 13:24 —

**TWENTY-FIRST 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)**

**[stjosephlb.org](http://stjosephlb.org)**



## Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. This weekend it's a great joy for us to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Saint Joseph's Parish. Our community of faith was founded way back in 1955 when Cardinal McIntyre declared this to be a canonical Parish within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles! The Second Vatican Council declared the church to be "The people of God" and so let's remember our ancestors and all of those who have formed Saint Joseph's into a community of faith!

This Wednesday, our school reopens with a record enrollment of 342 students. Please pray for all our students in our parish school, in Long Beach Unified and for our young people who are starting or returning to college! May they grow in wisdom, age, and grace!

Every two years, Archbishop Gomez calls all incardinated Priests of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles to the desert for a convocation. Starting this Monday, August 25, some 350 priests, including yours truly, will be going to La Quinta out in the Coachella Valley for the week. The purpose of our convocation is to gather as a presbyteral assembly to support one another, to pray for each other and our parishes, to strategize about future ministries and to celebrate our fraternity as Priests. This is not a vacation but a working convocation! The average temperature in the desert at the end of August is around 110°. The hotel rooms are very cheap – few tourists in Coachella at the end of August!! Being so far away also prevents Priests from running back-and-forth to their parishes. The parishes of Long Beach have designated four parishes that have a religious order Priest who can celebrate a daily Mass. Our own Saint Joseph's was not designated to host a daily Mass. If you wish to attend daily Mass next week, you can attend one of the neighboring parishes. The schedule of Mass times at the designated parishes is just below this column.

Please pray for us on convocation and I'll be praying for you,  
Msgr. Kevin

La Quinta Priest Convocation  
**Monday, August 25 - Thursday, August 28**

Deanery 20 Mass Schedule:

**Saint Barnabas**

7:00 a.m. - Rev. James Dass

**Saint Cyprian**

8:30 a.m. - Rev. Brian Culley

**Saint Anthony**

12:10 p.m. - Rev. Joseph Yang

Wednesday, August 27- Rev. Brian Culley

**Saint Cornelius**

5:00 p.m. Rev. Brian Culley



# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

I know their works and their thoughts,  
and I come to gather nations of every language;  
they shall come and see my glory. (Is 66:18)

### Psalm:

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News. (Ps 117)

### Second Reading:

So strengthen your drooping hands and your weak knees.  
Make straight paths for your feet,  
that what is lame may not be disjointed but healed.  
(Heb 12:12-13)

### Gospel:

For behold, some are last who will be first,  
and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:30)

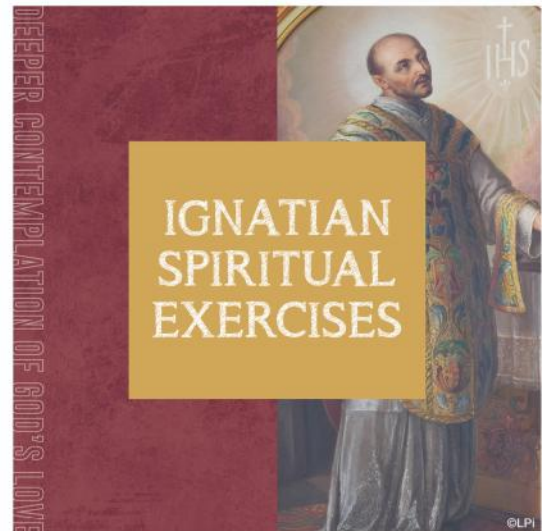
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"  
Jesus tells us. "Many will attempt...but will  
not be strong enough." So let us never be  
so foolish that we rely on our own strength.  
Narrow does not mean unpassable — not if  
we ask for help.

## Observances for the week of August 24, 2025

- Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Louis; St. Joseph Calasanz,  
Priest  
**Wednesday:** St. Monica  
**Wednesday:** St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church  
**Friday:** The Passion of St. John the Baptist  
**Next Sunday:** 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Devotions, *Explained!*

The Ignatian Spiritual Exercises are prayers and meditations which are meant to accompany souls on a journey toward deeper contemplation of God's love and a more meaningful understanding of His call to discipleship.

## Prayer for Holiness

Good Shepherd,  
Guide me through the  
narrow gate. Remove from  
me anything that distracts  
me from You, Your love, Your  
invitation, Your mission. Keep  
me close to You, familiar at  
every step.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of August 24, 2025

### Sunday:

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

### Monday:

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a  
and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

### Tuesday:

1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mt 23:23-26

### Wednesday:

1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/  
Mt 23:27-32

### Thursday:

1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 128:1-2, 4-5/Mt 24:42-51

### Friday:

1 Thes 4:1-8 (429)/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10,  
11-12/Mk 6:17-29

### Saturday:

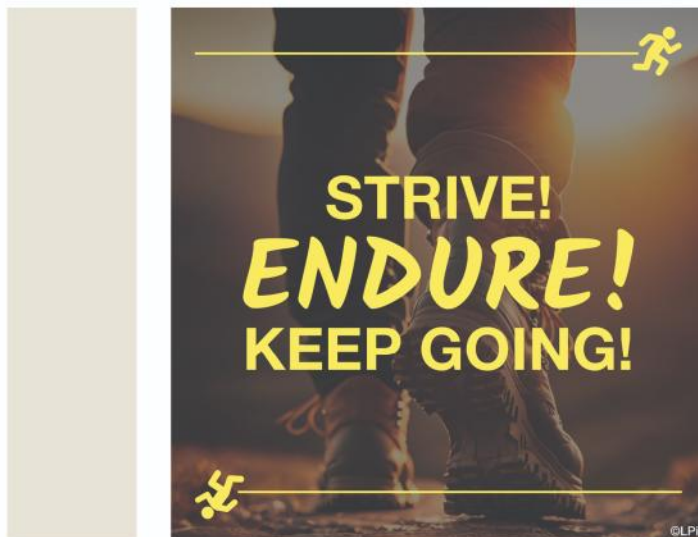
1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

### Next Sunday:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5  
(1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I've been hiking Camelback Mountain in Phoenix, Arizona most of my life. It is a vigorous forty-five minutes to the top. Near the peak, the end suddenly appears much further away, and steeper. At that moment, a descending hiker often offers encouragement: "Keep going! The peak is right there. It's not as far as it looks. You can do it!" It usually works. After another five minute push, you summit and enjoy a glorious panorama of the Sonoran Desert in the Valley of the Sun.

When Jesus is asked about how many people are saved, he says: "**Strive to enter through the narrow gate**" (Luke 13:24). How many? Strive! Focus on your journey. What does heavenly census taking have to do with you or me? How would it help a hiker on a mountain to ask the others coming down, "How many people are going to make it to the top?" A normal response would be something like: "How is that a relevant question? Carry on!"

Jesus links one virtue directly to salvation: perseverance (cf. Matt 24:13; hypomone in Greek). Strive! Endure! Keep going! The one absolutely necessary virtue is perseverance, to not give up on our journey. The mountain we struggle to climb is often our own weakness, failures, and sins. Persevere in prayer. Keep celebrating the sacraments. Embrace daily duties. With God's grace, you are strong enough to keep going. Perhaps the peak is not as far away as you might fear. Keep going!

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2025 | 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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**Director of Faith Formation: Marc Leon**



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**marc@stjosephlb.org**

# HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



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**TIME: 11:00AM - 12:00PM**

**BREAK: 12:00PM - 12:20PM**

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

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Now*

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## **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](mailto:sreva@stjosephlb.org) or  
[mike@stjosephlb.org](mailto:mike@stjosephlb.org).

## For More Information

Contact: Mike at [mike@stjosephlb.org](mailto:mike@stjosephlb.org)  
or Sr. Eva at [sreva@stjosephlb.org](mailto: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](http://ascensionpress.com) to learn more!





**“If you want peace, work for justice.”**

- Pope Paul VI

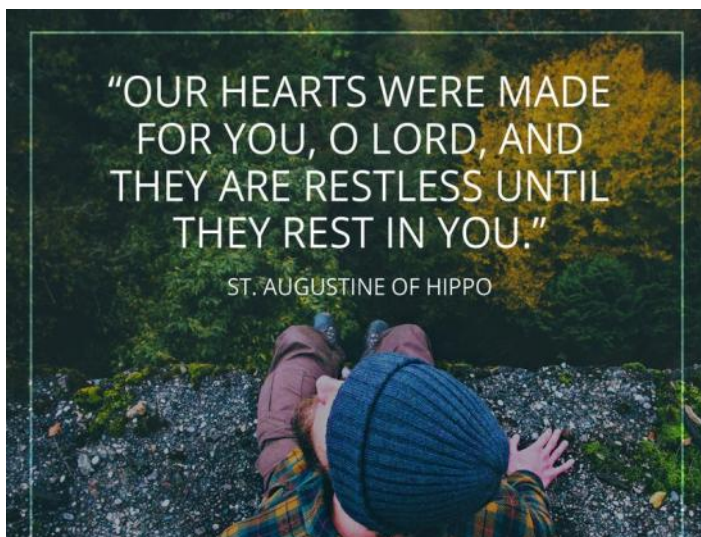
**Food from the Heart: THANK YOU!** We collected 12 shopping carts of family food and \$788! We purchased food as requested by Catholic Charities of Long Beach.

**Sept 16 6:30 PM - Committee Meeting:** As we begin our 40th year of channeling the generosity of our St. Joseph parish community to the poor and marginalized of Long Beach, help us inspire our upcoming activities.

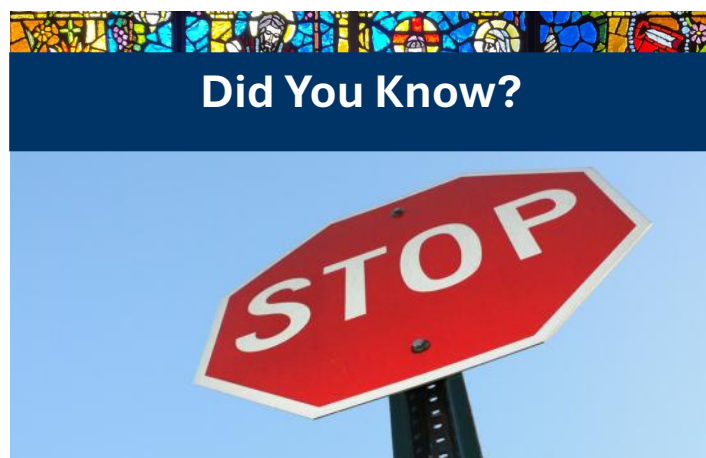
**Sept 27-28 - Feed-a-Baby Food**

**Drive:** Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence, and New Life Beginnings of Long Beach.

**Opportunities!** Are you inspired to shepherd the faith among our supported brethren? Chaplain wanted. Stipends and formation, available. For this and many other opportunities to serve, call Tim Clark, (562) 431-4385.



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](mailto:frmckown@gmail.com)



**What having a “healthy caution” toward adults can mean, part 1**

Having a “healthy caution” about adults in your life does not mean treating all adults as potential perpetrators. It is important to increase awareness about the dangers and the signs of abuse without creating paranoia. Safe adults should not be vigilante protectors, but should have a perspective of caution and should not ignore warning signs of inappropriate behavior. To learn more, read the VIRTUS® article “Why Should We Have a ‘Healthy Caution’ Toward Adults” at [lacatholics.org/did-you-know](http://lacatholics.org/did-you-know).

## Senior Group



**Our next get together will be at the  
El Dorado Restaurant on  
Monday, September 8th 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!

## 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](http://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.

## St. Joseph Grief Support



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

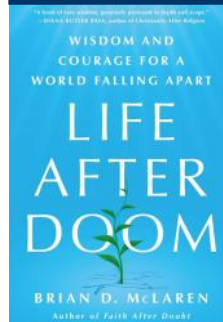
Meetings are held on  
**Tuesdays 9:30 -11:30 a.m.** each week  
You can start on any week.

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

**CLASSES ARE HELD AT THE PLC BUILDING.**

## Book Club

Our next Book Club  
meeting is  
**Wednesday, November 19th**  
at 7pm on Zoom



**Life After Doom: Wisdom and  
Courage for a World Falling  
Apart** by Brian D. McLaren

"Blending insights from philosophers, poets, scientists, and theologians, *Life After Doom* explores the complexity of hope, the necessity of grief, and the need for new ways of thinking, becoming, and belonging in turbulent times." *Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*: McLaren, Brian D.: [9781250893277: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/9781250893277)

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



# Parish Directory

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Madison Alba

**Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE**

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[marc@stjosephlb.org](mailto:marc@stjosephlb.org)

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OCIA: Sr. Eva

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(562) 596-6115

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(562) 594-4657

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Vivian Doughty

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Virginia Young

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Movement For A Better World

Tim Clark

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Senior Group

Marilyn North

(562) 519-0154

Knights Of Columbus

Marty Vezzetti

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Boy Scouts

Jeff Baer

(562) 537-6722

Sacristans

Joe Dang

(562) 493-2198

Homebound Ministry

Patty Brunter

*pjbstampin@aol.com*

Bereavement Ministry

May Pace

(562) 833-6370

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Tom & Marie Newton

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Monica Wissuchek

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Diane Ohde

*stjlbwelcome@gmail.com*

Book Club

Mary Anne Silvestri

*agoodlife@msn.com*

Meditation

Frank McKown

*frmckown@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.**

## Adoration

**First Fridays**

**8:00-9:00 a.m.**





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