

St. Joseph Parish

SIT DOWN AND
CALCULATE
THE COST.

— LUKE 14:28 —

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPi

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



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time. This weekend's Scriptures invite us to pray for the Wisdom of Solomon. The King of Israel struggled to manage all the responsibilities in his life, and he knew that with God's help he could be a faithful and loving servant. In the Gospel, Jesus reminds us that many people clamor for our attention and that in all things our first priority must be the Lord above! Pray to make God first and all your relationships and actions will fall into their proper place.

Two weeks ago, we celebrated our 70th anniversary and the reopening of our St. Joseph Center with an amazing outdoor dinner. Being hospitable and welcoming, and making sure everyone was served was a heroic effort offered by so many of our parishioners. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the core committee members and thank them:

Shelley Padilla – Our First Cheerleader and coordinator.

Danielle Organista – Coordinator with Naples Rib Company

Deborah and John Rollinger – Coffee/dessert plus anniversary bookmarks.

Ana Maria McCarty – Décor.

Monica Wissuchek – Registration.

George and Susy Zuluaga - Marketing and Slideshow.

Marty Vezzetti/ Paul Dondero and the Knights – Bar and Beverages.

Kathy Mills – Volunteer Coordinator.

Marcel Whittney – Buffet Management

Holy Helpers – our High School Youth group welcomed folks, served and cleaned the tables

There were dozens of other volunteers who assisted with check-in, served in the buffet lines, rolled silverware into napkins, put together the slideshow, set up and stayed for cleanup, etc..

A great big Saint Joseph's thank you for making this one of the most successful and largest gatherings in Saint Joseph's history.

I'm taking next weekend off to have fun with some friends. Please welcome our visitors who will take care of your Sunday Spiritual needs: Saturday evening will be Fr. Athanasius and on Sunday we welcome Our San Pedro Regional Shepherd, Bishop Marc Trudeau who will celebrate all 3 Sunday Masses. Please give them a great St. Joseph's Welcome!

Enjoy these photos from our 70th Gala!

End of Summer Blessings,

Msgr. Kevin



Happy 70th Anniversary



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And thus were the paths of those on earth made straight. (Wis 9:18)

Psalm:

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge. (Ps 90)

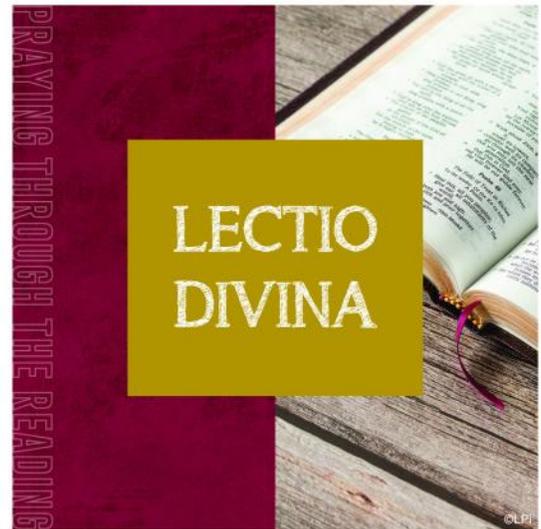
Second Reading:

Perhaps this is why he was away from you for a while,
that you might have him back forever. (Phlm 1:15)

Gospel:

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me
cannot be my disciple. (Lk 14:27)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Today, Jesus tells us the cost of true discipleship — and it turns out, it's everything. We must reject the world in order to love God. What attachments are holding us back from the relationship we could have — we *should* have — with our Lord?

Observances for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday:	23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
Monday:	The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Peter Claver, Priest
Thursday:	Patriot Day
Friday:	The Most Holy Name of Mary
Saturday:	St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday:	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Devotions, *Explained!*

Lectio divina ("divine reading") is an ancient practice of praying through the reading of Scripture. It includes four steps: read (*lectio*), meditate (*meditatio*), pray (*oratio*) and contemplate (*contemplatio*).

Prayer of Simplicity

Dear God,
In my desire for You, take away anything that keeps me from knowing You, myself, or my mission here on earth. Help me to remember what is truly important, and to seek and treasure that.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of September 7, 2025

Sunday:

Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

Monday:

Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Tuesday:

Col 2:6-15/Ps 62:6-7, 9/Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday:

Col 3:1-11/Ps 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab/Lk 6:20-26

Thursday:

Col 3:12-17/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 6:27-38

Friday:

1 Tm 1:1-2, 12-14/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday:

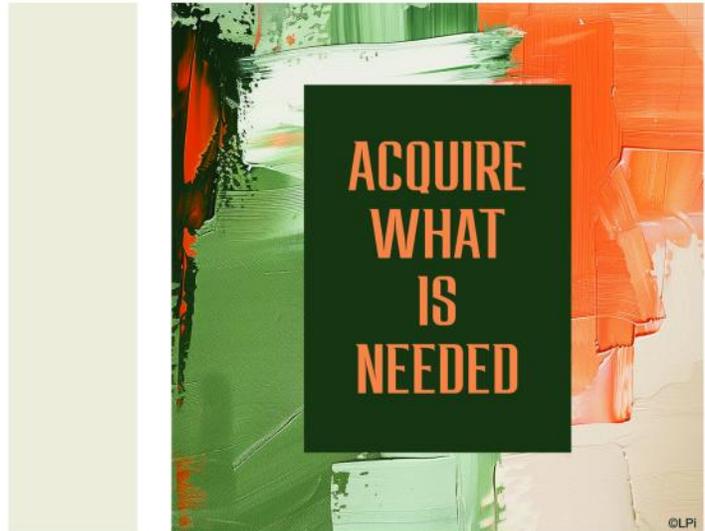
1 Tm 1:15-17/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday:

Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

One hot Arizona summer afternoon my car ran out of gas. I phoned the parish office and begged for help. My secretary came and helped me fill the gas tank. She chided me, “If you can’t manage getting your car from A to B, how can we expect you to guide the parish where it needs to go?” Point taken, Julie. I vowed to always make sure I have plenty of gas in my car.

The Lord Jesus chides us in this week’s Gospel, too. He uses the two images of a man building a tower and a king marching soldiers into war to make this single point: acquire what is needed to follow him or look ridiculous. We rightly mock the builder who lacks money for his tower and the king with a short-handed army. But our mocking boomerangs back on us. How do we expect to follow Jesus to the end with insufficient detachment from our possessions and divided hearts?

The good news is, there is still time. Jesus is building a great tower to heaven—his own body. So we renounce all and give ourselves to him as his precious stones. Jesus is waging a battle against our enemy. So we forsake all and swear allegiance and march under his banner. In this way, we will finish what has begun in our discipleship. Or better put, our Lord will have the stones and soldiers required to see his great work through.

— *Father John Muir*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 | 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Join Our Altar Server Ministry!



We are seeking additional families to serve as altar servers at all Masses. Catholic liturgy is the Work of the People, and families who attend St. Joseph are encouraged to serve together in this meaningful ministry.

Interested?

Email Monica Wissuchek, the Altar Server Ministry Coordinator, at stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com to register for the upcoming training.

Training Session:

- Date: September 20th

Families will meet with Monsignor Kevin prior to serving and will be scheduled for liturgies throughout the year. Monica will work with each family to accommodate their needs.

We hope you will join us in this special service!



A Note From Deacon Tom

Many of our parishioners are aware of Pat's journey with Parkinson's. Your love, prayers, support, and meals have been both amazing and uplifting, and we thank you for everything you have done for us. We want to inform you that in addition to Parkinson's, Pat has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. We are making this journey together, and with our family, friends, and the St. Joseph Parish Community. Please keep us in your prayers as we go forward.

Peace,

Deacon Tom & Pat



Join Us for the 2nd Annual NICU Warrior Walk

Edward and Haley Steinhauser (12:30 PM Mass) invite you to join them for the **2nd Annual NICU Warrior Walk** on **Sunday, September 28, 2025, at 8:30 AM** in downtown Long Beach. Organized in honor of their son Cooper, this special event takes place during **NICU Awareness Month** as we come together to honor babies, their families, and the medical teams who care for them.

Tickets can be purchased at nicuwarriorwalk.org. If you are unable to attend, you can still support this mission by making a donation through the website.

Together, let's walk in faith, hope, and love for NICU families.

NO PARKING! SEPTEMBER 4-22

Construction

ZONE

The final chapter of the construction project is the fire hydrant tie-in on Willow Street. This will take place for approximately two weeks from September 4-22. During the hours of Construction (8:30 AM – 3:30 PM) there will be two lane closures on Willow Street from Woodruff past the field, the PLC and the school. One lane will be open going eastbound. Please drive slowly and follow the traffic control signage. Entrances into the Saint Joseph's parking lot will not be affected. Thank you for your patience and care during this time.



SPECIAL EVENT

Fr. Peter Neeley speaking on "Migration with Dignity"

WHEN: September 8 at 7:00 PM
WHERE: St. Matthew Church
672 Temple Avenue, Long Beach
<https://stmatthewlb.org/>

Fr. Peter Neeley, S. J., is currently the Mission Engagement Officer of the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) in Nogales, Arizona and Mexico. The KBI aims to promote humane, just and workable migration through:

- direct humanitarian assistance and holistic accompaniment of migrants;
- education and encounter between migrants and others that transform individuals and communities towards solidarity with migrants;
- advocacy in Mexico and the US on immigration policy.

Fr. Neeley's presentation will address the current immigration crisis at the U.S./Mexico border from the perspective of a person of faith who has worked tirelessly for years as an advocate of human rights in Central America, Mexico, and Southern California. Before joining the Kino Border Initiative 17 year ago, Fr. Neeley did pastoral work in East Los Angeles and Hollywood, and served with the Jesuit Refugee Service / Los Angeles Detention Project as director of religious services.



Calling All Men

Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Men's Retreat

Only a few weeks away

Sept. 27th, Saturday 8am – 9pm

Sept. 28th, Sunday 8am – 3pm

Reconnect. Recharge. Refocus.

Held here at St. Joseph Parish Life Center, Join us for a weekend designed specifically for men. Enjoy inspiring talks, fellowship & delicious food.

Experience personal growth, brotherhood and take time to refocus on what really matters.

Sign up today!

This retreat will change your life.

Come for the journey.

Leave with new strength and purpose.

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

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

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The Couple-to-Couple League has the answers and more. Attend a short course and learn a natural method of family planning that is safe, effective, and morally acceptable. Great for achieving as well as postponing pregnancy.

A new online course starts
Tuesday, September 9th.

For more information and registration, visit www.ccli.org or contact Deacon Greg and Beth Gath at (562) 377-5877 or bethgath@gmail.com.



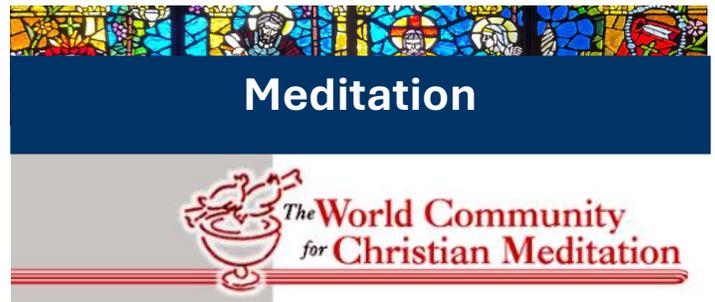
"This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." -Jn 13:35.

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.

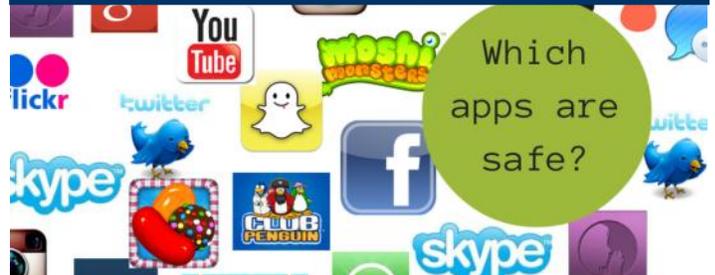
Sept 27-28 - Feed-a-Baby Food

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 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



Downloading apps

If your child has a mobile phone or tablet, you should be aware of what apps he or she is downloading and using. There are several apps designed to hide photos and videos, that are protected by security features like passwords, fingerprints or face ID. These apps may not be immediately obvious on a device, as they are designed to be hidden. One tip to avoid hidden content or apps is to set up a shared log-in or account which will allow you to prevent anything from being loaded to your child's phone without your knowledge. For more tips and information, read the VIRTUS® article "Do You Know What's Dwelling On Your Child's Phone?" at 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.

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.

NEW VIDEO SESSION: LOSS OF A SPOUSE

Losing a spouse is a unique and life-altering pain. If you are grieving, you don't have to face it alone. Our bereavement group offers a supportive space for focused encouragement and healing.

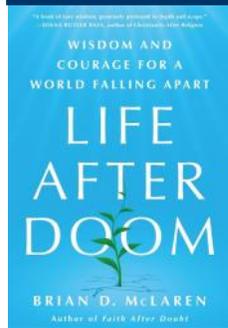
Session Details:

Date: Tuesday, October 14
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Location: PLC Building

For more information, please contact May Pace at 562-833-6370. You are not alone—join us for understanding, support, and hope.



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

Parish Directory

PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK

stjoseph@stjosephlb.org

Deacon Shane Cuda		sfcuda@yahoo.com
Deacon Tom Halliwell		dcntom@stjosephlb.org
Sr. Eva (Director of Adult Faith Formation)		sreva@stjosephlb.org
Office Manager	Brenda Pineda	(562) 594-4657
Office Assistant	Joyce Castaneda	(562) 594-4657
Pastoral Council	Shelley Padilla	(562) 594-4657
Finance Council	George Zuluaga	Zuluaga@aol.com
Safeguard The Children	Parish Office	(562) 594-4657
Parish Bulletin Editor	Brenda Pineda	bulletin@stjosephlb.org
Website Coordinator	Mike Santy	mike@stjosephlb.org

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

(562) 596-6115 sjknights.net Fax: (562) 596-6725

Assistant Principal: Madison Alba

Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

(562) 598-0519 marc@stjosephlb.org

Administrative Assistant: Michelle Johnson (562)596-6115
 High School Ministry & Confirmation: Liz Moreno (562) 596-6115
 OCIA: Sr. Eva sreva@stjosephlb.org (562) 596-6115

Parish Ministries & Organizations

Baptism Preparation	Brenda Pineda	(562) 594-4657
Director of Music	Vivian Doughty	(562) 594-4657
Eucharistic Ministry	Tonet Risko	riskotonet@yahoo.com
Lectors	Steve Koppenheffer	lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com
Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	estherministry1@gmail.com
Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
Movement For A Better World	Tim Clark	(562) 431-4385
Senior Group	Marilyn North	(562) 519-0154
Knights Of Columbus	Marty Vezzetti	(702) 401-5247
Natural Family Planning	Greg & Beth Gath	(562) 377-5877
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
Cursillo	Tom & Marie Newton	tjn8343@gmail.com
Parish Fair	Pete Wroblicky	sjspringfair@gmail.com
Environment	Jessica Gil	bpax.g4@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Monica Wissuchek	stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com
Welcome CRHP	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.



HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM



**SESSIONS: BI-WEEKLY SUNDAYS
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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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Sunday, September 14th!

(562)598-0519 EXT 2



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

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CONTACT US



Director of Faith Formation: Marc Leon



(563) 594-4657 Ext:231



marc@stjosephlb.org

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.



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