

St. Joseph Parish

I AM THE GATE.

— JOHN 10:9 —



FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

6180 E. Willow Street Long Beach, CA 90815

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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:

Welcome to the Fourth Sunday of Easter! Today's Gospel begins Jesus' Good Shepherd discourse. When Jesus says that He calls each of us by name, he's saying that he knows us uniquely, loving our talents, gifts, desires and limitations. Jesus also knows our differences and that we all form one whole - that all of us are in God!

Our annual Parish Fair is next weekend starting Friday with a Blessing of the fairgrounds at 5:00 PM. After Mass this weekend, a fair table will be set up outside of the residence garages where you can buy ride, food, and opportunity tickets. We still have a few slots open for you to volunteer and please join the 400+ who will make the fair a success by offering 2 to 4 hours of your time.

Pope Leo just concluded his first missionary journey to Africa. Let's continue to pray for Pope Leo who will continue as the Vicar for Christ to speak out against war, promote peace and dialogue and encourage multilateral relations around the world.



Please welcome our newest Catholics: four of the above were baptized in other Christian faiths and on Sunday, April 12 at the 10:30 AM Mass they made a Profession of Faith, were Confirmed in the Holy Spirit and then made their First Holy Communion. Welcome to those baptized Catholics who completed their initiation by celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist. A special thanks to Sr. Eva and her team in the OCIA who worked with these adults and young people to bring them to faith in Christ. Pray they may be faithful disciples on the journey to eternal life!!

SEE YOU AT THE FAIR!
Easter Blessings,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Peter said to them,
"Repent and be baptized, every one of you,
in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins;
and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Ps 23)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

By his wounds you have been healed.
For you had gone astray like sheep,
but you have now returned to the shepherd and
guardian of your souls. (1 Pt 2:24-25)

Gospel:

"I came so that they might have life and have it more
abundantly." (Jn 10:10)

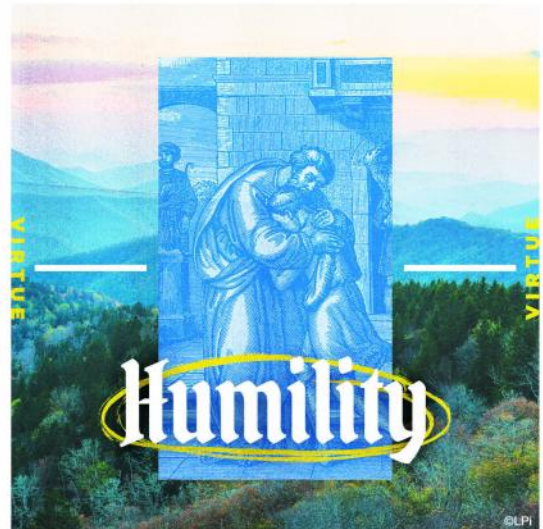
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"The sheep follow him, because they recognize his voice," Jesus says. Do we know the voice of Jesus when he speaks to us? Have we spent time in conversation with him? This week, listen for the voice of Jesus in your life, and follow where it leads.

Observances for the week of April 26, 2026

- Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Easter;
World Day of Prayer for Vocations
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Chanel, Priest and Martyr;
St. Louis Grignion de Montfort, Priest
- Wednesday:** St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin and
Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** St. Pius V, Pope
- Friday:** St. Joseph the Worker; National Day of Prayer
- Saturday:** St. Athanasius, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter



Virtues, Explained!

True humility does not require us to ignore, underestimate, or hide our gifts — it merely demands that we use these gifts rightly, with the knowledge that they are from our Creator and meant for His glory, not our own.

Blessing of the Good Shepherd

Dear Jesus,
Be the Good Shepherd in my life.
Help me to know your voice and to respond.
Help me to find your fold and the paths on which you lead.
Bless me with verdant pastures and restful waters.
Refresh my soul.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of April 26, 2026

Sunday:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/
1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

Monday:

Acts 11:1-18/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3, 4/Jn 10:11-18
(second choice)

Tuesday:

Acts 11:19-26/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday:

Acts 12:24-13:5a/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/
Jn 12:44-50

Thursday:

Acts 13:13-25/Ps 89:2-3, 21-22, 25 and 27/
Jn 13:16-20

Friday:

Acts 13:26-33/Ps 2:6-7, 8-9, 10-11ab/
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday:

Acts 13:44-52/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/
Jn 14:7-14

Next Sunday:

Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/
Jn 14:1-12



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." John 10:11

My most boring job was working at an insurance company as a college student. My main task? Filing. Now imagine if I had told my supervisor, "I just want you to know, I'm willing to die for these files." She would have called a psychiatrist — or at least security.

There is something absurd in Jesus' words in today's Gospel: "**I am the good shepherd... I lay down my life for the sheep.**" (John 10:11) It sounds noble, until you think about it. No one dies for sheep. Not a hired hand. Not even a good shepherd. Sheep are important, sure, but not worth a human life.

And yet, Jesus insists: *I will die for them.* The crowd understandably responds: "**He is out of his mind.**"

C.S. Lewis once said that Jesus does not leave us the option of calling him merely a good teacher. If someone speaks like him, he is either lying, crazy, or telling the truth. John's Gospel won't let us stay sentimental. Jesus means it. He reveals a love that surpasses logic — a love that measures worth not by strength or success, but by the willingness to suffer unto death.

The Good Shepherd's madness is mercy. His cross makes no earthly sense and yet it makes divine sense. He lays down his life not for kings or saints but for sheep — for the ordinary, the unworthy, for you and me.

Think of someone who may feel unworthy of love. Do something simple and generous for them, not because they deserve it, but because Jesus did the same for you.

— Father John Muir

Congratulations to our Confirmands!

Congratulations to our St. Joseph Parish Confirmands! With great joy, we continue to celebrate you as fully initiated members of the Catholic Church. Your parish community continues to uplift you in prayer. We pray the gifts of the Holy Spirit inspire you daily as you grow in your Catholic faith, serve others with love, and walk confidently in the light of Christ.



Damien Avedissian

Michael Mayor

Kynlee Merriman

Charlotte Staudt

Lily Sicking

Jonathan O'Brien

Emile Culbertson

Alana Stevens

Dario Garcia

Stella Mae Joco

Noah Gomez

Myla Erika Cantero

Andrea Albaran

Louis Billy Kernkamp

Dylann Escobar

Julian Montoya

Kayla Aylward

Sophia Caceres

Liam Mooney

Alexander Kasprzyk

Isaac Washington

Joshua Castaneda

Connor J Page

Loralai Tran

Ethan Mantong

Mateo Martinez

Isaiah Gabriel Aguirre

Mia Nicole Aguirre

Makani Nuez

Aria Mae Bradfield

Jocelyn Samson Chun

Elizabeth Ashley

Ryan Aguilera

Fletcher Freeman

Violet Devries

Caitlin Ujiie

Esmeralda Madera

Gerardo Martinez

Salma Garcia

Jessica Manzano



Thank You All for Your Prayers

Last weekend we concluded our Sixth Men's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat at St. Joseph's, and the Women's just a month ago. The Men's and Women's retreats took place over two days and were led from men and women of St. Joseph with Monsignor Kevin as our Spiritual Guide. Participants felt the power of the Holy Spirit and were renewed with the presence of Our Lord. It was an amazing experience for all participants as well as the Lay Formation Team and the Support Team. Both Retreats were a huge success!



During the Men's Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat, Msgr. Kevin introduced the participants and team members to the 10:30 congregation and gave them all a blessing.

We have already begun planning for the next retreats, which will take place in the fall. It is our hope that the parish will continue to benefit from the love, joy, and excitement that this Renewal Retreat brings to our community. Together, we will continue to grow in God's love and build a faith-filled community of love and service to others.

The fall schedule for our next Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat is now available on the parish website. The Women's Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 10, and Sunday, October 11, 2026. The Men's Retreat will be held on Saturday, October 24, and Sunday, October 25, 2026. Registration opens in June.

For further information, please check the parish bulletin or visit our parish website: <https://stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/>.

The Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat teams.



Sponsorship Levels — 2026

Gold

\$4,000

INCLUDES

- 2 three-day unlimited ride bracelets
- \$150 in food/drink tickets
- 1 reserved parking spot during the Fair

SPONSOR RECOGNITION

- Personalized sponsorship sign on stage
- PA announcement during the Fair
- Online recognition

Blue

INCLUDES

- 2 one-day unlimited ride bracelets
 - Choose Friday, Saturday, or Sunday
- \$100 in food/drink tickets
- A personalized sign at the Fair

\$1,500

Family

INCLUDES

- \$50 in food/drink tickets
- A personalized sign at the Fair

\$500

Knight

INCLUDES

- A personalized sign at the Fair

\$300

Friend

\$100

Deadline for sponsorship is April 15, 2026. Sponsorship pick up at WILL CALL during the Fair.

Please print my sign to read as: _____

Sponsor name: _____

Email address: _____

Street address, city, ZIP: _____

Phone number: _____ Previous sponsor? Yes No

New donations that come in after April 15th are not guaranteed that a personalized sign will be delivered in time.

Return this form with check made payable to St. Joseph Parish Fair.
 St. Joseph Parish Life Center | 6180 E. Willow Street | Long Beach, CA 90815 Attn: Parish Fair Sponsorships
 Questions on the Parish Fair? Email Fair Chairs at: sjspringfair@gmail.com

LOVE *is a* TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE

Movement For A Better World

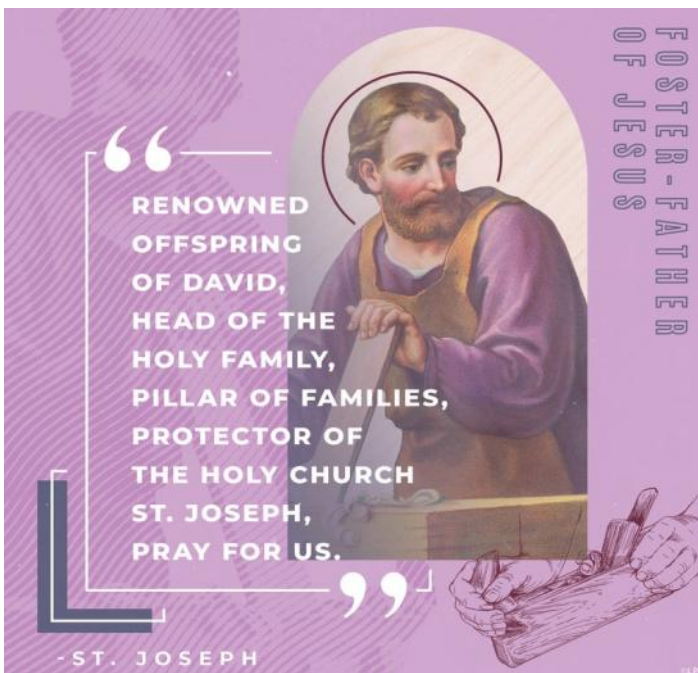


“May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world, so that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.”
- Four-fold Franciscan Blessing

May 21 7:00 PM: Committee Meeting: Help us decide what activities to sponsor and organizations to support in our next program year beginning July 1.

May 30-31 Homeless Kit Drive: Provide daily necessities to people experiencing homelessness. Shopping lists will be available on May 23.

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



Did You Know?

The Archdiocese continues efforts to prevent sexual abuse and support survivors and their families

During National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles affirms our continued commitment to report allegations of sexual misconduct to law enforcement, support survivor-victims in their healing journey, and protect children and the vulnerable. The webpage and updated infographic at lacatholics.org/protect serve as comprehensive tools containing resources, programs and services for protecting children and reporting abuse. If you, or someone you know, is a victim of sexual misconduct by someone affiliated with our Church, please contact law enforcement and the Archdiocese's Victims Assistance Coordinator at (213) 637-7650 or visit lacatholics.org/reporting-child-abuse for help and support.



Adoration



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, May 1st at 8:00 a.m.**



March Collection

Collection for March includes 5 Sundays

Parish Soft	\$30,592.41
Website	\$3,447.00
Regular Envelopes	\$77,230.00
Collection-Loose	\$14,206.51
Total:	\$125,475.92

Give anytime, anywhere from your computer, tablet or smartphone!

To sign-up or learn more about online giving,

please scan code or tap and hold from your smartphone:



Thank you for being good stewards in support of your St. Joseph Parish family.

St. Joseph Senior Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on **Monday, April 27** 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 Raffle Tickets!

Trip Info & Schedules Available!

Bring Your Brown Bag Lunch!

Coffee, Tea, Water & Goodies Provided!

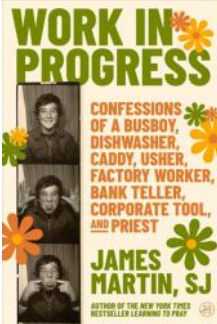
We look forward to seeing all our members and new friends who would like to join us!

Annual Dues: \$20

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



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



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

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Saint Peter's Square
Wednesday, 8 April 2026
[Multimedia]

The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. II. Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen gentium*. 7. Holiness and evangelical counsels in the Church

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

The Constitution of the [Second Vatican Council *Lumen gentium* \(LG\)](#) on the Church dedicates an entire chapter, the fifth, to the universal vocation to holiness of all the faithful every one of us is called to live in the grace of God, practising the virtues and imitating Christ. Holiness, according to the Conciliar Constitution, is not a privilege for the few, but a gift that requires every baptized person to strive for the perfection of charity, that is, the fullness of love towards God and towards one's neighbour. Charity is, in fact, the heart of the holiness to which all believers are called: infused by the Father, through the Son Jesus this virtue "rules over all the means of attaining holiness and gives life to these same means" (LG, 42). The highest level of holiness, as in the early days of the Church, is martyrdom, the "supreme witness of faith and charity" (LG, 50: for this reason, the Council text teaches that every believer must be ready to confess Christ even unto blood (cf. LG, 42), as has always been the case and continues to be so today. This readiness to bear witness is realized every time Christians leave signs of faith and love in society, committing themselves to justice.

All the Sacraments, and in a pre-eminent way the Eucharist, are nourishment that fosters a holy life, assimilating every person to Christ, the model and measure of holiness. He sanctifies the Church, of which He is the Head and Shepherd: holiness is, from this point of view, His gift, which is manifested in our daily life every time we receive it with joy and respond to it with commitment. In this regard, [Saint Paul VI](#), in the General Audience of 20 October 1965, recalled that the Church, to be authentic, requires that all the baptized must "be holy, that is, truly worthy, strong and faithful children of hers". This is realized as an inner transformation, whereby the life of every person is conformed to Christ by virtue of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Rom* 8:29; [LG](#), 40).

[Lumen gentium](#) describes the holiness of the Catholic Church as one of her constitutive characteristics, to receive in faith, inasmuch as she is believed to be "indefectibly holy" ([LG](#), 39): this does not mean that she is so in a full and perfect sense, but that she is called to confirm this divine gift during her pilgrimage towards the eternal destination, walking "amid the persecutions of the world and the consolations of God" (Saint Augustine, *De civitate Dei* 51,2; [LG](#), 8). The sad reality of sin in the Church, that is, in all of us, invites each person to carry out a serious change of life, entrusting ourselves to the Lord, who renews us in charity. It is precisely this infinite grace, which sanctifies the Church, that entrusts us with a mission to fulfil day after day: that of our conversion. Therefore, holiness does not only have a practical nature, as if it were reducible to an ethical commitment, however great, but concerns the very essence of Christian life, both personal and communal.

From this perspective, a decisive role is played by consecrated life, which the Conciliar Constitution considers in the sixth chapter (cf. nos. 43-47). In the holy People of God, it constitutes a prophetic sign of the new world, experienced here and now in history. Indeed, signs of the Kingdom of God, already present in the mystery of the Church, are those evangelical counsels that shape every experience of consecrated life: poverty, chastity and obedience. These three virtues are not rules that shackle freedom, but liberating gifts of the Holy Spirit, through which some of the faithful are wholly consecrated to God. Poverty expresses complete trust in Providence, freeing one from calculation and self-interest; obedience takes as its model the self-giving that Christ offered to the Father, freeing one from suspicion and domination; chastity is the gift of a heart that is whole and pure in love, at the service of God and the Church.

By conforming to this style of life, consecrated persons bear witness to the universal vocation of holiness of the entire Church, in the form of radical discipleship. The evangelical counsels manifest full participation in the life of Christ, unto the Cross: it is precisely by the sacrifice of the Crucified One that we are all redeemed and sanctified! By contemplating this event, we know that there is no human experience that God does not redeem: even suffering, lived in union with the passion of the Lord, becomes a path of holiness. The grace that converts and transforms life thus strengthens us in every trial, pointing us not towards a distant ideal, but towards the encounter with God, who became man out of love. May the Virgin Mary, the all-holy Mother of the Incarnate Word, always sustain and protect our journey.

APPEAL

Following these past few hours of great tension in the Middle East and throughout the world, I welcome with satisfaction, and as a sign of deep hope, the announcement of an immediate two-week ceasefire. Only by returning to the negotiating table can we bring the war to an end.

I urge you to accompany this time of delicate diplomatic work with prayer, in the hope that a willingness to engage in dialogue may become the means to resolve other situations of conflict in the world.

I reiterate my invitation to everyone to join me in the Prayer Vigil for Peace, which we will celebrate here in Saint Peter's Basilica on Saturday 11 April.

Special greetings:

I greet the English speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's audience, in particular the groups from England, Ireland, Nigeria, Australia, the Philippines, Vietnam and the United States of America. In the joy of the risen Christ, I invoke upon you and your families the loving mercy of God our Father. May the Lord bless you all and may his peace be with you!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, in today's catechesis on the Dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium*, we turn our attention to the universal call to holiness. Every baptized person is called to be holy: to live in God's grace, to practice virtue and to become like Christ. At its heart is love for both God and neighbor, and its greatest expression is martyrdom, the supreme witness of faith and charity. For this reason, the Church teaches that believers should be ready to confess Christ to the point of shedding blood. However, the interior transformation that conforms us to Christ is not possible without the aid of the Sacraments, most especially the Eucharist. In this regard, I would like to make particular mention of those men and women who consecrate their lives to God through the evangelical counsels: poverty, chastity and obedience which express their complete trust in God's providence, modelled on Christ's gift of himself to the Father with a pure heart. By their lives, consecrated persons radically witness to the fullness of life in Christ, even to the cross.

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The **HOLY SEE**

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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.

