

# St. Joseph Parish



WE SAW HIS  
STAR AT ITS  
RISING.

MATTHEW 2:2

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

[stjosephlb.org](http://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



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# 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)

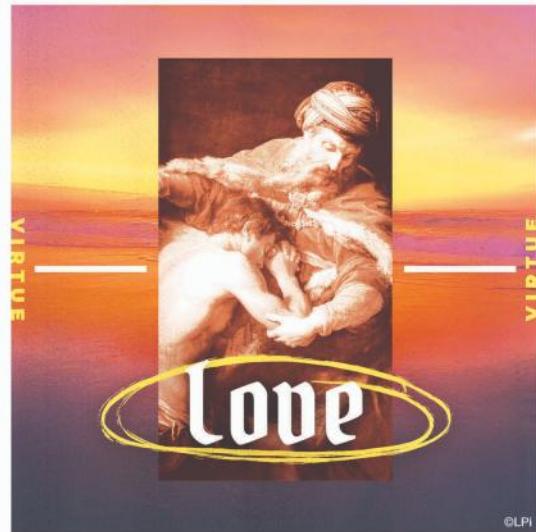
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

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 Peñafort, 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



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## 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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026 | THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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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](mailto:sreva@stjosephlb.org)

## For More Information

Email Sr. Eva at [sreva@stjosephlb.org](mailto: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.



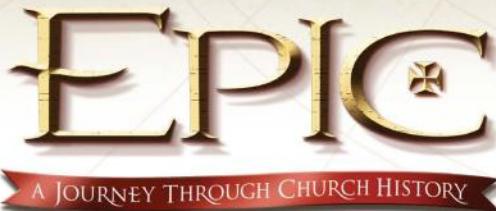
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# IF YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT...

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.



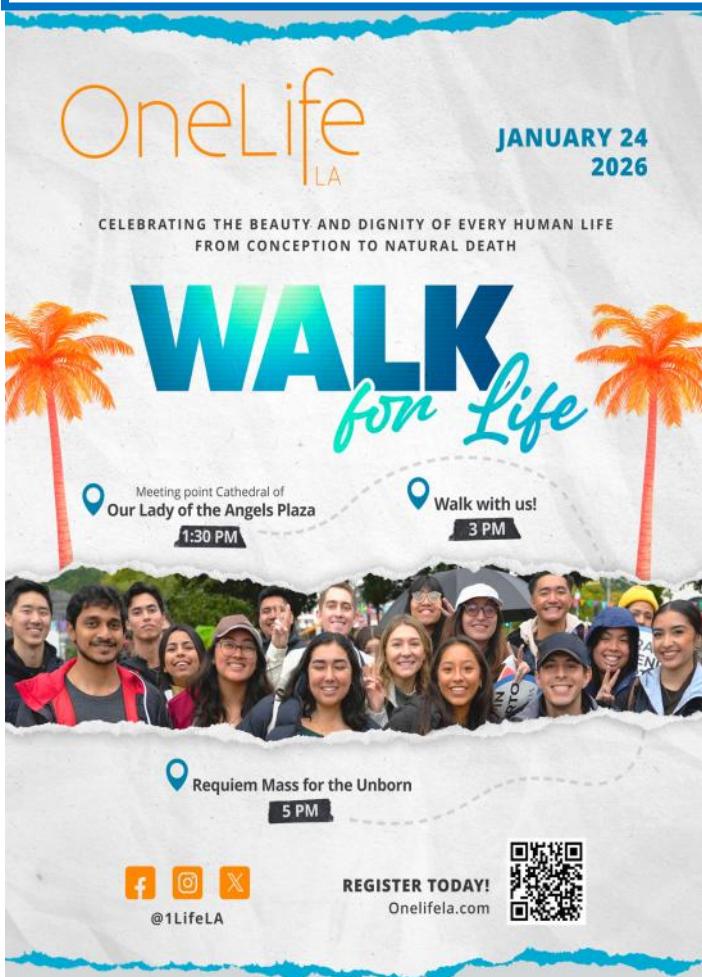
## Ask yourself these questions -

- 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?

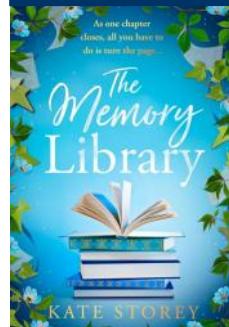
You're invited to experience a weekend like no other right here at St. Joseph Church! A weekend filled with spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. Learn how to become a better version of yourself as you uncover the path to true happiness. This is the best gift you can give yourself! Sign Up Now!

Please visit our parish website for more information and to sign up.

[www.stjosephlb.org/welcome-Christ-renews/](http://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

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**"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.



### **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](http://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

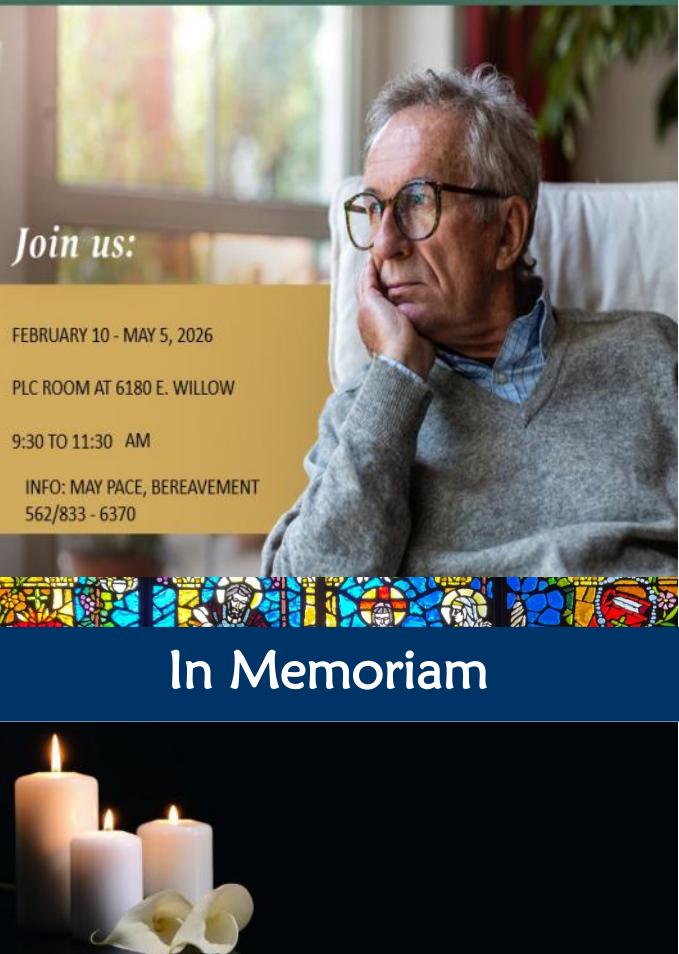
We look forward to seeing all our returning members—and many new ones too!

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!**

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## 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](mailto:stjoseph@stjosephlb.org)

**Deacon Shane Cuda**

[sfcuda@yahoo.com](mailto:sfcuda@yahoo.com)

**Deacon Tom Halliwell**

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**Deacon Joe Lumsdaine**

[deaconcouple@gmail.com](mailto:deaconcouple@gmail.com)

**Sr. Eva** (Director of Adult Faith Formation) [sreva@stjosephlb.org](mailto: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](mailto:Zuluaga@aol.com)

Safeguard The Children Parish Office (562) 594-4657

Parish Bulletin Editor Brenda Pineda [bulletin@stjosephlb.org](mailto:bulletin@stjosephlb.org)

Website Coordinator Mike Santy [mike@stjosephlb.org](mailto:mike@stjosephlb.org)

## St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

(562) 596-6115 [sjknights.net](http://sjknights.net) Fax: (562) 596-6725

Assistant Principal: Madison Alba

## Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

(562) 598-0519 [marc@stjosephlb.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:riskotonet@yahoo.com)

Lectors Steve Koppenheffer [lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com](mailto:lectorsstjosephlb@gmail.com)

Esther Ministry Virginia Young [estherministry1@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:pjbstampin@aol.com)

Bereavement Ministry May Pace (562) 833-6370

Cursillo Tom & Marie Newton [tjn8343@gmail.com](mailto:tjn8343@gmail.com)

Parish Fair Pete Wroblicky [stspringfair@gmail.com](mailto:stspringfair@gmail.com)

Environment Jessica Gil [bpax.g4@gmail.com](mailto:bpax.g4@gmail.com)

Altar Servers Monica Wissuchek [stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com](mailto:stjfamilyaltarservers@gmail.com)

Welcome CRHP Diane Ohde [stjlbwelcome@gmail.com](mailto:stjlbwelcome@gmail.com)

Book Club Mary Anne Silvestri [agoodlife@msn.com](mailto:agoodlife@msn.com)

Meditation Frank McKown [frmckown@gmail.com](mailto: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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