

St. Joseph Parish



MAKE STRAIGHT
HIS PATHS.

— MATTHEW 3:3 —

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

©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 Second Sunday of Advent. This Sunday, we hear the beautiful reading from the prophet Isaiah, who proclaimed that a sprout will shoot from the stump of Jesse. It was always prophesied that the Savior would come from the Davidic line. 42 generations later we are taken out to the desert where we meet our wild friend John the Baptist, who appears with his never-subtle message, “REPENT”! John called the preparation to meet the Lord “metanoia”, which means to turn around or change. John would challenge his followers to produce good fruit. May all your Advent preparations for Christmas be filled with the Holy Spirit in acts of kindness, generosity, justice and productivity. That’s good fruit!

This Monday, December 8 is a Holy day of Obligation, the ***Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***. It is a Holy Day on Monday because She is the Patroness of the United States of America. The church’s liturgical law does not allow a Vigil Mass for a Holy Day to be celebrated on Sunday evening as the entire day of Sunday is dedicated to the Second Sunday of Advent. Here is the Schedule for the Holy Day:

NO VIGIL MASS ON SUNDAY EVENING, December 7

8:00 AM Mass on Monday, December 8

7:00 PM Mass on Monday, December 8

This weekend we will begin sign-ups for the upcoming “Welcome, Christ Renews his Parish” spring retreats. The Women’s Retreat will be held March 14 and 15th, 2026 and the Men’s Retreat is scheduled for April 18-19th 2026. Welcome team members will be present at all the Masses to hand out information and assist you with sign-ups for the weekend.

For your Advent spiritual enrichment, please join us this Wednesday evening or Thursday morning for an experience of spiritual contemplation. Scroll down to see the flyer and welcome to an experience of peace during these busy days of December!

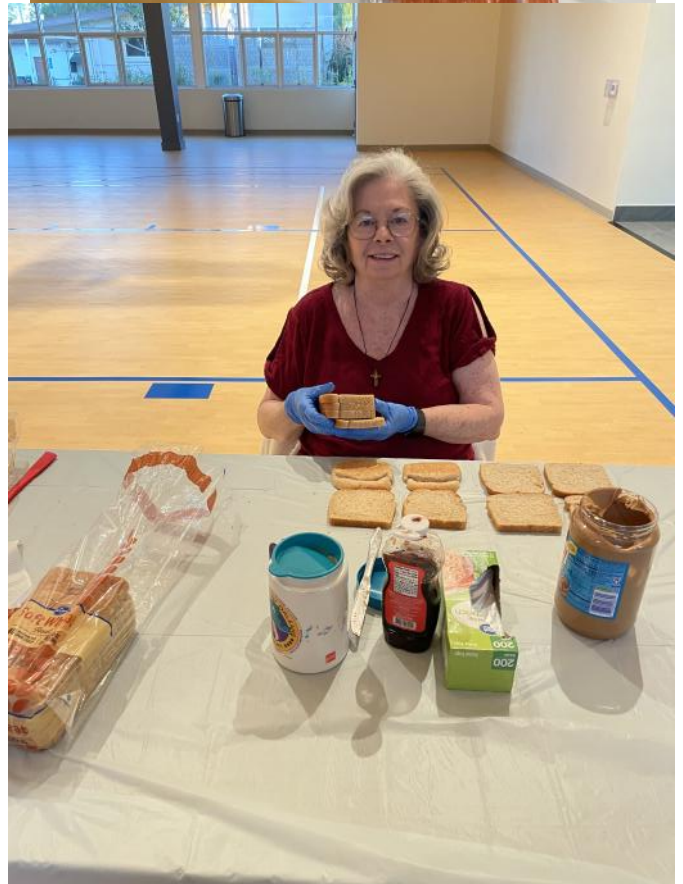
We are preparing for the distribution of the Christmas gifts and please help us by taking an envelope off the Christmas trees that will be present to you this weekend at all the Masses. The instructions about purchasing and wrapping the gifts are in the envelope. Thanks for helping to bring Christmas joy to the 100+ families that will be served on December 20.

The Sandwich Ministry has returned to our New Center and we give thanks to our friends across the street at Saint Gregory’s who provided a space for us to continue our ministry of preparing 250 lunches every week for the hungry. Enjoy the photos below.

Advent Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin



Photos From Our Pastor



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him:
a spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
a spirit of counsel and of strength,
a spirit of knowledge and of fear of the LORD. (Isa 11:2)

Psalm:

Justice shall flourish in his time, and fullness of peace for ever.
(Ps 72)

Second Reading:

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Gospel:

"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance,
but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I." (Mt 3:11)

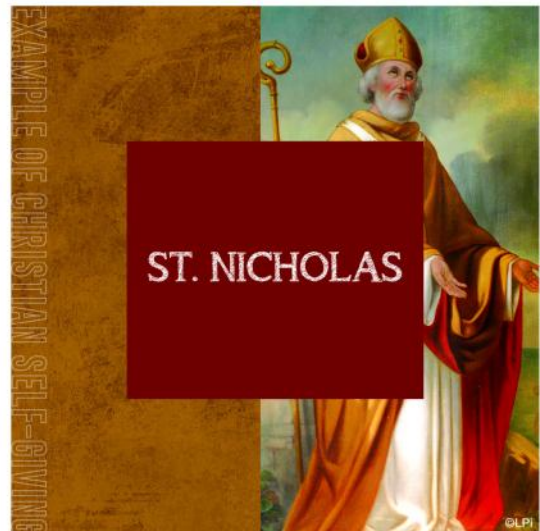
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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The story of Advent is a story of repentance. John the Baptist held up a mirror to the chosen people. He urged them to look at what they saw there. This Advent, will we look in the mirror? Will we choose repentance?

Observances for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:	2nd Sunday of Advent
Monday:	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Tuesday:	St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wednesday:	Our Lady of Loreto
Thursday:	St. Damasus I, Pope
Friday:	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday:	St. Lucy, Virgin and Martyr
Next Sunday:	3rd Sunday of Advent



Devotions, *Explained!*

St. Nicholas is sometimes merged with the modern figure of Santa Claus in the collective imagination. But St. Nicholas was a real-life bishop, a follower of Jesus whose example of Christian self-giving endures hundreds of years after his death.

Prayer for Advent - Peace

Come, Lord Jesus!
Bring your peace to our world.
Inspire reconciliation, heal
divisions, bind wounds,
rewrite scripts.
You are the Prince of Peace,
bring that light into every space.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 7, 2025

Sunday:

Is 11:1-10/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 (see 7)/
Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12

Monday:

Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

Tuesday:

Is 40:1-11/Ps 96:1-2, 3 and 10ac, 11-12, 13/
Mt 18:12-14

Wednesday:

Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10/
Mt 11:28-30

Thursday:

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab/
Mt 11:11-15

Friday:

Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/
Jdt 13:18bcde, 19/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47

Saturday:

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16,
18-19/Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Next Sunday:

Is 35:1-6a, 10/Ps 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10
(see Is 35:4)/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

This week we hear that John the Baptist is out in the wilderness eating “**locusts and wild honey**” (Mark 1:6). It’s not just a strange historical detail. It’s a symbolic expression of a healthy spiritual diet. The path to Christ includes both the hard and the beautiful, the gritty and the sweet. We have to learn to gulp the locusts and savor the honey.

I remember working with a young couple preparing for marriage. They were sincere, but raw — barely beginning to discover faith. Part of me wanted to rush them ahead, to fill in all the gaps, to bombard them with scripture and church documents. I swallowed that instinct. It was like eating locusts.

But I also recall them light up as they spoke about each other, about their first child, then their second. And they wanted to be close to God. Something innocent and beautiful was unfolding. That was the honey. I knew God was asking me to savor it.

This Advent, maybe we’re each being invited to accept both locusts and honey. Maybe it’s time to stop avoiding the difficult parts of faith — prayer that feels dry, the call to repentance, the patience with the troublesome. It’s time to eat some locusts.

But we also need to notice the small gifts God gives us: a peaceful moment, a good conversation, the joy of serving someone else, new life, good intentions of our friends. That’s the honey. Savor it!

John didn’t avoid either. He took it all in. And so can we. What are your locusts? Your honey? If we let God feed us with both, we’ll be ready — really ready — for the coming of Christ.

— Father John Muir



You are invited to

Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat Weekend

Take a step closer to Christ. This powerful, Spirit-Filled Weekend retreat is an opportunity to encounter God's love in a deeper way, reflect on your faith, and grow in fellowship with other parishioners.

Whether you are seeking to strengthen your relationship with Jesus, reconnect with the sacrament, improve your prayer life, or simply take time away from the busyness of daily life, this retreat is for you. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Christ is calling you.

Come experience the beauty of Catholic community, prayer the sacraments, and renewal. You are welcome. You are wanted. You belong.

Registration opens this weekend.

Women's Retreat Weekend

March 14th & 15th 2026

Men's Retreat Weekend

April 18th & 19th 2026

For more information or to sign up please go to the parish website
www.stjosephlb.org/

In Quiet Expectation: A Contemplative Advent Gathering

December 10th at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
and
December 11th at 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Parish Center

Step into the quiet beauty of Advent.

*You are invited to a peaceful gathering of contemplative prayer
and reflection as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.*

Walk the Labyrinth – A gentle, meditative path representing our spiritual journey.

Visio Divina – Pray with sacred images and Scripture.

Meditative Song & Silence – Rest in the stillness and presence of God.

Refreshments – Fellowship and quiet conversation following prayer.

All are welcome—no experience with contemplative prayer is needed.

Come as you are, and discover the peace and stillness of Advent.

Any questions contact: mwissuchek@gmail.com

Walk. Pray. Listen. Wait.



Hosted By: St. Joe's Youth Event Leadership Team

A Season of Hope & Wonder
Parish Community Event

Saturday, December 13, 2025
6:00pm - 7:30pm- SJ Center

Professional Christmas Carolers



“The Silver Belles”



Hot Chocolate & Cookies



Hot Apple Cider



Crafts & Activities for children

Information: Youth Minister, Liz Moreno (562)598-0519 Ext 2



DISCOVER THE MESSAGES
GOD HAS FOR YOU THROUGH

The Prophets

A 10-PART BIBLE STUDY FEATURING
THOMAS SMITH



Dates – Times – Location

Starting January 14th at 9:00am in the
PLC with Sr. Eva

Cost – Registration

Study Guide - \$20
Email sreva@stjosephlb.org

For More Information

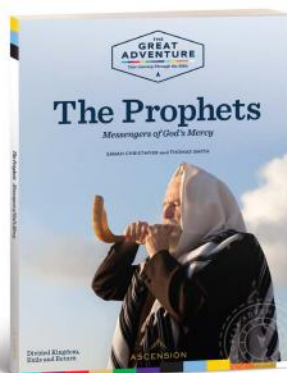
Email Sr. Eva at sreva@stjosephlb.org or
call 562-594-4657

God sent prophets at critical times to call the people back to their covenant relationship with him. Prophets proclaimed the consequences of continued sin, called people to repentance, and declared God's faithful love. They also spoke of the future to shed light on current events and to reveal God's plans and purposes.

In *The Prophets: Messengers of God's Mercy*, discover how God is constantly calling you to a deeper relationship with him, as well as the ways you are called to be the voice of God to others.

“I love this study! ... Now we know where they were when they said it, why they said it. Thomas was so clear. He illuminated it so well that it was easy to understand.”

—Celesta D.



Visit ascensionpress.com to learn more!

IF YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT...

THE CRUSADES,
THE INQUISITION,
"THE DARK AGES",
THE GALILEO AFFAIR,



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?



Do you know your family history? The history of the Church is the story of our family. It is the epic story of our ancestors in the Faith – the heroic men and women who shaped civilization and spread the Gospel throughout the world. Knowing this story is crucial to our identity as Catholics. Just as we would uncover exciting and interesting stories of our ancestors through the study of our family genealogy, we can uncover our Catholic past through the study of Church history.

Many in our society misunderstand and even attack our Church for the supposed misdeeds of the past. Topics such as the Crusades, the "Inquisition", and Galileo are used in an attempt to discredit the Church and her role in the world. What is the truth concerning these events and persons? How can you answer the objections?

Join us for this exciting journey through Church history and you will:

- Learn about the major people, places, and events of the two-thousand years of Church history.
- Remember the 12 time periods of Church history using a unique color-coded system.
- Learn the true story of the Crusades .
- Discover the revolutionary character of the Protestant Reformation.
- Discover the massive persecution of Christians in the 20th century.
- See the workings of the Holy Spirit throughout Church history and much more!

Dates, Time, Location

Starting January 15th at
7:00pm on Zoom

Registration

Study Guide - \$20
Email: mike@stjosephlb.org
Call: 562-370-0769

For More Information

Email mike@stjosephlb.org or call
562-370-0769

About Steve Weidenkopf



Steve Weidenkopf has a gift for making Catholic Church history come alive for any audience. He currently serves as a lecturer in Church History for the Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College.

ST. JOSEPH *Annual Fund*



As 2025 comes to a close, we give heartfelt thanks for your support of Saint Joseph Catholic School. Your generosity helps us form young hearts and minds as Disciples of Christ, Tenacious Scholars, and 21st-century Learners.



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Our Goal: \$85,000 to continue providing an exceptional Catholic education for every student.

This year's Annual Appeal focuses on three priorities:



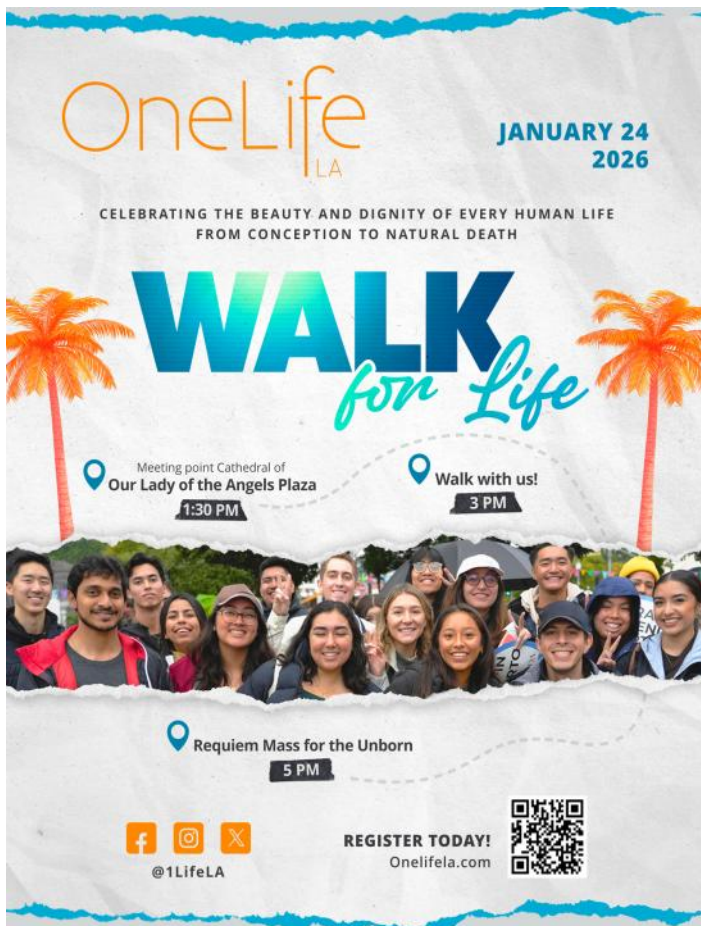
- **Supporting Our Teachers:** Help us offer competitive salaries to retain our devoted educators.
- **Investing in Professional Development:** Enabling teachers to grow and inspire students; last year our students earned top STAR Reading scores in the Archdiocese!
- **Enhancing Campus Security:** New perimeter fencing ensures a safe and welcoming environment for all.

Thank you for your prayers, support, and generosity!



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





Jesus the Servant

FOR THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED
BUT TO SERVE AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.
- MARK 10:45

Virtual Diaconate Formation Information Day

Sunday, January 11, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
via Zoom
Presentación en español disponible

To register please scan the QR Code and complete the registration form, or email
NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org
*Para registrarse, escanee el Código QR y llene la solicitud, o envíe correo electrónico a
NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org*

Allow us to accompany you in the discernment of a possible vocation to the diaconate.
Permítanos acompañarlo en el discernimiento a una posible vocación al diaconado.

Book Club

Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, February 11th at
7pm on Zoom

The Memory Library
by Kate Storey

A must-read novel of family, friendship and the power of storytelling leave you feeling hopeful and inspired. A perfect read for the holiday season.

[Amazon.com: The Memory Library by Kate Storey](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08XJZKZKZ)

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

DEC 12

Our Lady of Guadalupe

FEAST

God of power and mercy,
you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac
with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe.
*May her prayers help us
to accept each other
as brothers and sisters.*
Set your justice in our hearts
that your peace will reign in the world.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OUR LADY OF Guadalupe

PATRONESS OF THE AMERICAS

PRAY FOR US



“Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” -1 John 3:18.

Thanksgiving Food and Blanket

Distribution: *THANK YOU* for your generous support of 114 *very* grateful families including over 300 children! An abundant amount of food, blankets, blessings and *hope* were provided!

Through our Called to Renew initiative with partner, Our Lady of Refuge, our key leads assisted OLR to serve an ADDITIONAL 35 families including over 75 children! *Over 750 people overall!!*

Dec. 6-7 – Christmas Present Drive: Envelopes will be available at Masses for the children of families we will assist for Christmas: a child’s name, age, sex, sizes, and instructions. **Please return gifts to church by Dec. 14 at 12:30 pm** or to the Parish Life Center during the week.

Dec. 20 - Christmas Food and Present

Distribution: As a parish community, we will assist 80 families for Christmas, and Easter. **Can you help us deliver?** So meaningful to kids! Please contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 or jmsalinaz@yahoo.com.

For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Skip-a-Meal Donations: **Please be especially mindful during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.**

Knights of Columbus Christmas LIGHT INSTALLATION

The Knights of Columbus, Council 3629, proudly serving St. Cornelius, St. Joseph, and St. Maria Goretti, are thrilled to offer a special holiday decorating service. We are here to help our senior brothers, senior parish members, or anyone needing assistance with hanging Christmas lights and arranging outdoor decorations.

Our goal is to enhance your Christmas celebrations, creating a festive and warm atmosphere for your family and friends.

- We will accommodate requests on a ****first-come, first-served**** basis.
- Please provide your own lights and decorations. We can supply some small hardware if needed.

If you're interested in having your home decorated for Christmas, please call ****310-738-4396****.

May God bless you and your family during this joyful season!

Knights of Columbus: Keeping Christ in Christmas!*

Did You Know?

Red flags in gift giving

’Tis the season for giving and receiving gifts, but some gifts are inappropriate for children to receive from adults. Talk to your children about appropriate gift giving – who they should give presents to and who they do not need to give to. Discuss when they should accept a present or not. This would be a good time to establish family rules about gift receiving. For example: friends and family may not accept gifts outside of established holidays, like a birthday or Christmas. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “An embarrassment of riches: establishing a framework for gift giving to kids” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know



Senior Group



Hello all you St. Joseph Seniors,

Our St. Joseph Senior Social Group has been meeting once a month at the El Dorado Golf Course Restaurant for breakfast. We will have one more breakfast meeting at the El Dorado on Monday, December 8 at 9:30am. This will be a Christmas breakfast, and we are asking everyone to bring a nice "white elephant" gift, wrapped, and we will draw numbers to pick a gift... It will be a fun morning to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas Season. It is also a Holy Day - The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, so we can go to 8:00 am Mass and then to the El Dorado Restaurant. Then the exciting news is that we will begin having our regular Senior Social Group gatherings in our new St. Joseph Center starting in January 2026.



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



**The holidays are
challenging when you're
grieving a loss.**

GriefShare

Surviving the Holidays

provides encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the season.

Join us for this 2-hour seminar

Location	Date & time	Contact info
6180 East Willow Long Beach PLC Building	Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. November 18 or December 16	May Pace 562/833-6370 maypace@gmail.com

griefshare.org/holidays



In Memoriam



Michael Bergstrom

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Tuesday, December 30th at 10:30 am

Elizabeth Kier

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Saturday, January 3rd at 10:00 am

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~

Parish Directory

PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK

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sfcuda@yahoo.com

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dcntom@stjosephlb.org

Sr. Eva (Director of Adult Faith Formation)

sreva@stjosephlb.org

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George Zuluaga

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sjknights.net

Fax: (562) 596-6725

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Madison Alba

Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

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marc@stjosephlb.org

Administrative Assistant:

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High School Ministry & Confirmation:

Liz Moreno

(562) 596-6115

OCIA: Sr. Eva

sreva@stjosephlb.org

(562) 596-6115

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(562) 594-4657

Director of Music

Vivian Doughty

(562) 594-4657

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Lectors

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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

Donna Luciene

(562) 810-5244

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) 431-1876

Homebound Ministry

Patty Brunter

pjbstampin@aol.com

Bereavement Ministry

May Pace

(562) 833-6370

Cursillo

Tom & Marie Newton

tjn8343@gmail.com

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sjspringfair@gmail.com

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Jessica Gil

bpax.g4@gmail.com

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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.

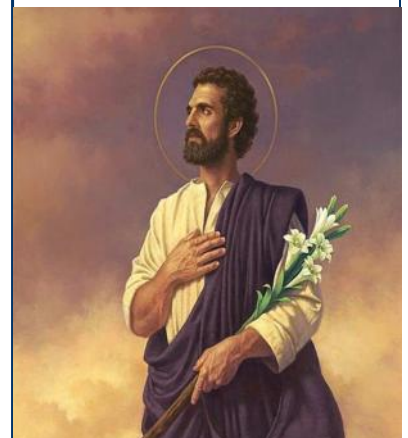
Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.





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