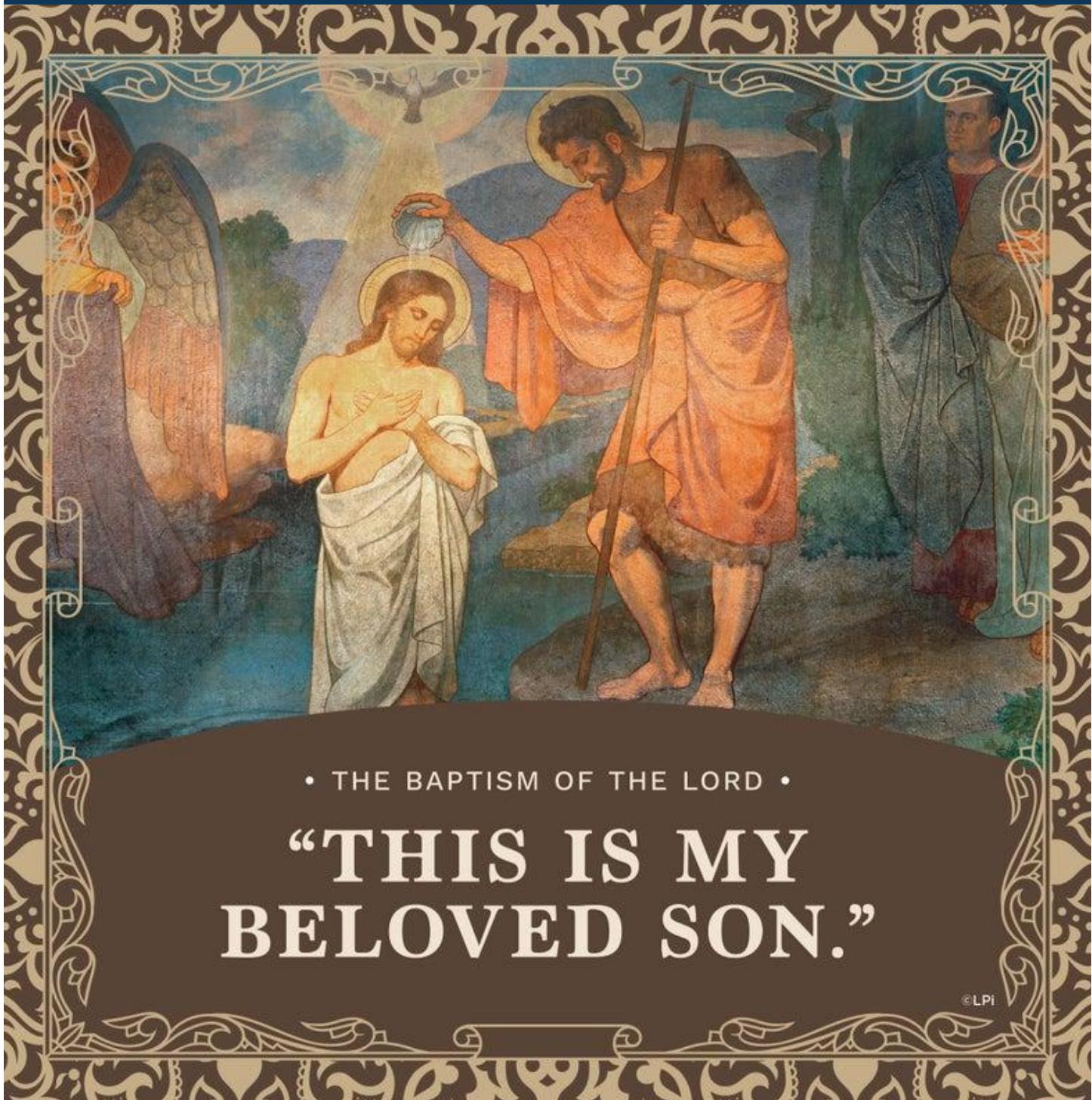


St. Joseph Parish



• THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD •
**“THIS IS MY
BELOVED SON.”**

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

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Letter From Our Pastor

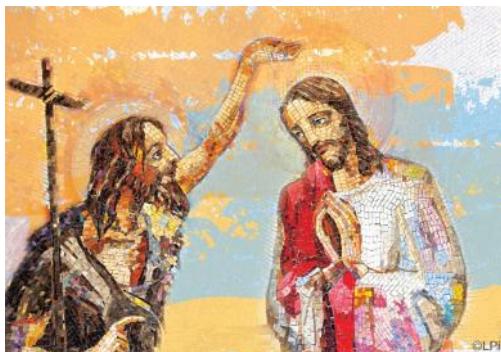
Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the end of the Christmas Season as we celebrate the Baptism of Jesus Christ. Following the birth of Christ, the scriptures are silent for almost 30 years about the quiet work of the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph watch as their Son grows up during his childhood, teenage and young adult years. Suddenly, he appears in the desert at the Jordan River, standing in line and seeking Baptism from his cousin, John the Baptist. As we will hear in the Gospel account, Jesus is reminded of his identity as a beloved Son. As Jesus and all of those along the river hear the Father say, "With you, I am well pleased!" The tender account of the relationship between Jesus and his Father can remind us of the most basic human desire: the desire that a child may be pleasing in the eyes of his or her parents. No matter the age, nothing builds up a child more than to hear from a parent, "I am so proud of you. I am so pleased with you." We also possess that same identity and estimation, thanks to our Baptism. We are all beloved, daughters and sons of the Father who is pleased with us. Sit quietly with this phrase and let it wash over you - embrace the truth of God's kindness and generous love that is given to each of us at our Baptism!

This Monday, January 12, our Senior Group returns to our new Parish Center for their gatherings twice a month. If you are 55 years or over, you belong! Stop by between 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM for games, food, fun and camaraderie. Scroll down for further information.

This past week, the basketball season commenced in our new Parish Center. Several of our Catholic elementary schools in Long Beach are playing in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO). Welcome back to your new home and the amazing Taraflex sports floor! Be safe and enjoy the games!!

Blessings on your week,
Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

I, the LORD, have called you for the victory of justice,
I have grasped you by the hand;
I formed you, and set you
as a covenant of the people,
a light for the nations. (Is 42:6)

Psalm:

The Lord will bless his people with peace. (Ps 29)

Second Reading:

"In truth, I see that God shows no partiality.
Rather, in every nation whoever fears him
and acts uprightly
is acceptable to him." (Acts 10:34-35)

Gospel:

And a voice came from the heavens, saying,
"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am
well pleased." (Mt 3:17)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

John could not believe that Jesus would seek baptism from him, a lowly mortal man. But our God is a humble God. He does not fear our weakness. He extends his hand, saying, "It is fitting." So take his hand. Begin the work he has set out for you.

Observances for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord
Tuesday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

Joy is the experience of achieving what we most desire — and what we most desire is love. God made us in love and for love, and so, in the same way that a flower seeks the sunlight, our souls seek the warmth of true, selfless love.

Blessing for Baptismal Grace

Dear God,
Through Baptism, You called and claimed us as Your own, chosen and loved.
Pour Your blessing upon us as we remember our Baptism.
Plant Your identity in our hearts.
Help us to live as Your beloved.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of January 11, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Sm 1:1-8/Ps 116:12-13, 14-17, 18-19/
Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday:

1 Sm 1:9-20/1 Sam 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/
Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/Ps 40:2 and 5, 7-8a,
8b-9, 10/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday:

1 Sm 4:1-11/Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25/
Mk 1:40-45

Friday:

1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/Ps 89:16-17, 18-19/
Mk 2:1-12

Saturday:

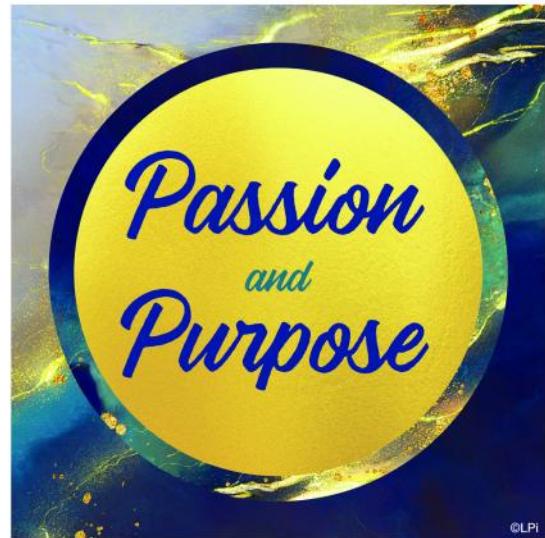
1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday:

Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34



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Gospel Meditation Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Apple ran a commercial not long ago called "Behind the Mac – Greatness." It shows artists and creators, such as Kendrick Lamar, Billie Eilish, and Lady Gaga, working behind their MacBooks. The narration says, "There's a certain kind of person who doesn't wait for greatness. They make it." It's a compelling message. There's beauty in using our gifts with passion and purpose. But there lies a hidden weight in that idea: If you are what you make, what happens when you can't anymore? When the project fails, the passion fades, or the spotlight moves on, where is greatness then?

Today's Gospel offers a differing vision of greatness. Jesus steps into the Jordan River. He hasn't preached, healed, or performed a single miracle. Then the heavens open, and the Father speaks: **"You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."** It's not a reward for success. It's not earned. Before he does anything "great," Jesus receives the greatness of his identity from the Father.

And so do you. At your baptism, God said the same thing over you: "You are my beloved." That is your true identity, not constructed or earned but received. When we see ourselves and others this way, everything changes for the better. We discover a greatness that can never be taken away.

This week, reflect on your baptism: look up the date, thank God for it, pray for those baptized with you, or visit the church where it happened. Let your identity be rooted there.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 | THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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ST. JOSEPH MASS AND OPEN HOUSE

Disciples of Christ - Tenacious Scholars - 21st Century Learners

**Sunday,
January 25, 2026**

**Open House following
8:30am Mass**

Experience how we help our students grow as children of God, nurturing their hearts and minds. Through hands-on learning and shared experiences, they explore, grow, and deepen their faith together as young disciples and lifelong learners.



Campus tours will be available - sign up here!





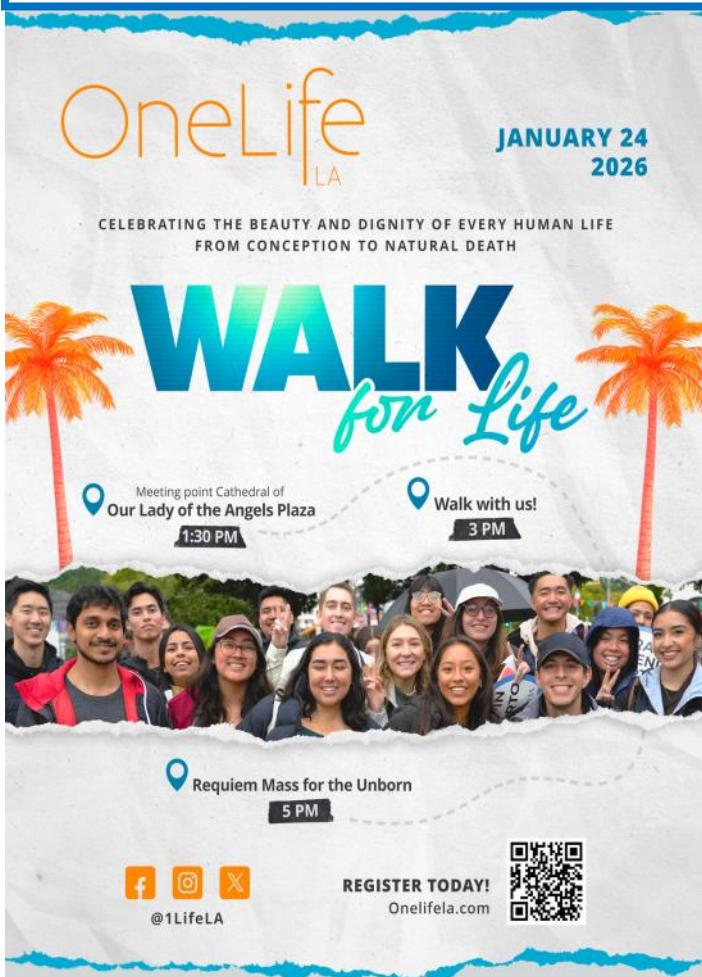
Ask yourself these questions -

- 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?

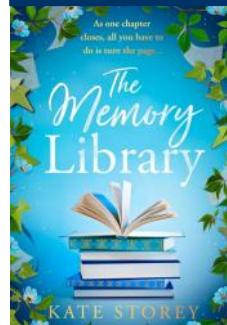
You're invited to experience a weekend like no other right here at St. Joseph Church! A weekend filled with spiritual renewal and Christian fellowship. Learn how to become a better version of yourself as you uncover the path to true happiness. This is the best gift you can give yourself! Sign Up Now!

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](http://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.

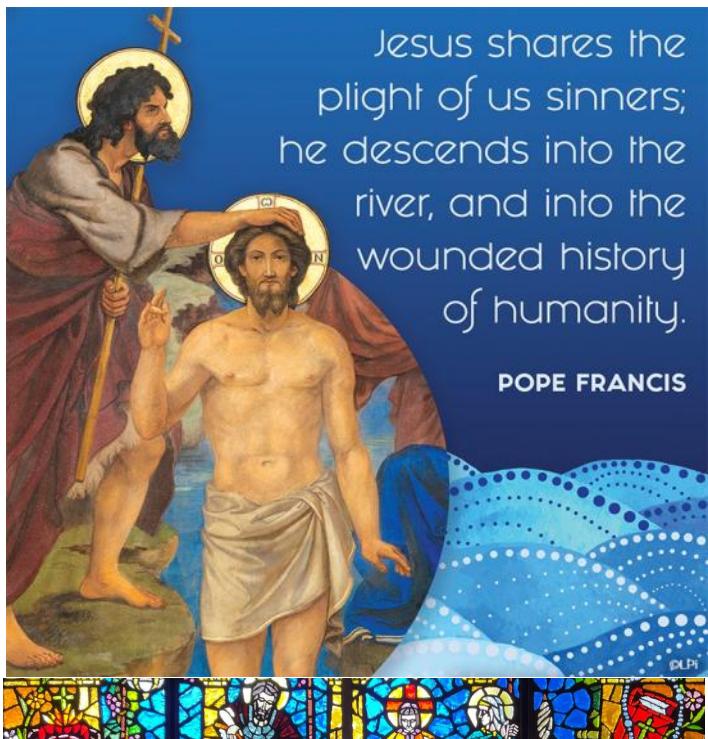
Christmas Food and Gifts

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



How to advocate with children for their safety

As a safe adult, you have tremendous power to make a profound difference for children – not only by recognizing and responding to unsafe situations, but also by teaching children about their rights to safety and creating environments where they can speak up and get help. There are skills we can teach to children to help them to better protect themselves when faced with tough situations like child sexual abuse or grooming experiences where their boundaries are violated. It is important to make sure children know this, so they don't feel guilt or shame if abuse does happen, to them or to a friend. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “How to Advocate Directly with Youth for their Safety and Wellbeing” 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!

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Grieving the **death** of a loved one?



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 | stspringfair@gmail.com |
| Environment | Jessica Gil | bpax.g4@gmail.com |
| Altar Servers | 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.

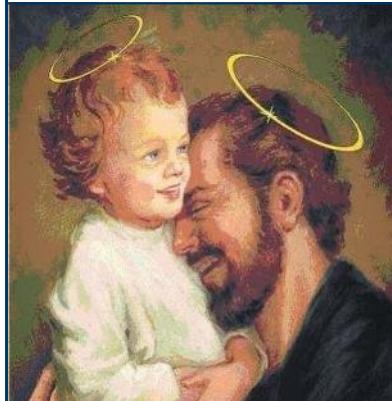
Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.





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