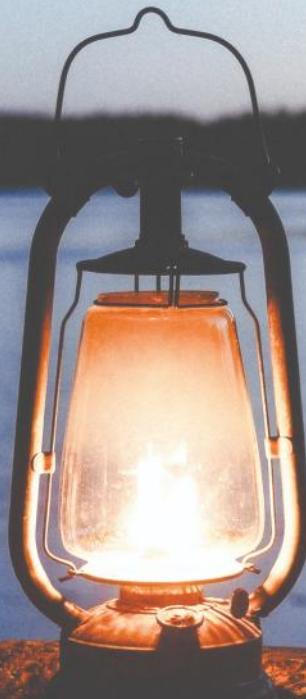


St. Joseph Parish

YOUR LIGHT MUST
SHINE.

— MATTHEW 5:16 —



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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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 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time. As we continue to listen to Saint Matthew's Sermon on the Mount, one of the most profound symbols in this Sunday's Gospel is light, which is a symbol of hope. Light serves as the most essential element in understanding God's nature and God's relationship with all of us! This is also our annual Together in Mission Commitment weekend. The theme for this year's appeal is "*This is the Hour for Love*" and it is the 33rd year of touching each other as Catholics with a tangible and direct gift filled with love. Our parish goal is \$88,650 so please make a generous pledge that will lift up our fellow sisters and brothers in 79 Schools and 66 Parishes that will be recipients of our gifts!

Lent is just around the corner. On February 18, in just 10 days we'll commence Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Scroll down to see our Ash Wednesday Schedule.

Here are some dates to post for your Lent enlightenment!!

- ◆ Next Sunday, February 15: We'll offer the traditional gift of the Lenten booklet "*Daily Reflections for Lent: Not by Bread Alone 2026*".
- ◆ March 17th – St. Patrick's Day Retreat and Celebration in the new Center with Sr. Eva and Msgr. Kevin
- ◆ March 24 – Lenten Penance Service with several visiting Priests.

During the last few weeks of the construction progress last Fall and early Winter, construction upgrades required by the city cost almost \$100,000. I am now in the process of trying to raise those funds. Many of you contributed the \$2,500 that would put your name in the new center. Since I have to continue to fundraise, the artistic design designed for placing the names in the new center will be finalized later this year. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Keep up with Pope Leo XIV – read his second Wednesday Audience Address on the Second Vatican Council in this bulletin!!

I'm praying for you as you discern your Lenten gift and sacrifice to the Lord,
Msgr. Kevin

ASH WEDNESDAY

St. Joseph Parish
6180 E Willow St.
Long Beach, CA 90815

Holy Mass

FEBRUARY 18TH

8:00 AM - MASS + ASHES

12:00 PM - MASS + ASHES

5:00 PM - MASS + ASHES

6:15 PM -7:15 PM - DRIVE-THRU RECEPTION OF ASHES

When you enter the parking lot, you will receive a QR code linking you to prayers to recite while waiting in line for ashes. Baskets will be available for Lenten Almsgiving. Please refer to the map below for Drive-Thru driving directions.





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

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Audience Hall

Wednesday, 14 January 2026

[\[Multimedia\]](#)

Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*.

1. God speaks to men as to friends (Reading: *Jn 15:15*)

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We have started the cycle of catechesis on Vatican Council II. Today we will begin to look more closely at the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, on the divine Revelation. It is one of the most beautiful and important of the Council and, to introduce it, it may be helpful to recall the words of Jesus: "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you" (*Jn 15:15*). This is a fundamental point of Christian faith, which *Dei Verbum* reminds us of: Jesus Christ radically transforms man's relationship with God, which is henceforth a relationship of friendship. Therefore, the only condition of the new covenant is love.

Saint Augustine, commenting on this passage of the Fourth Gospel, insists on the perspective of grace, which alone can make us friends of God in his Son (*Commentary on the Gospel of John, Homily 86*). Indeed, an ancient motto stated: "*Amicitia aut pares invenit, aut facit*", "friendship is born between equals, or makes them so". We are not equal to God, but God himself makes us similar to Him in his Son.

For this reason, as we can see in all the Scripture, in the Covenant there is a first moment of distance, in which the pact between God and mankind always remains asymmetrical: God is God and we are creatures. However, with the coming of the Son in human flesh, the Covenant opens up to its final purpose: in Jesus, God makes us sons and daughters, and calls us to become like Him, albeit in our fragile humanity. Our resemblance to God, then, is not reached through transgression and sin, as the serpent suggests to Eve (cf. Gen 3:5), but in our relationship with the Son made man.

The words of the Lord Jesus that we have recalled – “I have called you friends” – are reprised in the Constitution *Dei Verbum*, which affirms: “Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God (see *Col* 1:15; *1 Tim* 1:17) out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends (see *Ex* 33:11; *Jn* 15:14-15) and lives among them (see *Bar* 3:38), so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself” (no. 2). The God of *Genesis* already conversed with our first parents, engaging in dialogue with them (cf. *Dei Verbum*, 3); and when this dialogue was interrupted by sin, the Creator did not cease to seek an encounter with his creatures and to establish a covenant with them. In the Christian Revelation, that is, when God became man in his Son in order to seek us out, the dialogue that had been interrupted is restored in a definitive manner: the Covenant is new and eternal, nothing can separate us from his love. The Revelation of God, then, has the dialogical nature of friendship and, as in the experience of human friendship, it does not tolerate silence, but is nurtured by the exchange of true words.

The Constitution *Dei Verbum* also reminds us of this: God speaks to us. It is important to recognize the difference between words and chatter: this latter stops at the surface and does not achieve communion between people, whereas in authentic relationships, the word serves not only to exchange information and news, but to reveal who we are. The word possesses a revelatory dimension that creates a relationship with the other. In this way, by speaking to us, God reveals himself to us as an Ally who invites us into friendship with Him.

From this perspective, the first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what He already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves.

Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord. This is achieved first of all in liturgical and community prayer, in which we do not decide what to hear from the Word of God, but it is He Himself who speaks to us through the Church; it is then achieved in personal prayer, which takes place in the interiority of the heart and mind. Time dedicated to prayer, meditation and reflection cannot be lacking in the Christian's day and week. Only when we speak with God can we also speak about Him

Our experience tells us that friendships can come to an end through a dramatic gesture of rupture, or because of a series of daily acts of neglect that erode the relationship until it is lost. If Jesus calls us to be friends, let us not leave this call unheeded. Let us welcome it, let us take care of this relationship, and we will discover that friendship with God is our salvation.

Summary of the Holy Father's words

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our new series of catecheses on the Second Vatican Council by considering Dei Verbum, the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation. As today's Scripture reading reminds us, Jesus calls us friends because he has revealed to us everything that he has heard from the Father. It is through Revelation, which reaches its fullness in Jesus, the Word made flesh, that we are invited to share in God's life as his children in Christ. We are reminded that friendship with God is not only a gift, but also an invitation that requires a response, as in any relationship. To cultivate this friendship, we must spend time with God in prayer, both personally and especially through the Liturgy, where the community gathers to listen to the word of God with the guidance of the Church. Together, let us respond wholeheartedly to the Lord's invitation and discover in his friendship the true mystery of our salvation.

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 coming from Ireland, Australia, Korea and the United States of America. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!



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love

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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:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. (Ps 112)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel
basket." (Mt 5:14-15)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Salt without flavor is no longer salt. Light
that illuminates nothing is no longer light. As
Christians, we must be what we have been
made to be. So think about it, carefully: what
stands between you and being who you were
made to be?

Observances for the week of February 8, 2026

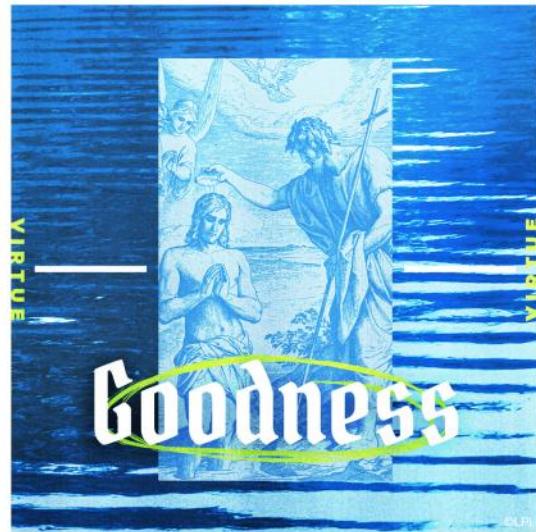
Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
World Marriage Day

Tuesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin

Wednesday: Our Lady of Lourdes

Saturday: Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop;
Valentine's Day

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Virtues, Explained!

In baptism, the Holy Spirit gives us the sanctifying grace of justification — the ability to grow in goodness through an increase in moral virtue (CCC 1266). Baptism, therefore, disposes us toward goodness.

Blessing of Mission

Bless us on our way, O Lord.
Share with us as we share with others.
Heal us as we help others to heal.
Provide for us as we open our hands in charity.
Every gift comes from You.
You are at the heart of all that is good.
Share that goodness with us today, abundantly.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 8, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/
Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday:

1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10,
11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday:

1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/
Mk 7:14-23

Thursday:

1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and
40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday:

1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13,
14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday:

1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab,
19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday:

Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34/
1 Cor 2:6-10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a,
27-28, 33-34a, 37



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I recently learned why zebras have stripes. Scientists used to think it was for camouflage, but new research suggests something more interesting: the stripes help zebras blend in with one another. When a predator looks at a herd, the overlapping stripes make it hard to single out one animal. But if a researcher spray-paints a dot on just one zebra, predators lock on it and eventually attack. The lesson? In the wild, blending in is protection. Standing out can be dangerous.

Human beings are not so different. Most of us would rather blend in than stand out, especially when it comes to our faith. We know that giving bold witness to Jesus — through our words, values, or public choices — can make us targets for criticism, isolation, or judgment. That's why Jesus' words in today's Gospel are so challenging: **"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden"** (Matthew 5:14).

A city on a hill draws attention. It also draws fire. But that's part of the cost of discipleship. Jesus doesn't call us to be tribal or boastful. He calls us to stand in the open with humble confidence, so that people might see our good deeds and glorify our Father in heaven. Today, let's ask for the courage not just to believe in Christ, but to be seen believing in him.

— Father John Muir

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 | FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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\$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/>





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



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“Everything comes to us as a gift and so we may never take anything for granted, but only as granted.” - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

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 most dear.

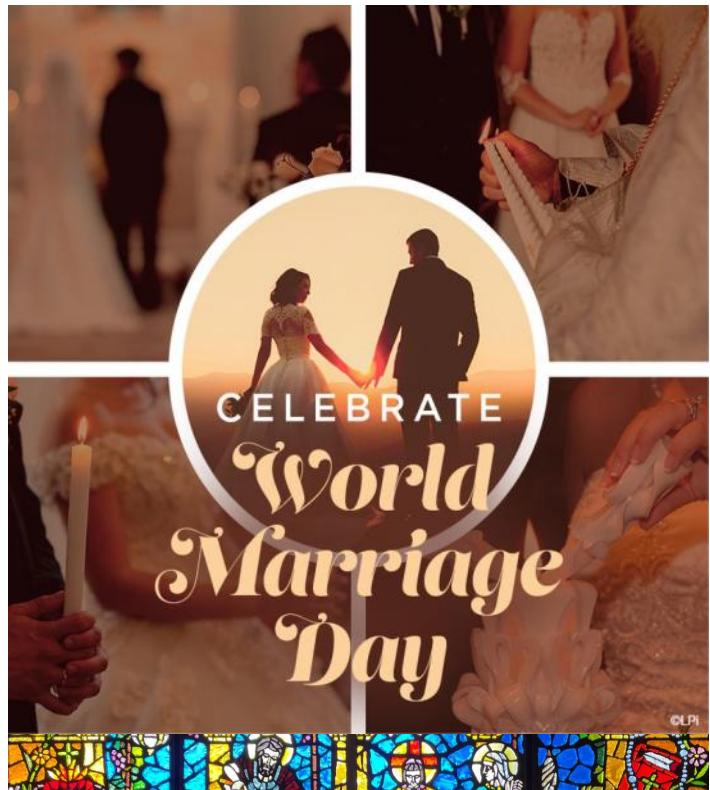
Mar. 28 Easter Food and Book

Distribution: Can you help us deliver?

Contact Jill Salinaz (562) 822-7367 Please be especially mindful of **Skip-a-Meal** donations during the holiday season when our needs are greatest.

For many fulfilling ways to serve, please call
Tim Clark (562) 431-4385.

BE THE SALT OF THE WORLD



Did You Know?



The real dangers of pornography exposure

We know that pornography is a great evil, and easy access to the internet makes it all too likely that many children will be exposed to pornography at increasingly young ages — even if they are not actively searching for it. Children who are exposed to pornography are more likely to be abused, or to be desensitized to inappropriate behavior in their own relationships. Pornography can also change a child’s brain, activating dopamine in patterns similar to substance addiction. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article “The real danger of children being exposed to pornography” at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.



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!

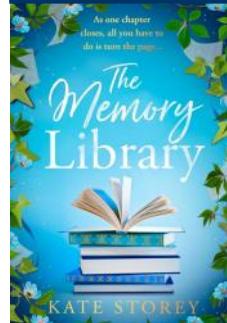
Questions?

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 next 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/154205051X)
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
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.

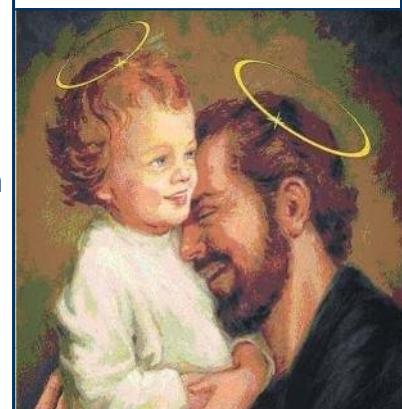
Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.





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