

St. Joseph Parish

FASTED
FOR 40 DAYS.

— MATTHEW 4:2 —

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Welcome to the Season of Lent and the First Sunday of Lent!! This weekend's scripture readings remind us about temptations in life. The first temptation occurred in the Garden of Eden as Adam and Eve made a choice to listen to the voice of Satan and not the voice of God. In the Gospel, Jesus is taken out to the desert to fast for 40 days and he encounters Satan. Jesus, fully human, responds differently than our first parents as Jesus walks away from Satan so that the Son of God could continue to love God and fulfill his mission! Sometimes Temptations can be all around and all over us and we must pray for the strength to not even begin a dialogue with the devil!

Movement for a Better World has scheduled the annual Book Drive for the weekend of February 28 – March 1. This year we are providing for over 300 children during our Easter distribution on March 28th. If you have any children's books that are new or used and in good condition and would like to donate them to the children, please bring them to Mass next weekend. Scroll down to see the notice below.

It's time to start thinking about our annual Parish Fair. This year it will be held on Friday, May 1st, Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd. Mark your calendars and plan to participate, volunteer, serve and just have fun!!

If you are a sinner – please continue reading. Mark your calendars for Tuesday evening, March 24th at 7 PM and join us in the church for our Lenten celebration of Reconciliation.

Several neighboring priests will be available to hear your confession and renew and cleanse you as a part of your spiritual Lenten journey.

Here's some wise counsel on deepening our journey into Lent: Pope Leo, in his first Lenten message, highlighted what he called "*An unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgment, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves.*" The Pope urged all Catholics to cultivate kindness "*in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and Christian communities.*"

Last Sunday, our Catechumens along with their sponsors and Sr. Eva journeyed to the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. Our catechumens were chosen by Archbishop Gomez to continue their journey to the Easter sacraments and congratulations to our new Elect!



I'm praying for you and your families during this Lenten Journey,
Msgr. Kevin



Transformed In The Spirit

**A Lenten Evening of Reflection with
Sr. Eva & Msgr. Kevin**



**Followed by a St. Patrick's Day
Celebration**



Tuesday March 17, 2026

7-9pm

St. Joseph Center



Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life. (Gn 2:7)

Psalm:

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned. (Ps 51)

Second Reading:

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so, through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous. (Rom 5:19)

Gospel:

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

He fasted for forty days and forty nights. (Mt 4:1-2)

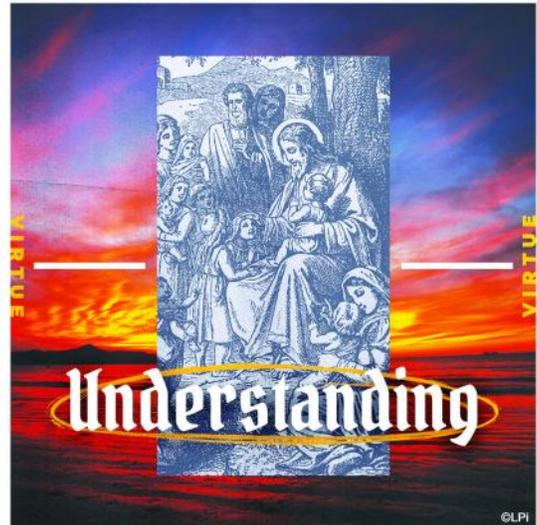
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our Lord is so humble that he allows us to see him experience temptation. The vulnerability of this moment is awesome to behold. Let us learn from Jesus' interaction with the devil, and be transformed by it. Let us say, with him: "Get away, Satan."

Observances for the week of February 22, 2026

- Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent



Virtues, Explained!

Understanding is the "food" of faith. "I believe, in order to understand," said St. Augustine. We must constantly ask the Holy Spirit for greater and more profound understanding, for though understanding proceeds from faith, it in turn nourishes that faith.

Lenten Blessing

Bless us in Your mercy, Lord, as we enter these 40 Days of Lent. Use this time to call, anoint, bind, strengthen, and inspire us anew. Like a good shepherd, teach us Your voice, and give us the strength to follow. Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 22, 2026

Sunday:

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17/
Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Monday:

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday:

Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday:

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab,
2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday:

Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday:

Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/
Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday:

Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/
2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In my second-to-last year of seminary, I woke up one September morning to devastating news: two beloved classmates had died in a car crash. I was overwhelmed with grief and anger like I had never known. I entered therapy for the first time and had intense conversations with my spiritual director. For months I felt lost in a spiritual wilderness. But something unexpected happened: I encountered Christ there. The fear and sorrow didn't destroy me. In fact, that spiritual desert was a time of intense growth in faith.

Today's Gospel begins: **"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1).**

The word "led" denotes a gentle, humble submission to the Spirit. Jesus does not send himself into this desolate place where wild beasts roam and Satan tempts. Who wants to be around roaming, wild beasts? The Church Fathers saw them as symbols of our inner chaos: fears, temptations, wounds. The Spirit leads us there, sometimes against our wishes. But those same Fathers also saw that this deserted place is also where angels ministered to Jesus, amidst his great trial and temptation.

Lenten Challenge: This Lent and throughout life's struggles, the Spirit leads you and me into the wilderness. Name one "desert" into which the Spirit has led you: perhaps grief, fear, silence, change, disappointment. Ask for the grace to go there willingly. The beasts may be real, but they will not harm you. There, the angels are waiting to minister to the Christ living in you, who always goes where the Spirit leads.

— *Father John Muir*



\$100
/player

ST. JOSEPH T-BALL 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.stjosephball.com/>



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



A Special Opportunity for the Men of our Parish

Openings are still available for Men's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat. Do you sense that something is missing from your life? Do you feel that if you weren't too busy you would be happier, healthier, more effective, more fulfilled, and maybe even a better person?

Come to the Welcome Christ Renews His Parish retreat weekend. It is an incredible experience that will help you discover what's missing in your life and what to do about it. Whether you want to connect with other Men in the parish, improve your prayer life, or just take a break from the craziness of your everyday, you will find what you are looking for and more.

**Men's Weekend Retreat:
Saturday, April 18 & Sunday, April 19, 2026**

**Women's Weekend Retreat: (Currently full)
Saturday, March 14 & Sunday, March 15, 2026**

For more information or to sign up for the retreat
please visit the parish website

<https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/>

Lenten Guidelines and Practices

Lenten Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of universal fast and abstinence. Fasting is obligatory for all who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year. Fasting allows for one full meal and two smaller meals not to equal one full meal. Abstinence from meat is obligatory for all who have completed their 14th year of age.

Fridays in Lent are obligatory days of abstinence from meat for all who have completed their 14th year. As always, anyone for whom fasting or abstinence would pose a health risk is excused. For example, pregnant women (breastfeeding mothers) or people receiving medical treatment are not obligated to fast. Nevertheless, people especially in this category are invited to practice another form of fasting besides food.



In The Neighborhood

Pray for Peace

Along with our neighboring parishes, we often share resources. In light of the many and varied events taking place currently in our cities, our country and in our world, our neighbor, Our Lady of Refuge Church is offering a Holy Hour for Peace on Tuesdays, concluding Tuesday of Holy Week. Join with people of faith and goodwill in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. The hour of prayer is from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Pray for Peace!!



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Portrayed by: St. Joe's Youth Event Leadership Team

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH @ 7:00 PM

****No Adoration at 6:30PM****

Offered by ESTHER Ministries

Reflecting on the suffering of Jesus and St. Josephine Bakhita and all who suffer slavery today as victims of human trafficking.

Guest Speaker

Topic: Human Trafficking

Followed by Hospitality.

ADORATION & STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS

Adoration 6:30pm

Stations Of The Cross 7:00pm

We adore Thee, O Christ,
and bless Thee, because
by Thy holy cross, Thou
hast redeemed the world.



St. Joseph Parish
Long Beach, CA



“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.**

Jesus the Servant
 FOR THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED
 BUT TO SERVE AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.
 - MARK 10:45

**Virtual Diaconate Formation
 Information Day**

Sunday, March 8, 2026
 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 via Zoom
Presentación en español disponible

To register please scan the QR Code and complete the registration form, or email NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org
Para registrarse, escanee el Código QR y llene la solicitud, o envíe correo electrónico a NGDubon@la-archdiocese.org

Allow us to accompany you in the discernment of a possible vocation to the diaconate.
Permítanos acompañarlo en el discernimiento a una posible vocación al diaconado.




It's that time of year again! We are preparing for the annual **St. Joseph Parish Fair** and we need your **Help!** Mark your calendars for **May 1st-3rd**.

We need assistance in the following areas:

- A connection to a family or company which specializes in printing signage/banners.
- A connection to a family or company which rents tables/chairs/tenting equipment.
- Anyone who would like to donate a gift card or professional service to benefit the Fair (specifically to Smart & Final)

All donations are tax deductible.

Please contact **Peter Callaghan**
petercallaghan@gmail.com or **213.399.3112**
 if you know someone who might be able to help!

Thank you!



Did You Know?

Domestic violence and children

Domestic violence has many forms, including emotional, financial, physical, and sexual abuse. Research on children who live in homes with domestic violence shows that there can be long-standing consequences to a child's health. Twenty-six states have passed laws protecting children who witness domestic violence. Children who grow up seeing violence between parents often struggle in their own relationships later in life. The single greatest predictor of whether children will grow up to be perpetrators of domestic violence is whether they witness it themselves as children. For more information, read the VIRTUS® article "Domestic Violence, Part 1" at lacatholics.org/did-you-know.



Senior Group



ST. JOSEPH SENIORS (Ages 55+)

Next Meeting:

Monday, February 23, 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 23rd.**

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

We welcome all members—new and returning!

Questions?

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

Join us Monday, February 23rd at 10:00 AM!

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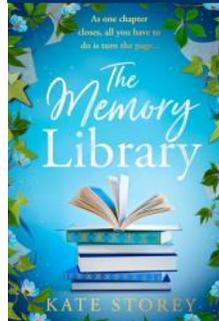
PLC ROOM AT 6180 E. WILLOW

9:30 TO 11:30 AM

INFO: MAY PACE, BEREAVEMENT
562/833 - 6370



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](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B089888888)

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



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

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Audience Hall

Wednesday, 28 January 2026

[Multimedia]

**Catechesis. The Documents of Vatican Council II. I. Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*.
3. A single sacred deposit. The relationship between Scripture and Tradition.**

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Continuing our reading of the Conciliar Constitution *Dei Verbum* on Divine Revelation, today we will reflect on the relationship between Sacred Scripture and Tradition. We can take two Gospel scenes as a backdrop. In the first, which takes place in the Upper Room, Jesus, in his great discourse-testament addressed to the disciples, affirms: "These things have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. ... When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth" (*Jn* 14:25-26; 16:13).

The second scene takes us instead to the hills of Galilee. The risen Jesus shows himself to the disciples, who are surprised and doubtful, and he advises them: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you" (*Mt* 28:19-20). In both of these scenes, the intimate connection between the words uttered by Christ and their dissemination throughout the centuries is evident.

It is what the [Second Vatican Council](#) affirms, using an evocative image: "There exists a close connection and communication between sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture. For both of them, flowing from the same divine wellspring, in a certain way merge into a unity and tend toward the same end" ([Dei Verbum](#), 9). Ecclesial Tradition branches out throughout history through the Church, which preserves, interprets and embodies the Word of God. The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (cf. no. 113) refers, in this regard, to a motto of the Church Fathers: "Sacred Scripture is written principally in the Church's heart rather than in documents and records", that is, in the sacred text.

In the light of Christ's words, quoted above, the Council affirms that "this tradition which comes from the Apostles develops in the Church with the help of the Holy Spirit" ([Dei Verbum](#), 8). This occurs with full comprehension through "contemplation and study made by believers", through "a penetrating understanding of the spiritual realities which they experience" and, above all, with the preaching of the successors of the apostles who have received "the sure gift of truth". In short, "the Church, in her teaching, life and worship, perpetuates and hands on to all generations all that she herself is, all that she believes" ([ibid.](#)).

In this regard, the expression of Saint Gregory the Great is famous: "The Sacred Scriptures grow with the one who reads them". [\[1\]](#) And Saint Augustine had already remarked that "there is only one word of God that unfolds through Scripture, and there is only one Word that sounds on the lips of many saints". [\[2\]](#) The Word of God, then, is not fossilized, but rather it is a living and organic reality that develops and grows in Tradition. Thanks to the Holy Spirit, Tradition understands it in the richness of its truth and embodies it in the shifting coordinates of history.

In this regard, the proposal of the holy Doctor of the Church John Henry Newman in his work entitled *The Development of Christian Doctrine* is striking. He affirmed that Christianity, both as a communal experience and as a doctrine, is a dynamic reality, in the manner indicated by Jesus himself in the parables of the seed (cf. Mk 4:26-29): a living reality that develops thanks to an inner vital force. [\[3\]](#)

The apostle Paul repeatedly exhorts his disciple and collaborator Timothy: "O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you" (1 Tim 6:20; cf. 2 Tim 1:12-14). The Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum* echoes this Pauline text when it says: "Sacred tradition and Sacred Scripture form one sacred deposit of the word of God, committed to the Church", interpreted by the "living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ" (no. 10). "Deposit" is a term that, in its original meaning, is juridical in nature and imposes on the depositary the duty to preserve the content, which in this case is the faith, and to transmit it intact.

The "deposit" of the Word of God is still in the hands of the Church today, and all of us, in our various ecclesial ministries, must continue to preserve it in its integrity, as a lodestar for our journey through the complexity of history and existence.

In conclusion, dear friends, let us listen once more to *Dei Verbum*, which exalts the interweaving of Sacred Scripture and Tradition: it affirms that they "are so linked and joined together that they cannot stand independently, and together, each in their own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they contribute effectively to the salvation of souls" (no. 10).

[1] *Homiliae in Ezechielem* I, VII, 8: PL 76, 843D.

[2] *Enarrationes in Psalmos* 103, IV, 1

[3] Cf. J.H. Newman, *An Essay on the Development of Christian Doctrine*, Milan 2003, p. 104.

APPEAL

Yesterday was the International Remembrance Day for all victims of the Holocaust, which brought death to millions of Jews and to many other people. On this yearly occasion of painful remembrance, I ask the Almighty for the gift of a world without antisemitism and without prejudice, oppression, and persecution of any human creature. I renew my appeal to the community of nations to remain ever vigilant. May the horror of genocide never again be inflicted upon any people and that a society founded on mutual respect and the common good may be built.

Special greetings:

I greet the English speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, in particular the groups from Scotland, Ireland, Iceland, Australia, India and the United States of America. Upon you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in our catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, today we considered the relationship between Scripture and Tradition. In the passage we just heard from John's Gospel, Jesus says he will send the Holy Spirit to guide the Apostles to remember, apply and proclaim everything he taught. Sacred Scripture, the inspired word of God, and Sacred Tradition, the living memory of the Church, are intimately bound together and form the one Deposit of Faith. This deposit which contains the entirety of our faith — doctrine, worship, morality, etc. — is not static but dynamic for it develops and is more profoundly understood by the Church over the centuries, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Entrusted to the Church, who preserves and interprets it in Jesus' name, this deposit helps us to navigate the complexities of life to reach our eternal home in heaven. May we become living and faithful witness to God's word in Scripture and Tradition.

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The **HOLY SEE**

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	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.

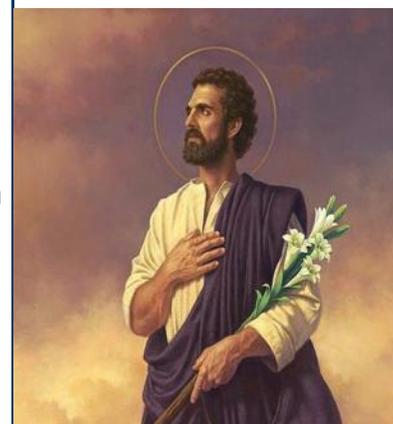
Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.





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