# St. Joseph Parish



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** 





### Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the Third Sunday of Advent! The liturgical calendar declares that Christmas is less than two weeks away. Are you ready? I don't mean are you ready with all the necessary preparations such as tree trimming, baking, wrapping gifts, etc. That will all get done! Are you ready to welcome the Lord Jesus Christ into your life this Christmas? Are you spiritually ready to welcome the King to be the Lord of your universe? This weekend's Scriptures reflect on the theme of waiting. I often find waiting to be boring and even irritating. I like to do things and see results. Advent recalls that our Jewish Brothers and Sisters waited for centuries for the arrival of the Messiah. Waiting involves patience and as we wait for Christmas, we're invited to meaningful waiting. The divine presence is with us as we wait, and as we perform all the dutiful activities in preparation for Christmas!

As you scrolled down to read this you saw our Christmas Mass Schedule. As you're informing your family to gather on Christmas at the house at such a time and dinner is at this time, take time to invite your family members to attend Christmas Mass together. Remind them that this is Christ's day and when your family surrenders to Christ, you will receive the best Christmas gift – our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thanks to all of you who went shopping this past week for the families who will be served at Christmas. Thanks to our school children who are bringing food every Advent Tuesday to fill the Christmas boxes.

Scroll down and see the flyer to Bless the Christmas Tree. After the last string of lights is wrapped around the tree, and the last bulb is put in place, gather with your family around the tree and offer a blessing, reminding you that the lights adorning the Christmas tree are a symbol of the light of Christ present in your home!

Be faithful to the Little Advent Reflection Book – I'm praying for you!

Msgr. Kevin



(Begin with the tree lights off) My Brothers and Sisters,

Amidst signs and wonders Christ Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea: his birth brings joy to our hearts and enlightenment to our minds. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us; may its lights guide us to the perfect light.

### Intercessions:

Let us ask God to send his blessing upon us and upon this sign of our faith in the Lord.

R. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That this tree of lights may remind us of the tree of glory on which Christ accomplished our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the joy of Christmas may always be in our homes, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, give light to our hearts.

That the peace of Christ may dwell in our hearts and in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, give light to our hearts.

With confident faith let us pray as Christ taught us:

Blessing of a Christmas Tree

Lord God,
Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree.
May the light and cheer it gives
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.
May all who delight in this tree
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

(Turn the tree lights on)



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Thank you for being an active and faithful member of the Saint Joseph Catholic Church community.

As 2025 draws to a close, we kindly invite you to consider a year-end charitable gift to your parish. Your generous support demonstrates the special place Saint Joseph holds in your heart and directly sustains our mission:

- Forming and enriching parishioners in spirituality, worship, and education
- Sharing Christ's love through service to others

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference. Please consider making a one-time payment using ParishSoft, Parish Envelopes or the QR code below.

During this sacred season of Advent, we hold you and your family in our prayers and wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Special Giving Opportunity If you are 70½ or older, you may be eligible to make a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA. Please consult your tax advisor for details.

With gratitude and Christmas joy,

Your St. Joseph Church Finance Council:

Ophelia Aragon
Matt Cullen
Meg Kallvy
Charleen Lawrence
Stan Lawrence
Tim McBride
Mike McDermott
George Zuluaga

PLEASE SCAN QR CODE FOR OUR DIGITAL OFFERTORY BASKET



# **Weekly** Prayer

## **Sunday's Readings**

### First Reading:

Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; they will meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning will flee. (Isa 35:10)

### Psalm:

Lord, come and save us. (Ps 146) OR Alleluia.

### Second Reading:

Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. (Jas 5:7)

### Gospel:

Jesus said to them in reply,

"Go and tell John what you hear and see:
the blind regain their sight,
the lame walk,
lepers are cleansed,
the deaf hear,
the dead are raised,
and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them."
(Mt 11:4-5)

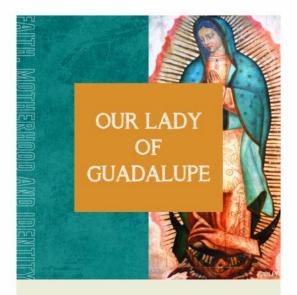
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# Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Go and tell what you have seen and heard,"
Jesus says. When it comes to proving who he
is, he always lets his actions do the talking. We
have heard. We have seen. We must go and
tell. Let's let our actions do the talking. Who
do we think Jesus is?

# Observances for the week of December 14, 2025

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Advent
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, Explained!

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego in Mexico City in 1531. The Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a beloved symbol of faith, motherhood and identity. Her feast day is Dec. 12.

## Prayer for Advent -New Growth

Dear God, Bring new life! Your love creates and cultivates. Bring Your power into the places I think of as "deserts" and your grace to the prayers I fear may be "deserted." You can redeem and restore, bring a new song to my heart. Amen.

©LPi SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# Worship & Meditation

# Readings for the week of December 14, 2025

### 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

### Monday:

Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 21:23-27

### Tuesday:

Zep 3:1-2, 9-13/Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23/Mt 21:28-32

### Wednesday:

Gn 49:2, 8-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17/ Mt 1:1-17

### Thursday:

Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/ Mt 1:18-25

### Friday:

Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

### Saturday:

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/ Lk 1:26-38

### **Next Sunday:**

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c, 10b)/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24



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## **Gospel Meditation**

### **Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

When I was 11, I was riding my bike on a Friday night in Scottsdale, Arizona. I saw giant spotlights swirling in the sky. Something amazing had to be happening. I pedaled after them with excitement. Sweaty and tired, I arrived, only to find a used car lot. Bright lights, flapping banners, inflatable balloon men swaying wildly in the wind. I stood there, heart sinking. All that spectacle, and all my effort ... for this?

As life proceeds, we learn what it is like to pursue promising but fruitless searches. This week we hear Jesus ask the crowds regarding John the Baptist: "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind?" (Matthew 11:7). He's not just describing the crowd's mis-aimed pursuit. He's naming our tendency to chase after what's flashy but flimsy.

What are our swaying reeds? For me, it is endless video reels on my phone, worldly pleasures, entertainment in sports, and the good opinion of others. Inflated distractions that bend whichever way the wind blows. But they can't satisfy my soul. What are your flimsy reeds?

John the Baptist wasn't a swaying reed. He was rooted, grounded, unafraid to speak the solid truth. The people went to see him because, deep down, they were starving for something real.

This Advent, the Church asks us to reassess: What are we really looking for? Are we chasing the dazzling but hollow? Or are we seeking what is solid and lasting — that which points to Christ?

- Father John Muir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

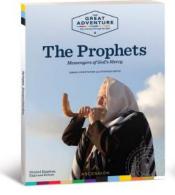
Email Sr. Eva at sreva@stjosephlb.org or call 562-594-4657

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.





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 twothousand 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 AlphaK-4

# Basketball

## Alpha-K thru 4th Grade

It's time for St. Joseph's 24th Annual Basketball League for Alpha-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The league is open to all St. Joseph families, parishioners, and friends. This is an instructional league where everyone plays.

There will be at least three divisions: AK/Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade. All teams will be co-ed. (*Please Note: Player friend requests will be considered but cannot be guaranteed*).

### Quick Notes:

- 6 games Saturday mornings In the Gym!! January 10th February 14th.
- Practice 30 min prior to each game, game runs 30 min.
- Registration fee \$80 (includes 6 games, picture, trophy, season-end pizza party)
- Registration fee can be paid via check or zelle. A registration form must be turned in with either form of payment.
- Jerseys from prior years can be used or new jerseys can be purchased for \$40
- Volunteer Coaches Needed!
- Registration can be turned in via backpack mail, form & payment due by FRIDAY DEC. 19th

Parishioners and community members may turn in their registration to the school office or drop in mail slot.

If you do not receive a confirmation email within a week, then assume your registration was not received and send an email to: stjosephbasketball23@gmail.com.

If you have any questions please call Megan Forsyth 562-706-4442 or email at stjosephbasketball23@gmail.com

We are very excited for the upcoming basketball season!

Thank you,

Megan Forsyth



# ST. JOSEPH AK-4 BASKETBALL LEAGUE

## 2026 Registration and Parent Permission Form

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	Grade		М	F	
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29					<b>&gt;</b>
		\$40 each			\$
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## Ask yourself these questions -



- Do you feel that there is something missing from your life?
- Are you struggling to find clarity and purpose in a busy world?
- Would you like to meet more people in the parish?
- Would you like to strengthen your faith?
- Do you want to be a better version of yourself?

You're invited to experience a weekend like no other right here at St. Joseph Church! A weekend filled with spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. Learn how to become a better version of yourself as you uncover the path to true happiness. This is the best gift you can give yourself! Sign Up Now!

Please visit our parish website for more information and to sign up. www.stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/



# **Eucharistic Adoration**

Every 3rd Tuesday | 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM St. Joseph Catholic Church

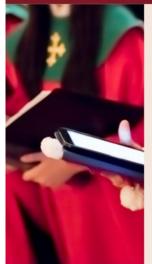


Next Adoration: Tuesday, December 16, 2025

Give your faith a boost!

# 'Tis the Season for **Christmas Music!**

### Christmas **Music Schedule**



### Christmas Eve

4 pm Mass: (courtyard) will be led by Vivian, Edward & Gia

6 pm Mass: (church) will be led by members of the 12:30pm contemporary band.

8:15 pm Concert in the Church: will be performed by 10:30 am choir. We will offer a series of beautiful Christmas Octavos intermingled with traditional Christmas Caroling.

9 pm Mass: (church) will be led by 10:30 am choir

### **Christmas Day:**

9 am Mass: (church) will be led by Vivian, Leah & Aria

10:30 am Mass: (church) will be led by Vivian

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the joy of Christmas. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Tesus the Servant

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 envié 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**



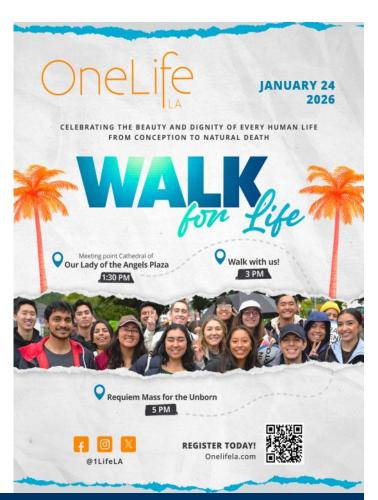
Our next Book Club meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 7pm on Zoom

> 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

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





"Whenever we encounter another person in love, we learn something new about God."
-Pope Francis

Christmas Present Drive: THANK YOU to everyone contributing this week! We are providing multiple gifts and gift cards to OVER 200 children. Our Family Adoptions are providing for 116 MORE! As a parish community we will assist 80 families for Christmas; Family Adoptions, 35 more! Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Home Furnishing Special Needs: Our holiday distributions provided feedback of *many* essential home furnishing needs by our assisted families; refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, heaters, imminent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to fulfill these needs as a parish. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry?

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

Jan. 18-19: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available Jan. 11.



Watch out for fire dangers

Christmas is a popular time to decorate with candles and electric lights, both inside and out of the house. These decorations can be beautiful and festive but also come with the risk of fires. Parents should make sure to keep candles out of reach of children, and off surfaces where they could be easily knocked over. All lights should be checked for faulty wires or other defective parts that could cause a fire. For more information, read the "Holiday Safety" article on <a href="mailto:nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/">nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/seasonal-safety/winter-safety/holiday?/</a>.



St. Joseph Seniors Announcement (Ages 55+)

Great news! Our St. Joseph Seniors meetings are returning to the Hall (St. Joseph Center) beginning Monday, January 12, 2026.

New Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM **2026 Dues:** \$20 (to be collected at the January 12 meeting)

Our first gathering will be a warm "welcome back" and an opportunity to reconnect and meet new members.

- 50/50 drawing tickets will be available for purchase
- President **Donna Luciene** will share plans for the new year
- No games this first meeting
- Bingo & other games resume Feb. 9th (Only one meeting will be held in January due to the Book Fair in the hall on January 26.)

**Lunch:** Pizza will be served Coffee and tea will be available

We look forward to seeing all our returning members—and many new ones too!

If you have questions, please contact **Marilyn North** at **(562) 519-0154**.

Thank you, and we'll see you on January 12 at 10:00 AM!





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	Tuesday, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.	May Pace		
Long Beach	November 18 or	562/833-6370		
PLC Building	PLC Building December 16			

griefshare.org/holidays



### **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

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 mike@stjosephlb.org Website Coordinator Mike Santy

### 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 Steve Koppenheffer lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com Lectors **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 (562) 833-6370 May Pace 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 stilbwelcome@gmail.com

Mary Anne Silvestri

Frank McKown

# **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.

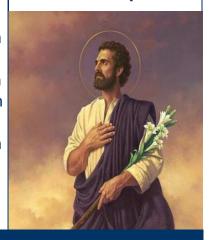
Daily Mass (M-W) 8:00 a.m.

# 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.



**Book Club** 

Meditation

agoodlife@msn.com

frmckown@gmail.com



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### **CONTACT ME Dave Hyde**

dhyde@4LPi.com • (800) 950-9952 x5820



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**Pam Luckey** 562.307.4367 DRE 00751586

**Tessa Luckey** 562.254.0696 DRE 01291580

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