

St. Joseph Parish

HE WENT UP THE
MOUNTAIN AND BEGAN
TO TEACH.

— MATTHEW 5:1 —



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

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:

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. This week Saint Matthew's Gospel introduces us to the Sermon on the Mount. Chapter 5 is a series of teachings by Jesus on how we are to live the Way, the Christian life. This weekend we will hear the Beatitudes which reflect attitudes of living or attitudes of the heart.

Last week, my spiritual journey was anything but ordinary. It was extraordinary to walk through the spacious halls and rooms of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican. The images are memorable: the halls and walls were filled with ancient tapestries, works of Michelangelo and the great Renaissance painters, the posture and salutes of the Swiss Guard, the polished marble floors, the clerestory windows looking out over the eternal city of Rome were breathtaking – so many images that I hold as a blessing. During this weekend's homily, I look forward to sharing with you my reflections on meeting "**Peter**" at the Vatican!!

Every Wednesday, Pope Leo holds an audience at the Vatican and thousands of pilgrims around the world eagerly listen to his teachings. This year, Pope Leo has decided to instruct us on the teachings, meaning and values of the documents of the Second Vatican Council. Beginning today, I'm going to reprint the weekly teaching of the Holy Father in this bulletin. Take a few moments each week and prayerfully study and reflect on your Catholic journey through the documents of the Council that has helped us to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ, the Church and the world.

This Tuesday, February 3 is the Feast of Saint Blase. We will have the traditional Blessing of Throats at the 8:00 AM Mass which is the weekly school children's Mass.

Next weekend, all 290 parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles will celebrate **Together in Mission Sunday**. One in every five parishes needs financial assistance and one in every four Catholic Schools needs critical funds to keep their doors open. This is our annual opportunity to support the 66 parishes and 79 Catholic Schools in our local church that will benefit from Together in Mission funds. This is the only collection in the nation where all proceeds do not go to diocesan offices or administration costs but the most vulnerable among us.

Every parish is assigned a financial goal to reach based on 10% of the previous years' offertory collection. This year, our **PARISH GOAL IS \$88,695.00. THE ARCHDIOCESAN GOAL IS OVER \$17 MILLION**. For the past several years our parish has not only reached but surpassed our goal. We can do it again this year! Our parish is always an extension of God's generosity to those in need. During the Masses next Sunday, we will focus on the Together in Mission theme: "**THIS IS THE HOUR FOR LOVE**". Everyone will have the opportunity to complete the pledge card. You don't have to pay anything right now as you can make a pledge with monthly installments. If you already completed and mailed in the pledge card – Thank you! You can also bring the pledge card with you next weekend and we'll complete it during the homily time. Please make sure you credit your gift to St. Joseph in Long Beach. There are six St. Joseph Parishes in the Archdiocese and we want to make sure that your gift is credited to help us reach our goal. Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift in this annual Mission to support needy families and children in our Catholic parishes and schools.

May the prayer of Saint Blase offered this week bring you health and healing: "**Through the intercession of Saint Blase, Bishop and Martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the + Holy Spirit**". **AMEN!!**

I'm praying for you and your families!

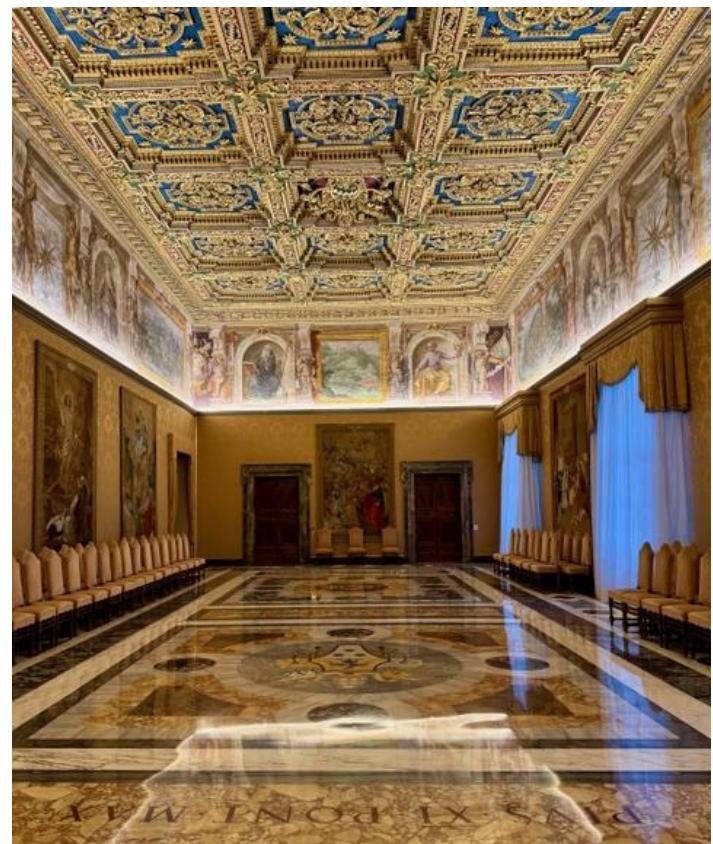
Gratefully in Christ,
Msgr. Kevin



Photos From Our Pastor



← The last of many waiting rooms in the Apostolic Palace. Next stop - meeting the Holy Father in his office in the Apostolic Library.



One of the many audience halls of Pope Leo! →



← The famed Casio e Pepe was born in Rome!!



AR - DE - EN - ES - FR - HR - IT - PL - PT - ZH_TW

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Audience Hall
Wednesday, 7 January 2026
[Multimedia]

Catechesis. Vatican Council II through its Documents. Introductory catechesis

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

After the [Jubilee Year](#), during which we focused on the mysteries of the life of Jesus, we will begin a new cycle of catechesis which will be dedicated to [Vatican Council II](#) and a rereading of its Documents. It is a valuable opportunity to rediscover the beauty and the importance of this ecclesial event. [Saint John Paul II](#), at the end of the [Jubilee 2000](#), stated: "I feel more than ever in duty bound to point to the Council as *the great grace bestowed on the Church in the twentieth century*" (Apostolic Letter [Novo millennio ineunte](#) 57).

Together with the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, in 2025 we remembered the sixtieth anniversary of Vatican Council II. Although the time that separates us from this event is not so long, it is equally true that the generation of bishops, theologians and believers of Vatican II is no longer with us. Therefore, while we hear the call not to let its prophecy fade, and to continue to seek ways and means to implement its insights, it will be important to get to know it again closely, and to do so not through "hearsay" or interpretations that have been given, but by rereading its documents and reflecting on their content. Indeed, it is the Magisterium that still constitutes the guiding star of the Church's journey today. As Benedict XVI taught, "as the years have passed, the Conciliar Documents have lost none of their timeliness; indeed, their teachings are proving particularly relevant to the new situation of the Church and the current globalized society" (*Message at the end of the Eucharistic Concelebration with the Members of the College of Cardinals*, 20 April 2005).

When Pope Saint John XXIII opened the Council on 11 October 1962, he spoke of it as the dawn of a day of light for the whole Church. The work of the numerous Fathers convened from the Churches of all continents did indeed pave the way for a new ecclesial season. After a rich biblical, theological and liturgical reflection spanning the twentieth century, Vatican Council II rediscovered the face of God as the Father who, in Christ, calls us to be his children; it looked at the Church in the light of Christ, light of nations, as a mystery of communion and sacrament of unity between God and his people; it initiated important liturgical reform, placing at its centre the mystery of salvation and the active and conscious participation of the entire People of God. At the same time, it helped us to open up to the world and to embrace the changes and challenges of the modern age in dialogue and co-responsibility, as a Church that wishes to open her arms to humanity, to echo the hopes and anxieties of peoples, and to collaborate in building a more just and fraternal society.

Thanks to Vatican Council II, the Church "has something to say, a message to give, a communication to make" (Saint Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Ecclesiam suam*, 65), striving to seek the truth by way of ecumenism, interreligious dialogue and dialogue with people of good will.

This spirit, this inner disposition, must characterize our spiritual life and the pastoral action of the Church, because we have yet to achieve ecclesial reform more fully in a ministerial sense and, in the face of today's challenges, we are called to continue to be vigilant interpreters of the signs of the times, joyful proclaimers of the Gospel, courageous witnesses of justice and peace. At the beginning of the Council, Monsignor Albino Luciani, the future [Pope John Paul I](#), as Bishop of Vittorio Veneto, wrote prophetically, "As always, there is a need to achieve not so much organizations or methods or structures, but a deeper and more widespread holiness. ... It may be that the excellent and abundant fruits of a Council will be seen after centuries and will mature by laboriously overcoming conflicts and adverse situations". [\[1\]](#) Rediscovering the Council, then, as [Pope Francis](#) remarked, helps us to "restore primacy to God, to what is essential: to a Church madly in love with its Lord and with all the men and women whom he loves" ([Homily on the sixtieth anniversary of the beginning of Vatican Council II](#), 11 October 2022).

Brothers and sisters, [Saint Paul VI](#)'s words to the Council Fathers at the end of its work remain a guiding principle for us today. He affirmed that the time had come to leave the Council assembly and go out towards humanity to bring it the good news of the Gospel, in the awareness that they had experienced a time of grace in which the past, present and future were condensed: "The past: for here, gathered in this spot, we have the Church of Christ with her tradition, her history, her councils, her doctors, her saints; the present, for we are taking leave of one another to go out towards the world of today with its miseries, its sufferings, its sins, but also with its prodigious accomplishments, its values, its virtues; and lastly the future is here in the urgent appeal of the peoples of the world for more justice, in their will for peace, in their conscious or unconscious thirst for a higher life, that life precisely which the Church of Christ can and wishes to give them" (Saint Paul VI, [Message to the Council Fathers](#), 8 December 1965).

This is also true for us. As we approach the documents of [Vatican Council II](#) and rediscover their prophetic and contemporary relevance, we welcome the rich tradition of the life of the Church and, at the same time, we question ourselves about the present and renew our joy in running towards the world to bring it the Gospel of the kingdom of God, a kingdom of love, justice and peace.

[\[1\]](#) A. Luciani – John Paul I, *Note sul Concilio*, in *Opera omnia*, vol. II, Vittorio Veneto 1959-1962. *Discorsi, scritti, articoli*, Padua 1988, 451-453.

Special greetings

I extend a warm welcome this morning to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those from England, Ireland, Australia, Canada and the United States of America. To all of you and your families, I offer my prayerful good wishes for a blessed Christmas season and a new year filled with joy and peace. God bless you all!

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters, we begin today a new series of catecheses dedicated to the Second Vatican Council and to reflecting on its documents. The work of the Council Fathers paved the way for a new ecclesial season, placing at its center the mystery of salvation and the unity between God and his people. At the same time, it opened the Church to seek dialogue with the people of good will for a more just and fraternal world. We see that the documents have lost none of their relevance and are pertinent to the demands and challenges of today. Closely studying the Council documents will help us to be attentive interpreters of the signs of the times, and to proclaim the Gospel to all. As we make our journey of rediscovering the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, let us welcome the past with its rich tradition; let us consider the present with its joys and sorrows; and let's look towards the future with an urgent appeal for greater justice, love and peace.

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The HOLY SEE



THIS IS THE
HOUR FOR
love

2026
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MISSION**
— ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES —



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KEEPING THE DOORS OPEN AND *focusing on our faith*

OUR MISSION DURING THIS TIME FOR *love*

...is to provide a lifeline for underserved parishes and schools across the Archdiocese of Los Angeles that would otherwise struggle to meet their most urgent and vital financial needs.



Catholic Schools A Lifeline for Catholic Classrooms

Seventy-nine Catholic schools stand as living witnesses to Christ's love - places where families find belonging, where teachers serve as missionary disciples, and where children discover their purpose in God's plan.

Your gifts to **Together in Mission** help ensure that the doors of our schools stay open to all who seek a Catholic education. In doing so, it sustains communities of hope and faith where the next generation of saints and scholars is being formed each day.

"Without the financial support of Together in Mission, we would not be able to provide the level of assistance we currently offer, ensuring our mission remains accessible."

—Evangeline Garay, Principal at Immaculate Conception STEM Academy



Parishes

**Where the Gospel Lives and Nurtures
Faith and Service**

Keeping parish doors open means more than worship. It means offering refuge: feeding the hungry, welcoming the lonely, and supporting families in need. Twice a month, Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Jefferson Park, Los Angeles, opens its parish hall to more than 100 families. Along with groceries, families take home the reassuring support of their parish community. Such acts of love reflect that Christ is alive in His Church today.

*"The hour for love means helping people and giving to others in need.
It is a blessing to serve others through our mini-kitchen."*

*—Yvette, St. Theresa Mini-Kitchen Parish Volunteer,
Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church*



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly. (Zep 3:12)

Psalm:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs! (Ps 146)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong. (1 Cor 1:27)

Gospel:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Mt 5:3)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

Observances for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

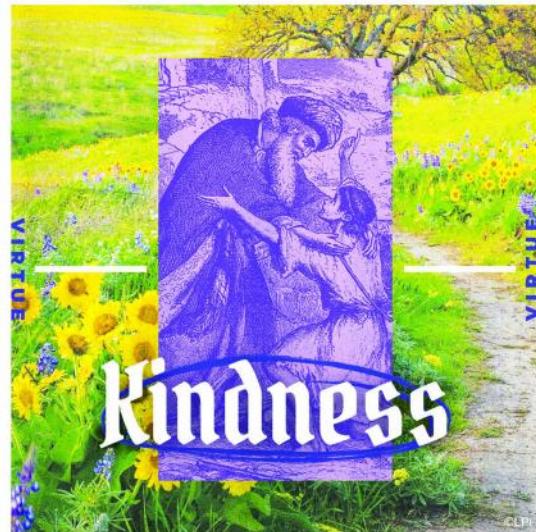
Monday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life

Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop

Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day



Virtues, Explained!

Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God, who has adopted us as His own.

Bless Us, Lord

Jesus,
You are good and gracious, every moment of every day. You invite us to be meek, merciful, clean of heart, peacemakers. Give us the grace to seek these virtues, and to seek you. May your blessing accompany us on our way.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 1, 2026

Sunday:

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a,
9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Monday:

Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Tuesday:

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/
Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday:

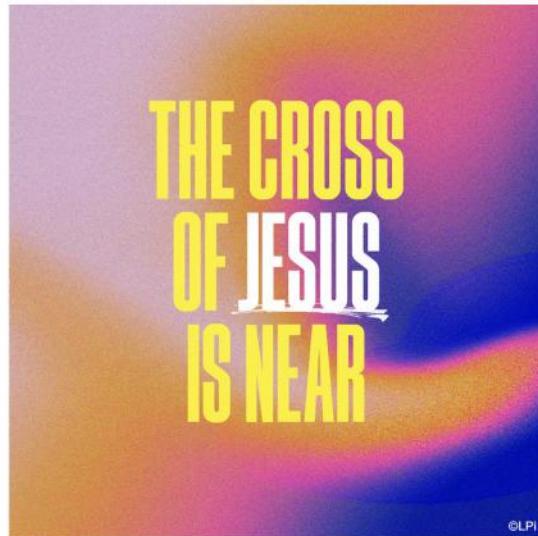
1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/
Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday:

Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/
Mt 5:13-16



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: **"Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad" (Matthew 5:11-12)**. Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— Father John Muir



\$100
/player

ST. JOSEPH TBALL 2026

Get ready for a fun-filled 2026 T-Ball season! All kids ages 3-6 are welcome to join! Our season runs from March 7 to April 25 and focuses on building confidence, teamwork, and a love for the game in a positive, playful environment. Games are held on Saturdays at 9:00 AM and Wednesdays at 5:30 PM, making it easy for families to join the fun. Sign your child up for smiles, new friendships, and unforgettable first baseball memories this spring!



St. Joseph Field
6220 E. Willow St
Long Beach, CA 90815

Register here



<http://www.stjosephtball.com/>



Questions/Concerns? (562) 756-2094; stjosephtball@hotmail.com



What Past Participants Said

"I had an amazing experience at Christ Renews His Parish. I met incredible women who shared their spiritual stories with me. I feel closer to the Lord and it deepened my faith and relationship with God."

"I had no idea what to expect. It was going to be the first retreat I had ever attended. From the minute I walked through the gate after being greeted by smiling faces and being seated at a table with women I had seen at mass but didn't really know, I felt so comfortable and welcome. The entire two days were a totally spiritual renewal for me, and I had 30 new friends."

"My Christ Renews His Parish retreat experience reminded me of the priorities in my life, which are God and family. I learned how to get to know people on a deeper level, become a better listener, and to be more empathetic to the struggles of others. It led me to form a strong brotherhood with the men of my retreat team, which in turn strengthened my Catholic faith and my involvement in the parish and the wider community."

"I went into the Welcome Weekend retreat with low expectations, but what I found was something so much deeper. It wasn't about being perfect or having all the answers. It was about encountering Jesus in the real, everyday lives of men. The retreat renewed my joy and service in my faith, and I'm so grateful for the chance to be part of this incredible community. Plus, the BBQ on Sunday is just a bonus!"

Come experience the beauty of Catholic community, prayer, the sacraments, and renewal.

Sign Up Now, Space Limited

*Women's Weekend
March 14th and 15th 2026*

*Men's Weekend
April 18th and 19th 2026*

To learn more and to sign up, visit our parish website.
www.stjosephlb.org





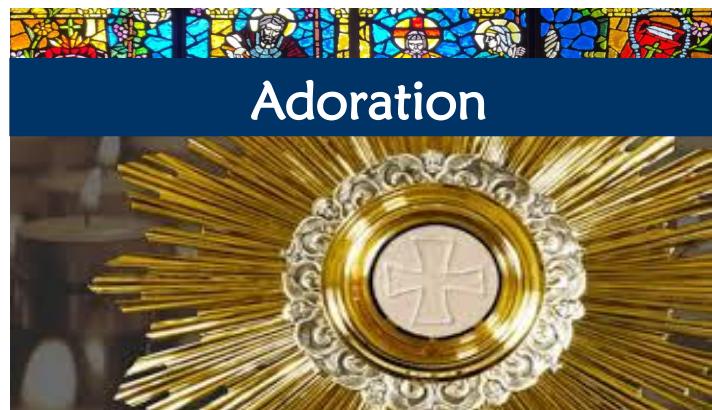
“Whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” -Mt 25:40

Homeless Kit Drive: Many THANKS for the generous support Jan. 17-18! Kits and supplies for over **200 kits** were provided! \$729 was donated from which **50 additional kits** will be made. Several additional shopping-list envelopes were taken last weekend to be returned this weekend. (We target 480 kits per year; next drive, May 30.)

Feb. 28–Mar. 1 Book Drive: Collecting new and gently used reading books for over 300 children of our assisted families for Easter. *Teen books are the biggest challenge.*

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.**



Come spend an hour with our Lord Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

Enter what Catholic author Matthew Kelly calls "*The Classroom of Silence*," and answer Jesus' invitation:

“Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Matthew 26:40)

Join **Deacon Joe & Dianne Lumsdaine** for **Eucharistic Adoration** this **Friday, February 1st at 8:00 a.m.**



Facts about the Missing Children hotline

Since the Missing Children 24-hour hotline (1-800-THE-LOST or 1-800-843-5678)

launched 41 years ago, countless children have been safely found and brought home.

The hotline has received over 5 million calls in the last 41 years. During national emergencies and disasters, the National Center for Missing and Endangered Children

has helped find lost children, working with emergency responders to reunite families. For more information about the Missing Children hotline, visit missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyourchildmissing.



Senior Group

ST. JOSEPH SENIORS (Ages 55+)

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 9, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

Location: St. Joseph Center (Hall)

Please note: We must be out of the hall by 1:30 PM due to school activities.

St. Joseph Seniors meetings **returned to The New St. Joseph Center.**

We look forward to seeing everyone at our **next gathering on February 9.**

Activities Include:

- Games and Bingo
- 50/50 tickets available for purchase

Lunch & Refreshments:

- Bring your own lunch
- Coffee and hot tea provided
- Goodies available

2026 Dues: \$20

(Collected at the January 12 meeting)

We welcome all members—new and returning!

Questions?

Contact Marilyn North at **(562) 519-0154**

Join us Monday, February 9 at 10:00 AM!

A promotional graphic for GriefShare. At the top is the logo 'GriefShare' with a stylized 'S'. Below it is the text 'Grieving the **death** of a loved one?'. To the right is a photograph of an elderly man with glasses, resting his chin on his hand and looking thoughtful. To the left of the photo is the text 'Join us:' followed by details of the meeting: 'FEBRUARY 10 - MAY 5, 2026', 'PLC ROOM AT 6180 E. WILLOW', '9:30 TO 11:30 AM', and 'INFO: MAY PACE, BEREAVEMENT 562/833 - 6370'. The background features a decorative border of stained glass windows.

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/The-Memory-Library-Kate-Storey/dp/198482001X)
by Kate Storey

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

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
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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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