

St. Joseph Parish



SHOWED
THEM HIS HANDS
AND HIS SIDE.

— JOHN 20:20 —

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

©LPI

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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



Letter From Our Pastor

Dear Parish Family:

Happy Easter! Welcome to the Second Sunday of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday! This is also the Eighth day in the Octave of Easter. We are also in the 50 days of the great Season of Easter. The resurrection of the Lord calls for great joy and rejoicing for 50 days!

Here are two pictures from our Easter Vigil Mass. The first depicts the assembly holding the lighted candles celebrating that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World. The second photo depicts the Neophytes, our newly baptized who celebrated Confirmation and came to the Banquet Table of the Lord for the very first time. Congratulations to all!



Happy Easter Season,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. (Acts 2:46-47)

Psalm:

Give thanks to the LORD for he is good, his love is everlasting. (Ps 118)
Or Alleluia

Second Reading:

Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Pt 1:8-9)

Gospel:

Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." (Jn 20:29)

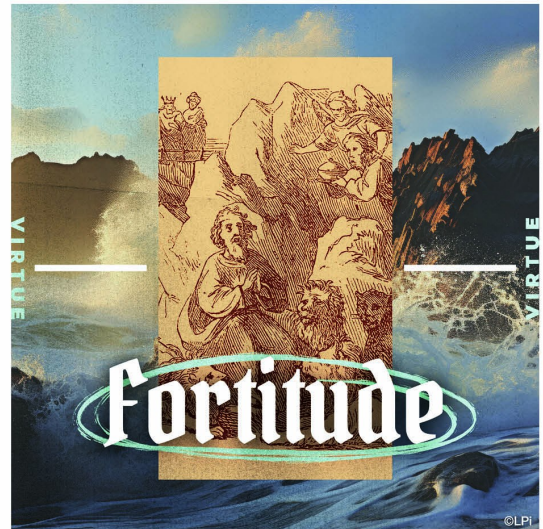
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

How does Christ prove himself to Thomas? Not by his face or his words, but by his wounds. So, when we look for God to show Himself in relief or in triumph, we must remember the wounds of Christ. This is where we find our salvation.

Observances for the week of April 12, 2026

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)
Monday: St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr
Wednesday: *Tax Day*
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter



Virtues, Explained!

The virtue of fortitude actually requires, first and foremost, the feeling of fear. In order to grow in fortitude, one must face a thing which frightens him, doing so specifically *in pursuit of the good*.

Divine Mercy Blessing

Dear Jesus,
May your mercy flow over us,
filling our gaps and healing our wounds.
Open our hearts more deeply
with knowledge of your love for us,
understanding of the depth of your passion,
and trust in your never-ending mercy.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 12, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24/
1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31

Monday:

Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9/Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday:

Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday:

Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday:

Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20/
Jn 3:31-36

Friday:

Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-15

Saturday:

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21

Next Sunday:

Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8,
9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe.'" (John 20:27)

In my early 20s, I volunteered at a parish youth group. I witnessed teens encountering Jesus with a fresh, romantic wonder that reminded me of my own teenage conversion. But something had changed in me. I was quietly jaded and cynical. When teens shared stories of encountering Christ, I'd want to sarcastically murmur, "Well, good for you." I had grown suspicious of the zeal I once knew.

Then we brought the group on a pilgrimage. I was standing in an old church in France, ignoring a long-winded tour guide. I found myself before a crucifix. In that moment, I heard something, not audibly, but unmistakably in my heart: "I came to be your friend... and you wish to be my enemy? Why do you stand far from me? I suffer gladly for you. I was pierced for you. Why do you run from me?" My heart opened. I saw how cold and cynical I had become. But Jesus had not given up on me. He had returned, and his mercy broke through.

So I can relate to the scoffing — and transformation — of Thomas when the Risen Jesus presents his wounds for inspection. Thomas is not simply doubting; he is guarded, suspicious, even cynical. But Jesus comes to him. No lecture. Just understanding and mercy. He invites Thomas to touch his wounds. This burns away his cynicism like the morning mist.

Divine Mercy Challenge: This week, rejoice with someone who is newly alive in faith. If your own heart has grown skeptical or tired, ask Jesus to help you. He will.

— *Father John Muir*



✨ A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR PARISH MEN ✨

**!! Openings are STILL AVAILABLE for the
Men's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat !!**

DATE: April 18-19, 2026

LOCATION: St. Joseph Catholic Church in the PLC

This retreat is a LIFE-CHANGING opportunity to:

- ✓ **Grow in your faith**
- ✓ **Connect with other men in the parish**
- ✓ **Experience renewal through Christ**



➡ **SIGN UP TODAY AT: <https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/>**



🙏 PRAY FOR THE MEN WHO ARE PLANNING THE MEN'S RETREAT 🙏

Please pray for our Men's retreat team as they make final preparations for the Men's weekend retreat. May the retreat planning go smoothly and the team be blessed with energy, wisdom, grace, and joyful spirits as they prepare. Please also pray for all of the men attending the retreat. May they each experience renewal through Christ and feel a stronger connection with one another and with St. Joseph Parish.

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“You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God.”— *2 Corinthians 9:11*

Easter Distribution – THANK YOU!

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank everyone who helped bring hope and joy to **115 families**, including over **300 children** this past season.

Because of your support:

- Over **\$6,500** was raised through Skip-a-Meal donations
 - **Family Adoptions** and the School Food Drive made a big impact
 - More than **4,000 lbs. of food** were distributed for Easter (March 28)
 - Children received **personally selected books** from your generous February book drive
- Your kindness is truly making a difference.

Upcoming: Homeless Kit Drive (May 30–31)

Help provide daily necessities to those experiencing homelessness.

- Shopping lists available starting **May 23**
- For the many meaningful ways to get involved, please contact: **Tim Clark (562) 431-4385**

Thank you for being the hands and heart of Christ in our community!



Did You Know?

Special liturgies to be held at Gardens of Healing for Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Office of Victims Assistance Ministry is collaborating with the parishes where the five Gardens of Healing are located, to hold special liturgies throughout April in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Dedicated to those harmed by sexual abuse, in their family, church or community, the Gardens of Healing are located at St. Camillus Pastoral Center in Boyle Heights, Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Ventura, St. Francis de Sales Parish in Sherman Oaks, St. Bernadette Parish in Los Angeles, and Our Lady of Refuge in Long Beach. The gardens offer a sacred space for all those impacted by abuse to seek comfort and solace. For details about the special liturgies and more information about the Gardens of Healing, please visit lacatholics.org/healing-gardens.

St. Joseph Senior Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on
Monday, April 13 in the beautiful new
St. Joseph Center!

🕒 **Activities from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm!**



**Bingo, Poker,
 Card Games,
 Mexican Train
 & More!**

Bring One, Take One Table of Books & Puzzles!



**50/50
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**Trip Info &
 Schedules Available!**

Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch!

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**We look forward to seeing all our members and
 new friends who would like to join us!**

Annual Dues: \$20

Any questions?
 Contact Marilyn North (562) 519-0154

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April 12, 2026

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In Memoriam



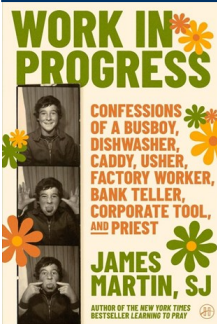
Mary Ellen Neton

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Church
 Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 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~

Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, May 20th at 7pm
 on Zoom

**Work in Progress: Confessions
 of a busboy, dishwasher,
 caddy, usher, factory worker,
 bank teller, corporate tool, and
 priest by James Martin**

In this funny, wise and inspiring memoir, Jesuit
 priest James Martin reminisces about the
 summer jobs that prepared him for his calling and
 reminds readers “of the ways that grace works
 through all our lives, no matter who we are or how
 ordinary our daily activities may seem.”

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



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LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

St Peter's Square
Wednesday, 25 March 2026
[Multimedia]

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 5. *On the foundation of the Apostles. The Church in her hierarchical dimension*"

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

We will continue our catecheses on the [Documents of the Second Vatican Council](#), commenting on the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen gentium](#) on the Church ([LG](#)). After presenting her as the People of God, today we will consider her hierarchical form.

The Catholic Church is founded on the Apostles, whom Christ appointed as the living pillars of His mystical Body, and possesses a hierarchical structure that works in the service of the unity, mission and sanctification of all her members. This sacred Order is permanently founded on the Apostles (cf. *Eph* 2:20; *Rev* 21:14), as authoritative witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus (cf. *Acts* 1:22; *1 Cor* 15:7) and sent by the Lord Himself on mission into the world (cf. *Mk* 16:15; *Mt* 28:19). Since the Apostles are called to faithfully preserve the Master's salvific teaching (cf. *2 Tim* 1:13-14), they hand on their ministry to men who, until Christ's return, continue to sanctify, guide and instruct the Church "through their successors in pastoral office" ([Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 857](#)).

This apostolic succession, founded on the Gospel and in the Tradition, is explored further in Chapter III of *Lumen gentium*, entitled “On the hierarchical structure of the Church and in particular on the Episcopate”. The Council teaches that the hierarchical structure is not a human construct, functional to the internal organization of the Church as a social body (cf. *LG*, 8), but a divine institution whose purpose is to perpetuate the mission given by Christ to the Apostles until the end of time.

The fact that this theme is addressed in Chapter III, after the first two chapters have considered the very essence of the Church (cf. *Acta Synodalia* III/1, 209–210), does not imply that the hierarchical constitution is a subsequent element with respect to the People of God: as the Decree *Ad gentes* notes, “the Apostles were the first budding-forth of the New Israel, and at the same time the beginning of the sacred hierarchy” (no. 5), inasmuch as they were the community of those redeemed by Christ’s Paschal Mystery, established as a means of salvation for the world.

To understand the Council’s intention, it is advisable to read carefully the title of Chapter II of *Lumen gentium*, which explains the fundamental structure of the Church, received from God the Father through the Son and brought to fulfilment by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Council Fathers did not want to present the institutional elements of the Church as the noun “constitution” might imply if understood in the modern sense. The Document concentrates instead on the “ministerial or hierarchical priesthood”, which differs “in essence and not only in degree” from the common priesthood of the faithful, recalling that the latter are “nonetheless interrelated: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ” (*LG*, 10). The Council thus addresses the ministry conferred upon men endowed with *sacra potestas*, sacred power (cf. *LG*, 18) for service in the Church: it focuses in particular on the episcopate (*LG*, 18–27), then on the priesthood (*LG*, 28) and the diaconate (*LG*, 29) as degrees of the one sacrament of Holy Orders.

By the adjective “hierarchical”, therefore, the Council intends to indicate the sacred origin of the apostolic ministry in the action of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, as well as its internal relationships. The Bishops, first and foremost, and through them the priests and deacons, have received tasks (in Latin *munera*), which lead them to the service of “all those who belong to the People of God”, so that, “working toward a common goal freely and in an orderly way, [they] may arrive at salvation” (*LG*, 18).

Lumen gentium repeatedly and effectively recalls the collegial and communal nature of this apostolic mission, reaffirming that the “duty which the Lord committed to the shepherds of His people is a true service, which in sacred literature is significantly called ‘diakonia’ or ministry” (LG, 24). We can therefore understand why *Saint Paul VI* presented the hierarchy as a reality “born of the charity of Christ, to fulfil, spread and ensure the intact and fruitful transmission of the wealth of faith, examples, precepts and charisms bequeathed by Christ to His Church” (Address, 14 September 1964, in *Acta Synodalia III/1*, 147).

Dear sisters, dear brothers, let us pray to the Lord that He may send to His Church ministers who are ardent with evangelical charity, dedicated to the good of all the baptized, and courageous missionaries in every part of the world.

Special greetings:

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those coming from England, Ireland, Tanzania, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United States of America. I greet in particular the students of the University of Dallas Rome Program. As we continue our Lenten journey, let us ask the Lord to grant us the grace to imitate Our Blessed Mother in her total “yes” to the Lord, and so open our hearts to his will for our lives. Upon all of you and your families, I invoke the joy and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters,

In our ongoing catechesis on the [Second Vatican Council](#), today we reflect on the teachings of the Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen Gentium](#) concerning the hierarchical structure of the Church. In this regard, it is helpful to bear in mind that the Church is not something we invented, but is a divine institution established by Jesus himself. Christ appointed the apostles, placing Peter at their head, and sent them out to continue his salvific mission until his return in glory. To perpetuate this same mission, ministers were invested with sacred power to be the successors of the Apostles as Bishops, in whose ministry priests and deacons likewise participate through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sharing in the ministry of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, they are consecrated to serve the faithful, build up the Church and ensure the fruitful transmission of the faith. Let us therefore ask the Lord to continue to bless his Church with shepherds after his own heart.

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The **HOLY SEE**

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Parish Directory

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Deacon Joe Lumsdaine		deaconcouple@gmail.com
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Website Coordinator	Mike Santy	mike@stjosephlb.org

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 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

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Esther Ministry	Virginia Young	estherministry1@gmail.com
Hospitality Ministry	Deborah Rollinger	(562) 594-4657
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Bereavement Ministry	May Pace	(562) 833-6370
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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.

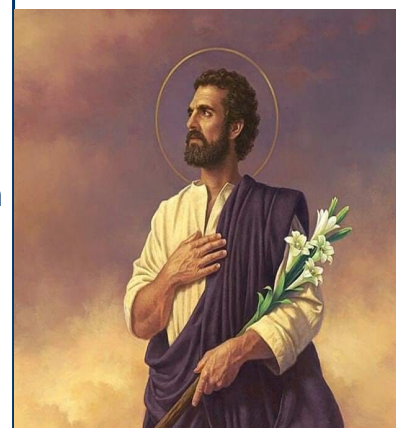
Adoration

First Fridays

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Third Tuesdays

7:00-8:00 p.m.





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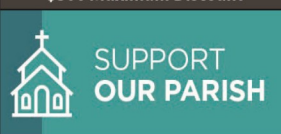
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