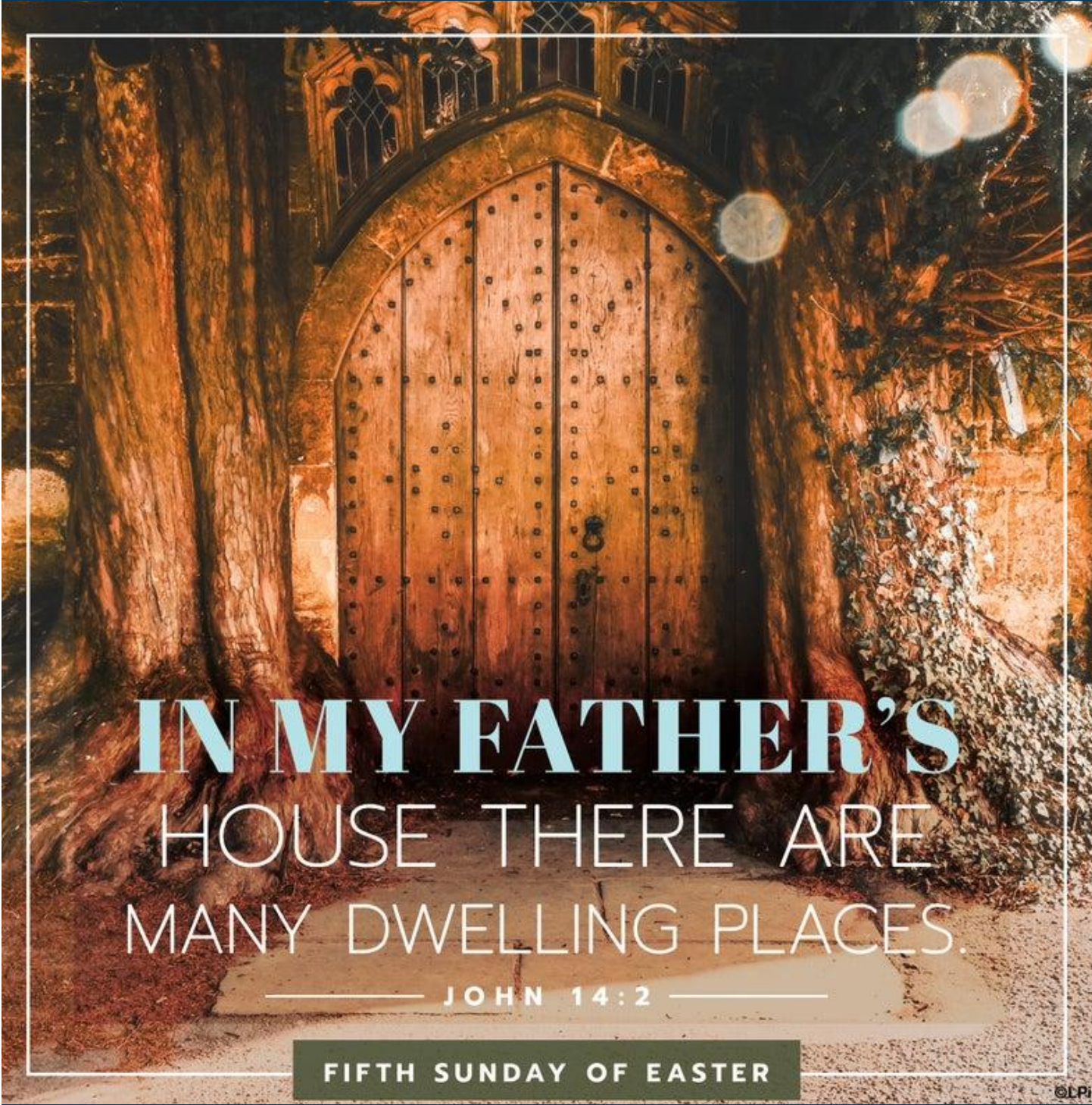


St. Joseph Parish



IN MY FATHER'S
HOUSE THERE ARE
MANY DWELLING PLACES.

— JOHN 14:2 —

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

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:

I'm at the Fair!! See you there!!



Have fun at the Fair,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The word of God continued to spread,
and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased
greatly. (Acts 6:7)

Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.* (1 Pt 2:7)

Gospel:

Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me." (Jn 14:6)

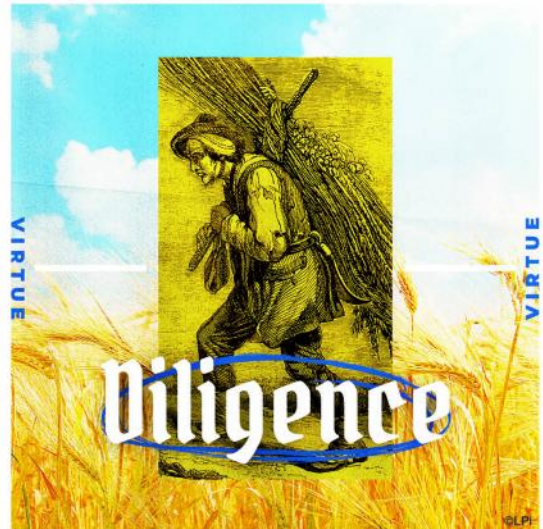
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The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997,
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

How often do we contemplate the
mercy of God, but fear it will run out?
How often do we consider following the
path of Christ and worry that it is too
steep? But God has not overpromised.
Dare to believe Him. Dare to follow Him.

Observances for the week of May 3, 2026

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Easter
Tuesday: *Cinco de Mayo*
Thursday: National Day of Prayer
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter;
Mother's Day



Virtues, Explained!

Diligence is the opposite of negligence; the diligent man pursues his goal with the same faithfulness with which God has pursued us, wayward as we are, through the long course of salvation history. It is the virtue by which man can secure for himself true happiness.

Blessing of Peace

Dear Lord,
You have said, "Do not let your hearts
be troubled."
Bless me with Your peace.
Fill my heart with trust in You,
and hope in Your promises.
Be my rock in times of distress,
my light in times of darkness,
and my rest in the storm.
Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of May 3, 2026

Sunday:

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

Monday:

Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/
Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday:

Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/
Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday:

Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/
Jn 15:1-8

Thursday:

Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/
Jn 15:9-11

Friday:

Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/
Jn 15:12-17

Saturday:

Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday:

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16
and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We generally approach life with the question, “What can this do for me?” We try a new workout, a low-carb diet, intermittent fasting, or a new career path, hoping it will make us healthier, stronger, happier. The assumption is that if I invest in this, I’ll eventually reap some benefit, or I won’t do it.

It is easy to think of faith the same way: if I really practice my faith, what will it do for me? Will it make me calmer, more moral, more successful?

But in today’s Gospel, Jesus says something astonishing. He doesn’t present himself as a teacher who shows us the way to life. He says, **“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”** (John 14:6) He is not merely a guide toward some higher benefit. He is the benefit itself. To know him is to know Life.

Thomas Aquinas explains that every desire in the human heart — love, joy, meaning, all of our restless cravings — is really an indirect cry for life. Even despair testifies to this longing: people despair precisely because they feel they are not, and might never be, fully alive.

The good news is that Jesus is not simply the means to a better life; He is Life itself. To believe in him is to share in God’s own eternal vitality. Not simply later but even now. Faith is not a transaction that produces results — it is a union that fills us with joy. To be in communion with Christ is to be truly, fully alive.

— *Father John Muir*

VACATION BIBLE CAMP



Exploring The Nature of God

This camp is open to kids grades TK-5th

When: June 22nd- June 26th 2026

**Where: St. Joseph Church
6180 E Willow St. Long Beach Ca 90815**

Time: 9:00am to 12 noon.

Cost: \$75



To register, scan the QR code for an easy process! For any questions please contact: Marc Leon - (562)598-0519 Ext 1

"Grab your hiking boots and take a step through the misty air of Rainforest Falls, overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. They'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a refuge in life's storms.

This is a community event hosted by:

- St. Joseph
- St. Cornelius
- Our Lady of Refuge

**Thank You to the Women & Men of Team #6
for Amazing
Welcome Christ Renews His Parish Retreat Weekends.**



Team Members:

**Christina Roman, Tammy Nguyen, Jennifer Terry, Amy Ford, Sandy Lemire, Quynh Hoang, Fatima Castro,
Kathy Varela, Heather Hao**

Diana Lara, Barbara Crofut, Rachel Laidella, Madalyn Castro, Johni Komisak, Cathleen Kuljis



Team Members:

**Alex Diaz, Bobby Anderson, Neil Hunsaker, Mike McCarty, Mike Wahl,
Javier Munoz, Sean Mizokami, Elmer Belen, Tue Nguyen, Jeff Rockwell**

Retreat #7 Registration Begins in June 2026

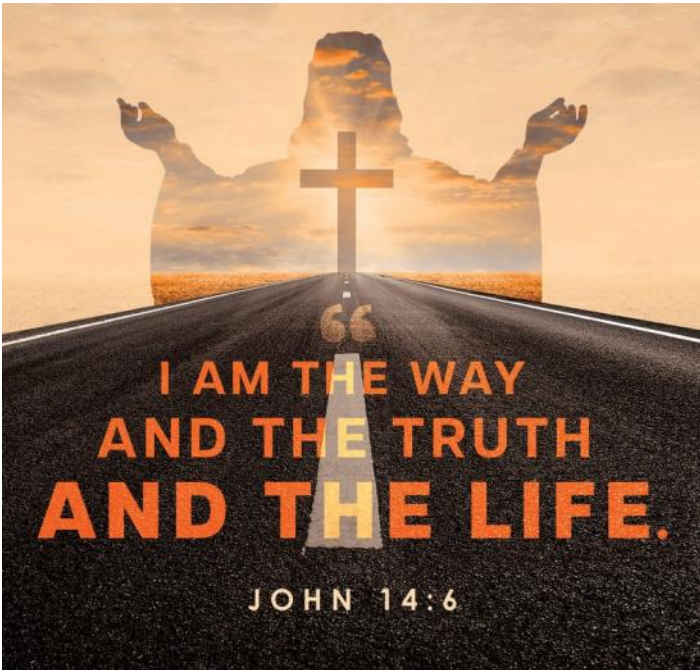


“May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world, so that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.”
 - Four-fold Franciscan Blessing

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.***




The month of **May** is dedicated to *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

During this month, we offer up to Mary an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration.
FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM




Because of Mary's singular cooperation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, **to magnify** with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and **to entrust** supplications and praises to her.
CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2682




Mary is the perfect "Orans" (pray-er)...

When we pray to her, we are adhering with her to the plan of the Father, who sends his Son to save all men.. **We can pray with and to her.** The prayer of the Church is sustained by the prayer of Mary and united with it in hope.
CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, 2679



The custom of dedicating the month of May to Mary started at the end of the 13th century. It became especially popular among Jesuit students that it spread to the whole Church by 1700.
FROM CATHOLICCULTURE.COM

We ask Mary, our Mother, to help us to pray with a humble heart.
POPE FRANCIS @PONTIFEX, AUGUST 14, 2016



Archdiocese of Toronto
www.archtoronto.org
 @archtoronto



Did You Know?



DIGITAL AGE Family Safety

Digital age family safety

The Daughters of St. Paul (often referred to as the media nuns) have introduced a YouTube series designed to help parents navigate online safety and media skills for their children. The Digital Age Family Safety course offers short videos that teach parents about media mindfulness and discernment, best practices for technology use, and how to protect children from unsafe and dehumanizing content. These videos can be found at familytheater.org/

St. Joseph Senior Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on
Monday, May 11 in the beautiful new
St. Joseph Center!

We are starting early for a special program!

SPECIAL PROGRAM – DON'T MISS IT!

On Monday, May 11 the Senior Group will have a guest speaker, **Stan Lawrence**, who will talk on **Senior Safety**.



The program is put on by the Long Beach Fire Department and will be very informative.

We are going to begin this meeting at 9:30. The presentation by the speaker will be from 9:30 to 10:00 and games will begin after that.

Please plan to attend this special talk and plan to be there promptly at 9:30.

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



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

Bring One, Take One
Table of Books & Puzzles!



50/50
Raffle Tickets Available!



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

IMPORTANT NOTICE

There will be **only one meeting in May** because Memorial Day falls on the 4th Monday.

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



Meditation



St. Joseph's Meditation Group currently meets every Tuesday evening at 7:00PM via Zoom. Our weekly session is based on the teachings of Fr.

John Main, OSB. Meditation is an age-old Christian practice and open to everyone. No experience is required and beginners are welcome.

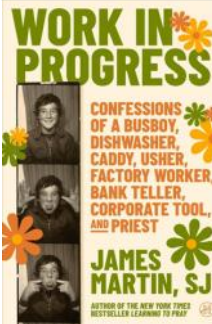
For more information, contact Frank McKown at (310) 633-1744 or frmckown@gmail.com

The first Thursday of May is the **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.**

This is a great reminder to pray for our nation, our leaders, our media, and each other!



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, 22 April 2026
[Multimedia]

The Apostolic Journey to Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

Today I would like to talk about the Apostolic Journey I made from 13 to 23 April, visiting four African countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea.

Since the very beginning of my Pontificate, I have thought about a journey in Africa. I thank the Lord for granting me the opportunity to undertake it, as Shepherd, to meet and encourage the people of God; and also to experience it as a message of peace at a moment in history marked by conflicts and serious and frequent violations of international law. And I express my heartfelt thanks to the Bishops and Civil Authorities who welcomed me, and to all those who helped organize the visit.

Providence would have it that the first stop should be the very country where the sites of Saint Augustine are found, namely Algeria. Thus, I found myself, on the one hand, revisiting the roots of my spiritual identity and, on the other, crossing and strengthening bridges that are very important for the world and the Church today: the bridge with the very fruitful age of the Fathers of the Church; the bridge with the Islamic world; and the bridge with the African continent.

In Algeria I received a welcome that was not only respectful but warm, and we were able to experience first-hand and show the world that it is possible to live together as brothers and sisters, even of different religions, when we recognize ourselves as children of the same merciful Father. Furthermore, it was a timely opportunity to learn from the example of Saint Augustine: through his life experience, his writings and his spirituality, he is a teacher in the search for God and for truth. A testimony that is more important than ever today for Christians and for every person.

In the next three countries I visited, the population is instead predominantly Christian, and therefore found myself immersed in an atmosphere of celebration of the faith and warm welcome, enhanced also by the characteristic traits of the African people. Like my Predecessors, I too experienced something of what happened to Jesus with the crowds in Galilee: He saw them thirsting and hungry for justice, and proclaimed to them: "Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the peacemakers", and, recognizing their faith, said, "You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world" (cf. Mt 5:1-16).

The visit to Cameroon allowed me to reinforce the call to work together for reconciliation and peace, for that country too is, unfortunately, marked by tensions and violence. I am glad to have travelled to Bamenda, in the Anglophone region, where I encouraged people to work together for peace. Cameroon is known as "Africa in miniature", because of the variety and richness of its natural environment and its resources, but we can also interpret this expression to mean that the great needs of the entire continent are found in Cameroon: the need for a fair distribution of wealth; the need to provide space for the young, overcoming endemic corruption, that of promoting integral and sustainable development, countering the various forms of neo-colonialism with far-sighted international cooperation. I thank the Church in Cameroon and all the Cameroonian people who welcomed me with such love, and I pray that the spirit of unity which was evident during my visit may be kept alive and guide future choices and actions.

The third leg of the trip was in Angola, a large country south of the equator, with a centuries-long Christian tradition, linked to Portuguese colonization. Like many African countries, after achieving independence, Angola went through a troubled period, which in its case was marked by a long and bloody civil war. In the crucible of this history, God has guided and purified the Church, increasingly converting her in the service of the Gospel, human promotion, reconciliation and peace. A free Church for a free people! [In the Marian Sanctuary of Mamã Muxima](#) — which means “Mother of the Heart” — I felt the beating heart of the Angolan people. And in the various meetings I rejoiced to see so many men and women religious of every age, a prophecy of the Kingdom of heaven in the midst of their people; I saw catechists who dedicate themselves fully to the good of the community; I saw the faces of elderly people weathered by toil and suffering yet radiant with the joy of the Gospel; I saw women and men dancing to the rhythm of songs of praise to the Risen Lord, the foundation of a hope that withstands the disappointments caused by ideologies and the empty promises of the powerful.

This hope demands concrete commitment, and the Church has the responsibility, with the witness and courageous proclamation of the Word of God, to recognize the rights of all and to promote their actual respect. [With the Angolan civil authorities](#), but also with those of other countries, I was able to assure them of the Catholic Church's willingness to continue making this contribution, particularly in the fields of healthcare and education.

The last country I visited was Equatorial Guinea, 170 years after its first evangelization. With the wisdom of tradition and the light of Christ, the Guinean people have weathered the vicissitudes of their history and, in recent days, in the presence of the Pope, have renewed with great enthusiasm their determination to walk together towards a future of hope.

I cannot forget what happened [in the prison in Bata](#), in Equatorial Guinea: the prisoners sang at the top of their voices a song of thanksgiving to God and to the Pope, asking him to pray “for their sins and their freedom”. I had never seen anything like it. And then they prayed the “Our Father” with me in the pouring rain. A genuine sign of the Kingdom of God! And still in the rain, [the great meeting with the young people began in the stadium in Bata](#). A celebration of Christian joy, with moving testimonies from young people who have found in the Gospel the path to free and responsible growth. This celebration culminated in the [Eucharistic celebration the following day](#), which fittingly concluded the visit to Equatorial Guinea, as well as to the entire Apostolic Journey.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Pope's visit is, for the African peoples, a chance to make their voices heard, to express the joy of being God's people and the hope for a better future, of dignity for each and every one. I am happy to have given them this opportunity, and at the same time I thank the Lord for what they have given me, an immeasurable treasure for my heart and my ministry.

Special greetings:

I greet all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, particularly the groups from Ireland, Malta, Norway, Nigeria, India, the Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America. Upon all of you, and upon your families, I invoke the joy and peace of the risen Jesus! May God bless you!

Summary of the Holy Father's words:

Dear brothers and sisters, today I'd like to speak about my recent [Apostolic Journey to four countries: Algeria, Cameroon, Angola and Equatorial Guinea](#). I had desired to embark on this journey since the beginning of my pontificate, and I now express my heartfelt gratitude to the Lord for granting me the occasion to meet with the people of God in Africa and confirm them in their faith as the Successor of Saint Peter. My time there was meant to offer the world a message of peace at a moment marked by conflicts and frequent violations of international law. Along with the call for peace, I also denounced the grave injustices that exist in those countries that are so rich in natural resources, urging the international community to overcome neo-colonial attitudes and engage in authentic collaboration. At the same time, the [Apostolic Journey](#) gave people in Africa a chance to make their voices heard and to express the joy of being God's people. In this regard, I thank the Lord for what they have given me: an immeasurable gift of faith, hope and charity, which has greatly enriched my life and ministry.

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.

