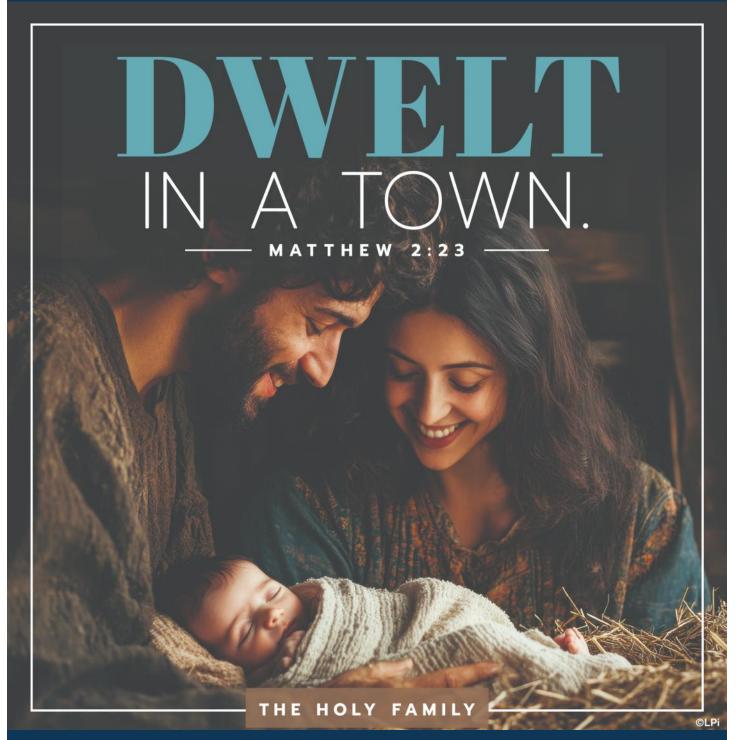
St. Joseph Parish



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:

Merry Christmas! Welcome to our celebration this weekend of the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph! May your family be blessed this Christmas week!!

In a recent letter to the faithful of the Archdiocese, Archbishop Gomez wrote: "Each year, the church invites us to begin the new calendar year by honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on January 1. This Solemnity is both a celebration of Mary's divine maternity and a moment to entrust the coming year to her maternal care and intercession. However, I am aware that for many of the faithful in our Archdiocese, January 1 is a day marked by family gatherings, travel, and work obligations that make attendance at Mass difficult. With a pastoral concern for the spiritual good of all and keeping with the faculty granted to the Diocesan Bishop according to Canon law, I hereby dispense the faithful of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles from the obligation to attend Mass on Thursday, January 1, 2026." Therefore, please note that January 1 is not a Holy day of Obligation this year.

As pastor, I know that I along with many of you would like to observe the day as a holy and prayerful beginning to the new year. I will offer a Holy Mass on Thursday, January 1 at 8:00 AM. I would encourage all of you to honor our Blessed Mother through prayer or a suitable time alone or as a family praying the rosary, reading a scripture or other devotion within your home.

May Mary our mother guide and protect you and your family during the coming year 2026 Anno Domini!! May she lead all of us closer to her son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year!

Msgr. Kevin



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:

Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. (Sir 3:3)

Psalm:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways. (Ps 128)

Second Reading:

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Col 3:17)

Gospel:

He rose, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. (Mt 2:21)

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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because he knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised him. Who is our "Holy Family" — the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose?

Observances for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday: The Holy Family

Wednesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; New Year's Eve

Thursday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God,

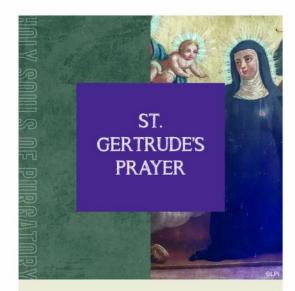
New Year's Day, World Day of Peace

Friday: Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen.

Bishops and Doctors of the Church

Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus

Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord



Devotions, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

Family Blessing

May God bless, protect, unite, mend, and renew our family. Help us to be instruments of healing and holiness, breaking generational curses, rewriting scripts, overcoming tribulation, joining in gratitude, and growing in joy ... together. Amen.

©LPi

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 | THE HOLY FAMILY

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of December 28, 2025

Sunday:

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Monday:

1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/ Lk 2:22-35

Tuesday:

1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/ Lk 2:36-40

Wednesday:

1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18

Thursday:

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/ Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21

Friday:

1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Jn 1:19-28

Saturday:

1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/ Jn 1:29-34

Next Sunday:

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee..." (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence

- Father John Muir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 | THE HOLY FAMILY

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

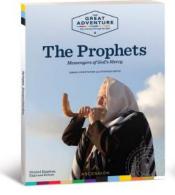
Email Sr. Eva at sreva@stjosephlb.org or call 562-594-4657

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.

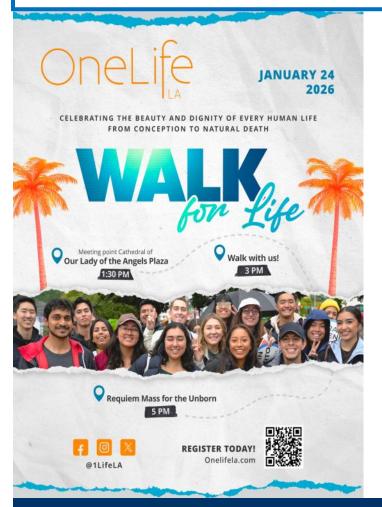
Ask yourself these questions -

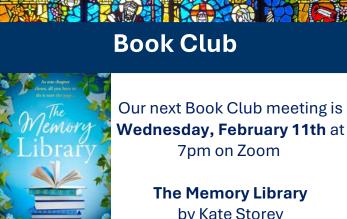


- Do you feel that there is something missing from your life?
- Are you struggling to find clarity and purpose in a busy world?
- Would you like to meet more people in the parish?
- Would you like to strengthen your faith?
- Do you want to be a better version of yourself?

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/





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



"You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God." -2 Cor 9:11.

Christmas Food and Gifts

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to our Christmas Present Drive Dec. 13-14! We provided over <u>450 gifts</u> for the 200 children of our 80-parish community supported families! 58 teens received \$40 gift cards. Our Family Adoptions provided for 116 children from 35 ADDITIONAL families.

Over 200 parishioners distributed a generous supply of food on Dec. 21 to our assisted families. Over 1,500 lbs. of food was provided by way of \$7,000 in Skip-a-Meal donations and our school's food drive. Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

Essential Home Furnishings: Our holiday distributions provided feedback of *many* essential home furnishing needs: refrigerator repairs, beds, tables, dressers, heaters, imminent loss of utility service, etc. We have begun to address these. Are you able to help us in this urgent ministry? For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

Jan. 17-18: Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to our brethren experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available in the church on Jan. 10.



Blessing of the food baskets, gifts and all volunteers before Delivery



Start the New Year reflecting on the protection of children and vulnerable persons

As we start the New Year and commemorate the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, we remember that Mary's life was devoted to the good care and protection of her Son and to lead all to God the Father. This season also reminds us, as parents and safe adults, of the beauty, dignity, and vulnerability of the children we are called to safeguard. Prayer is also a major part remembering victims, survivors, thrivers and all who are involved in the work of protecting God's children. We pray to our Mother of Good Counsel asking her to protect all children and vulnerable persons. For the full reflection, read the VIRTUS® article "Mother of Good Counsel Protect the Vulnerable" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know/.

Senior Group



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!

Grief Share Grieving the death of a loved one? Join us: FEBRUARY 10 - MAY 5, 2026 PLC ROOM AT 6180 E. WILLOW 9:30 TO 11:30 AM INFO: MAY PACE, BEREAVEMENT 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

mike@stjosephlb.org

PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK

stjoseph@stjosephlb.org

Deacon Shane Cuda sfcuda@yahoo.com **Deacon Tom Halliwell** dcntom@stjosephlb.org **Deacon Joe Lumsdaine** deaconcouple@gmail.com 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

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

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

Mike Santy

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 **Vivian Doughty** (562) 594-4657 **Director of Music Eucharistic Ministry Tonet Risko** riskotonet@yahoo.com lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com Lectors Steve Koppenheffer **Esther Ministry** Virginia Young estherministry1@gmail.com **Hospitality Ministry** Deborah Rollinger (562) 594-4657 Movement For A Better World Tim Clark (562) 431-4385 Donna Luciene **Senior Group** (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 tin8343@gmail.com Parish Fair Pete Wroblicky sjspringfair@gmail.com Jessica Gil bpax.g4@gmail.com Environment Altar Servers Monica Wissuchek stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com

Diane Ohde

Frank McKown

Mary Anne Silvestri

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.



Welcome CRHP

Book Club

Meditation

Website Coordinator

stjlbwelcome@gmail.com

agoodlife@msn.com

frmckown@gmail.com



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