

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



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Happy New Year! We start this new year 2026 Anno Domini, in the Year of our Lord, with a celebration of Epiphany. Epiphany means manifestation, and we are invited in this new year of the Lord to discover all the manifestations of God in our life and world!!

It was a joyous Christmas with so many people coming to worship the Lord. While we placed approximately 75 extra chairs in the church, the 4 o'clock Mass was filled, and no one was left standing. Thank you for hearing the call to celebrate Christmas at one of the later, Christmas Eve Masses or perhaps your family came on Christmas Day!! Your sacrifice and support helped everyone to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord!! Everyone found a place in our home!

A NEW YEAR'S PRAYER

Lord, as we enter this new year, fill our hearts with hope, and our souls with faith, guiding us through each day with your divine light. Help us to let go of the pain, disappointments and struggles in the past and fill us with hope for what lies ahead. May the Lord give strength and peace to all His people in this new year 2026! Amen.

New Year's Blessings,

Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come,
the glory of the Lord shines upon you. (Is 60:1)

Psalm:

Lord, every nation on earth will adore you. (Ps 72)

Second Reading:

It was not made known to people in other generations
as it has now been revealed
to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:
that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body.
(Eph 3:5-6)

Gospel:

"Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage." (Mt 2:2)

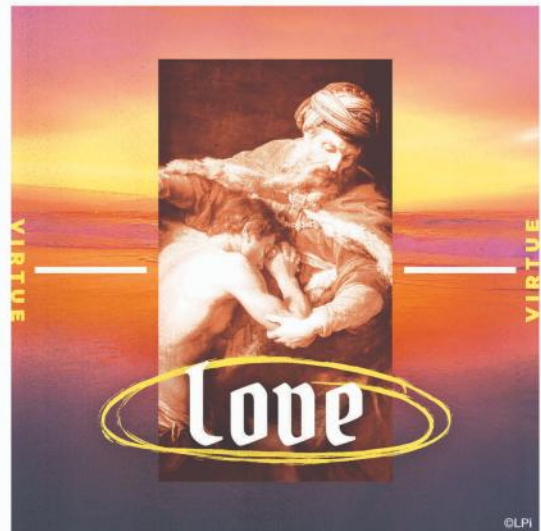
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The journey of the Magi reflects how treacherous our Christian life on earth can be. Always, evil works against us — Satan lays traps. He sows confusion. May we, like the Magi, recognize the will of God as our guiding star.

Observances for the week of January 4, 2026

Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord
Monday: St. John Neumann, Bishop
Tuesday: St. André Bessette, Religious
Wednesday: St. Raymond of Penyafort, Priest
Next Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of love seeks the good of the other, a reflection of the love of God who created us for this very purpose. In practicing this virtue, we express the fullness of our identities as sons and daughters of God. In true Christian love, we find freedom.

Epiphany Blessing

Dear God,
It was You who inspired the Magi to follow the star to find You.
Inspire us to seek You, as well.
Bless our homes and families this season, make them places where we can encounter You through prayer and community.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 4, 2026

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

Monday:

1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/
Mt 4:12-17, 23-25

Tuesday:

1 Jn 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/
Mk 6:34-44

Wednesday:

1 Jn 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/
Mk 6:45-52

Thursday:

1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/
Lk 4:14-22a

Friday:

1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/
Lk 5:12-16

Saturday:

1 Jn 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and
9b/Jn 3:22-30

Next Sunday:

Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10/
Acts 10:34-38/Mt 3:13-17



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was 22, I went on a pilgrimage to Rome for the Jubilee Year of 2000. I was traveling light with just a backpack, one blue shirt and black pants, little money, and no Italian. I had a few close friends and one goal: to reach the Eternal City. Despite the challenges and deprivations, I felt alive in a way I had never known before.

When do you feel most alive? I'd wager it's not when you're most comfortable or surrounded by stuff. Rather, it's when your life is aimed at something great; when you're on a meaningful and challenging journey with good friends.

That's the image the Magi give us in today's Gospel. They set out from the East not with certainty, but with hope. They study the signs, discipline their attention, and journey together, offering the best they have when they find the newborn King.

The Church gives us their story at the start of the year to reawaken something in us. We are not meant to drift. We're meant to journey as pilgrims. The Jubilee Year of 2025 may have ended, but our pilgrimage has not. Like the magi, the closer we get to Christ, the more alive we become.

— *Father John Muir*

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

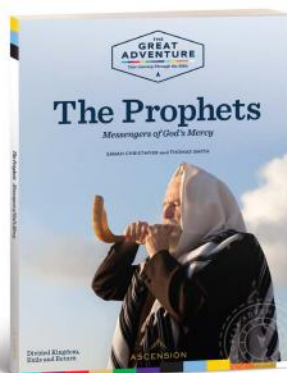
Email Sr. Eva at sreva@stjosephlb.org or
call 562-594-4657

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.



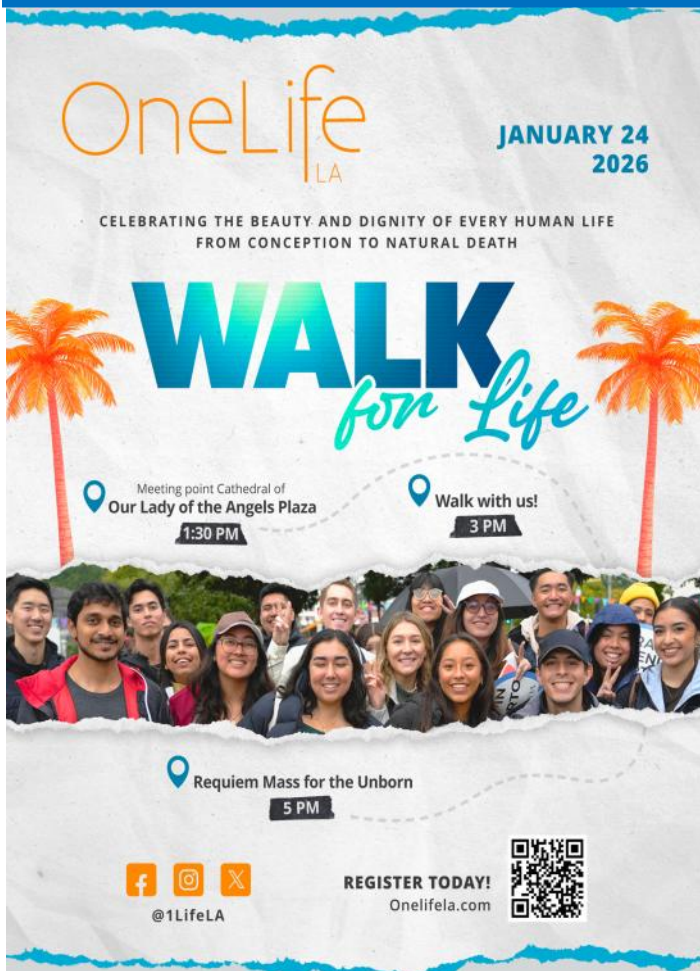
Ask yourself these questions -

- 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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08K7K7K7K)
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.

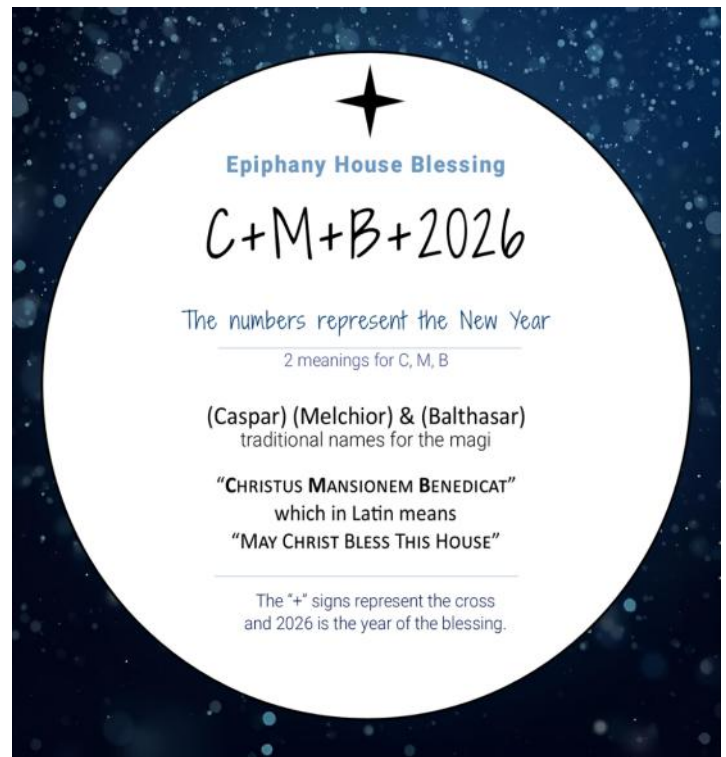
Christmas Food and Gifts

THANK YOU to everyone that contributed to our Christmas Present Drive Dec. 13-14! We provided over 450 gifts 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.



Did You Know?



The challenge of complacency

Safe adults often move through the world with a heightened awareness of what could be suspicious behavior and warning signs – this may feel overwhelming. If they never encounter abuse, they could easily become complacent — thinking there is no potential for abuse because they have not seen it in their own lives. The antidote to complacency is to always remember the end goal: the safety and well-being of the children and vulnerable people in our parishes, schools, ministries and communities. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “The Challenge of Complacency” 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!

GriefShare®

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
562/833 - 6370



In Memoriam



Ben Barillaro

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
Thursday, January 15th 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
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
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	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
Parish Fair	Pete Wroblicky	sjspringfair@gmail.com
Environment	Jessica Gil	bpax.g4@gmail.com
Altar Servers	Monica Wissuchek	stjfamilyaltarserver@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.





LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME Dave Hyde

dhyde@4LPi.com • (800) 950-9952 x5820



Jennifer Lumsdaine

2023 Attorney of the Year,
Southeast District Bar Association

Parish Members Receive Free Consultations for Wills &
Trusts, Probate & Trust Administration, Conservatorships
(562) 923-0971 | tldlaw.com

jolumsdaine@tldlaw.com

Offices in Downey, Long Beach, Irvine



ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide

833-287-3502



COMPASS

BUY — SELL — INVEST
Local Parishioners

Serving Your
Real Estate needs in
Long Beach and
Surrounding Areas



Tyler Luckey

562.254.1325
DRE 01978990

Pam Luckey

562.307.4367
DRE 00751586

Tessa Luckey

562.254.0696
DRE 01291580

luckeyteam@compass.com | luckeyteam.com

catholicmatch[®] California



CatholicMatch.com/CA

Don Gath Insurance Agency



562-498-6701

AUTO ~ HOME ~ LIFE
Be more than a number.
Be part of the family.
LIC#0447779
Family owned & operated since 1984.

SHORT STAFFED?

Place an ad here to find new
local talent for your business.



CALL 800-950-9952

TAX PREPARATION

Aragon, Santillan & Associates

Ophelia Aragon, EA, NTPF Fellow
Fabian Santillan, EA

Tax Preparation & Notary Services
6342 E. Spring St.
Long Beach, CA 90815

www.asatax.com

562-421-3063

Parishioners



25+ Years Experience

562-925-4046

Heating
Stoppages
Wall & Floor Furnace
Video Inspections
Sewer & Drains
Gas Lines
Slab Leaks
Remodels
Copper/Pex Re-Pipes
Garbage Disposals
Water Heaters
Free Estimates

10% Discount With this Ad
\$300 Maximum Discount



SUPPORT
OUR PARISH

ASHLEY HAYES,

PHARM.D., BCPS

CONSULTANT PHARMACIST

914-439-3653

CLINICAL PRACTITIONER • PATIENT CARE ADVOCATE
MEDICATION EXPERT • EDUCATOR • DRUG INFO RESOURCE

HAVE YOU HAD A
MEDICATION REVIEW
LATELY?



WE APPRECIATE OUR
ADVERTISERS!



FIRSTTEAM[®]
REAL ESTATE

JULIE VOCK

Julie Vock - Realtor

Born and Raised Neighborhood Specialist

714.501.7798

www.JulieVock.com

bre# 01383367



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES & MORTUARIES

EVERLASTING FAITH. EVERLASTING LIFE.

*A ministry of the Church
serving the faithful.*

Learn about our 11 locations in
Los Angeles, Ventura and
Santa Barbara counties

CatholicCM.org



Brunch and
Live Music
on the
Weekends
10-2pm!

562-541-1105

4130 Paramount Blvd., Lakewood, CA 90712

O'Connor's Irish Pub

Pub & Kitchen Open Daily at 10am

All Ages Welcome! 25 Big Screen TVs, Newly Remodeled,
Full Kitchen & Bar, Game Room & 14 Ice Cold Beers On Tap!

Fish & Chips Dinner & Drinks For Two \$30

Beer-Battered Alaskan Cod,
Fries, Coleslaw, Pub Salad,
Domestic Pint/Seltzer

7 Days, 5pm-close. Mention this ad



Outside is fun again!

Service Areas:

- Seal Beach
- Cypress
- Los Alamitos
- Rossmore
- East Long Beach

Ken Kay & Evelyn Dinnen, Owners

562-270-9808 | www.sealbeach.mosquitojoe.com

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!



LUYBEN FAMILY DILDAY-MOTTELL MORTUARY

GUARANTEED LOWEST FUNERAL COST IN TOWN

John G. Luyben • Rosalie A. Luyben • Thaddeus Luyben • Martin Luyben • James Morgan

CALL US FOR YOUR FREE MEMORIAL GUIDE... "PRE-ARRANGING FOR TIME OF NEED"

5161 Arbor Road, Long Beach, CA

425-6401



For ad info. call 1-800-950-9952 • www.4lpi.com

St. Joseph Church, Long Beach, CA

A 4C 05-4064