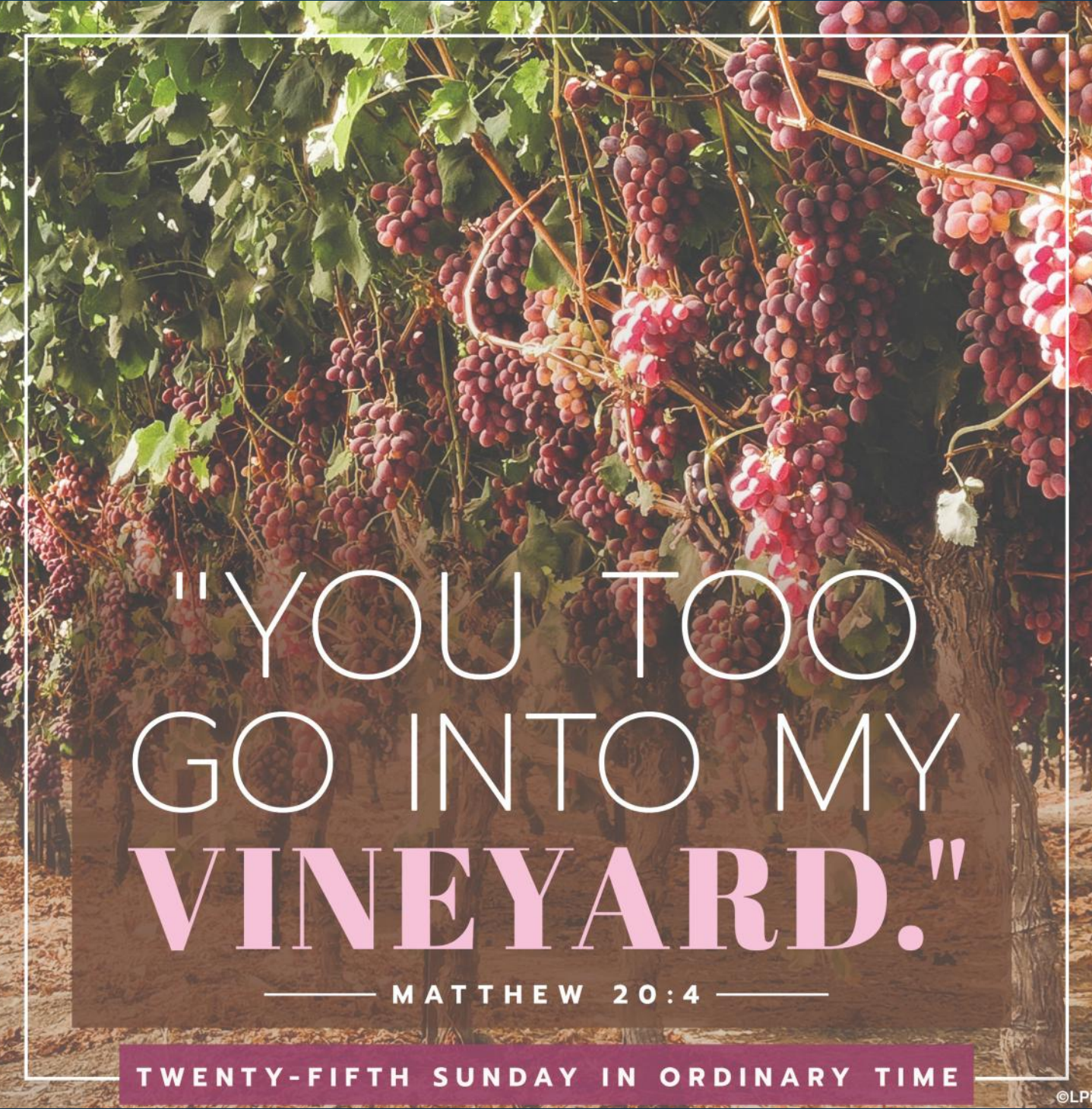


St. Joseph Parish



"YOU TOO
GO INTO MY
VINEYARD."

— MATTHEW 20:4 —

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

©LPI

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 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time. The liturgical year is winding down and at the end of November we will say goodbye to Saint Matthew for another three years. As we listen to chapter 20 in Matthew's Gospel, he addresses the typical line of thought demonstrating the world's understanding of what is fair. In the parable, it doesn't seem fair for a worker who has labored all day in the vineyard to receive the same compensation as the worker who only worked for one hour. We calculate. Jesus does not calculate. We count. Christ does not count. The grace of this Gospel is to believe that we come from Love, live in love, and will soon enough come to the fullness of love. Jesus Christ put an end to calculation, merit, counting, etc., when he died upon a cross for us!! Now that's more than fair!!

Several years ago, I was honored to receive the distinguished alumni award from St. John's Seminary. A couple of my priest friends are receiving the award this Saturday evening, September 19th and so I will celebrate them at the Annual Seminary Dinner held on the Plaza of the Cathedral of Our Lady the Angels. Please pray for vocations and ask the Lord to send more workers into the vineyard!!

Last call to join us in the courtyard as the Knights of Columbus cook up a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, September 26 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM. Please RSVP by scrolling down to the QR code. The only cost is to make a free will offering to support youth ministry. Our annual Worship Concert on the grass follows at 7:00 PM. Please bring your own lawn chair. You can either come to the dinner or the concert or attend both and be fed physically and spiritually!

One of our recent upgrades included replacing the ancient electrical panels that safely divides the electricity to almost all the buildings on our campus. You can see the before photo (left) and the after photo (right) and everything was cleaned up. Total cost was \$47,000.

Continued...



Letter From Our Pastor Continued...



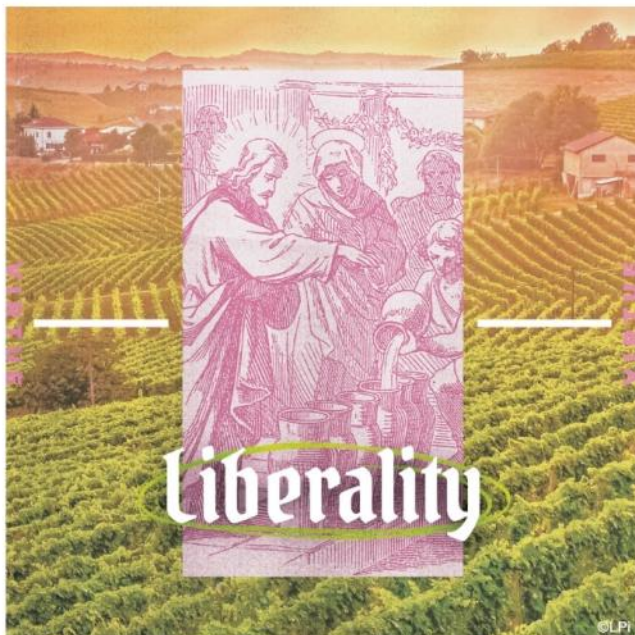
Welcome back to all our faith formation students in elementary and junior high. Welcome back to all our high school Confirmation candidates. We have a record number of 42 students in our first-year Confirmation prep program.

We have also commenced the dismissal of children who attend the Mass on the grass at 8:30 AM on Sunday. Immediately following the Gospel, the children ages four through third grade are led to a classroom to learn about the Gospel in their age-appropriate setting.

Blessings on you and your families,
Msgr. Kevin



Weekly Scripture



Virtues, Explained!

Jesus told the rich young man that in order to be saved, he must sell all he owned and give the proceeds to the poor. This is the virtue of liberality — giving of one's resources freely and in abundance.

However, the virtue of liberality should be practiced by each person according to his state in life. The rich young man could afford to lose everything — and indeed, was too attached to his wealth. We are all called to give selflessly of what we have, but "we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us," writes St. Paul (Romans 12:6).

Some of us have too much time and have grown idle. Some of us have too much talent and use it only to benefit ourselves. Some of us have too much wealth, and hoard it jealously. Whatever we have too much of will keep us from God. So let's practice liberality, and be generous.

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call him while he is near. (Is 55:6)

Psalm

The Lord is near to all who call upon him. (Ps 145)

Second Reading

I am caught between the two.
I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better. (Phil 1:23)

Gospel

"What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?"
(Mt 20:14-15)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

The master rewards the latecomers with the same wage as those who labored all day, upsetting the construct of who deserves what — and why. May we never seek to be the judge of what others deserve. May we labor in our vineyard with joy and gratitude.

Worship & Observances

Prayer for an OCIA Class

Dear God,
You never cease calling
each of us to You.
Be with our OCIA class as we
journey to know You better.
Inspire our conversations,
guide our lessons,
and direct our hearts as
each of us seeks Your will.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a

Monday

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday

Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday

Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/Lk 9:7-9

Friday

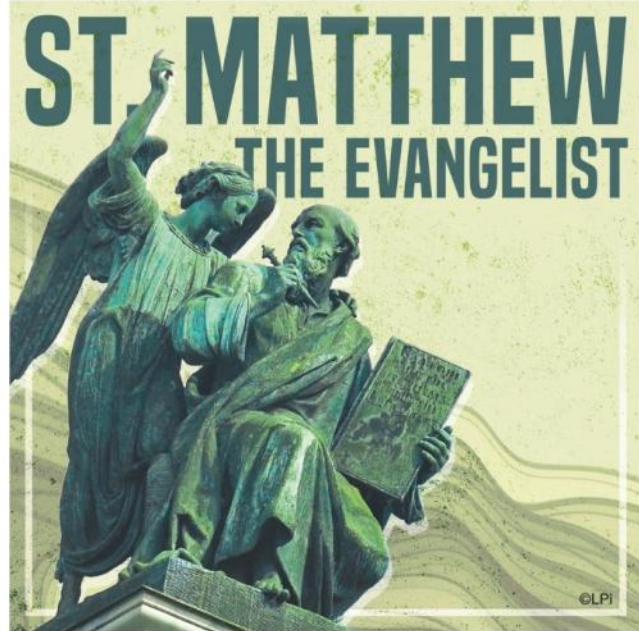
Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday

Eccl 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/
Mt 21:28-32



Observances for the Week of September 20, 2026

Sunday

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Catechetical Sunday

Monday

St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist;
National Migration Week

Wednesday

St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest

Saturday

Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs

Next Sunday

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time;
Priesthood Sunday

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Gospel Meditation



Encourage
Deeper
Understanding
of Scripture

Matthew
20:1-16

Every December, the priests of my diocese gather for a Christmas dinner with our bishop. Nearly 200 of us in one room: newly ordained and long retired, pastors of large parishes and quiet confessors, men full of energy and others moving more slowly. Some carry visible success; others bear hidden wounds. It is a tapestry of vocations and lives. When the bishop thanks us, I am always moved. For a moment, none of our differences matter. What matters is that we belong to one another.

I usually leave that evening with a deep sense of peace, but also with a sober realization. Nothing drains joy from the vineyard of the Lord faster than comparison. The quiet habit of measuring, ranking, and resenting can creep in even among those who sincerely serve God.

That is what Jesus exposes in today's parable of the workers in the vineyard. The early laborers are not

upset because they were treated unjustly; they are angry because others were treated generously. Their resentment blinds them to the gift already in their hands. When the landowner asks, "Are you envious because I am generous?" he names the real wound.

This tension echoes throughout salvation history: the elder brother resenting the prodigal, the faithful servant scorning the latecomer. Jesus does not deny the labor of those who have borne the heat of the day, but he refuses to let God's mercy become a zero-sum game.

In the end, the vineyard's reward is not about fairness but belonging. The joy offered is communion with a generous Father, who delights in gathering early and late, strong and weak, into one household of grace.

— *Father John Muir*

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026 | TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Joseph Church

Spaghetti DINNER

FUNDRAISER

Good Food
Great Company
A Stronger
Community!



5:30 PM -
7:00 PM

Choose to attend at

5:30 PM OR 6:00 PM



A donation basket will be available
at dinner time and will benefit

Youth Ministry Events.



To help us know how much to cook,

please RSVP.

Our teens are waiting to serve their community!

Choose to later stay for the

Free

WORSHIP CONCERT

that starts at 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM.

For the worship concert -

BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIR!



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
PRESENTS

ZION
WORSHIP

Featuring

LATI 2
MUSIC

The 3rd Annual
WORSHIP
CONCERT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

HOSTED BY : THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

DINNER RSVP



Fundraising Spaghetti Dinner

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Donation Basket Available

Proceeds Benefit Youth Ministry



🎵 FOLLOWED BY FREE WORSHIP CONCERT 🎵

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

2 Live Worship Bands • All Ages Welcome!



Concert Seating:



Bring Your Own Lawn Chair

COME TO ONE OR ENJOY BOTH! ❤️

For more information, please call: (562)598-0519 Ext 2



FEED-A-BABY FOOD DRIVE

Sept. 26th – Sept. 27th

Collecting non-perishable
baby food and products

For Catholic Charities,
Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence,
New Life Beginnings and Transitions in Motherhood

*Reconnect.
Recharge.
Refocus.*

Come experience
the beauty of
Catholic community,
prayer, the sacraments,
and renewal.

MEN YOU ARE INVITED TO **WELCOME CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH**



A PARISH RETREAT WEEKEND
HERE AT ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



*“Come to Me,
all you who labor
and are burdened,
and I will give
you rest.”*

— MATTHEW 11:28

Hear from Men in Our Parish Community



“The retreat was really powerful. I left feeling closer to God and our men’s community. It highlighted the important need for a Catholic brotherhood, and how we are not alone in our struggles.”

— Josh Roman (1st grade dad)



“Attending the Welcome Retreat #3 bridged an imaginary gap between St. Joe’s school and church for me. I was blessed with meeting and sharing a spiritual weekend with past and present St. Joe’s dads and other parishioners. The bond and trust that was formed that retreat weekend has carried forward and continues to grow as my kids grow at St. Joe’s.”

— Sam Pham (K and 2nd grade dad)



“The retreat truly helped me to reground myself and reprioritize my life. It really helped show me the importance of anchoring myself and my family in God. The community of men of faith I now surround myself with continues to nourish me spiritually. I am forever grateful for this transformative experience.”

— Huy Ho (1st and 3rd grade dad)



**MEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND
OCTOBER 24TH & 25TH, 2026**

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH



Sign Up Now

SCAN TO SIGN UP TODAY!
or visit

stjosephlb.org/welcome-christ-renews/#register

SPACE LIMITED



BROTHERS IN CHRIST. LEADERS IN FAITH. DISCIPLES FOR LIFE.





St. Joseph Faith Formation Registration Open!

- ✦ First Communion
 - ✦ Quest (3rd 4th and 5th grade)
 - ✦ Middle School (6th 7th and 8th grade)
- Please scan the QR code to
Register

Orientation will be on
Sunday, August 30th
at 3:30pm in the St.
Joseph Center!



Classes start on
Sunday Sept. 13th
from
10:00am to 11:15am



“The things we pray for Lord, give us the grace to labor for.” -St. Thomas More

Next Weekend! Feed-a-Baby Food

Drive: Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, New Life Beginnings and Transitions in Motherhood.

Oct. 31-Nov 1 - Blanket Drive: Collecting new blankets for our Thanksgiving Food and Blanket Distribution to over 100 families.

Committee Meeting: Many thanks to all that met Sept. 17th to scope and begin to plan a full schedule of ministry for our 2026-2027 program year! Can you help? There are many opportunities to suit your interest and availability. Call **Tim Clark (562) 431-4385**.



**KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S INTERESTED?
Walk - in! Come and See!**

**Location:
St. Joseph Center - Meeting Room @11:00AM
(Followed by 12:30PM Mass together)**

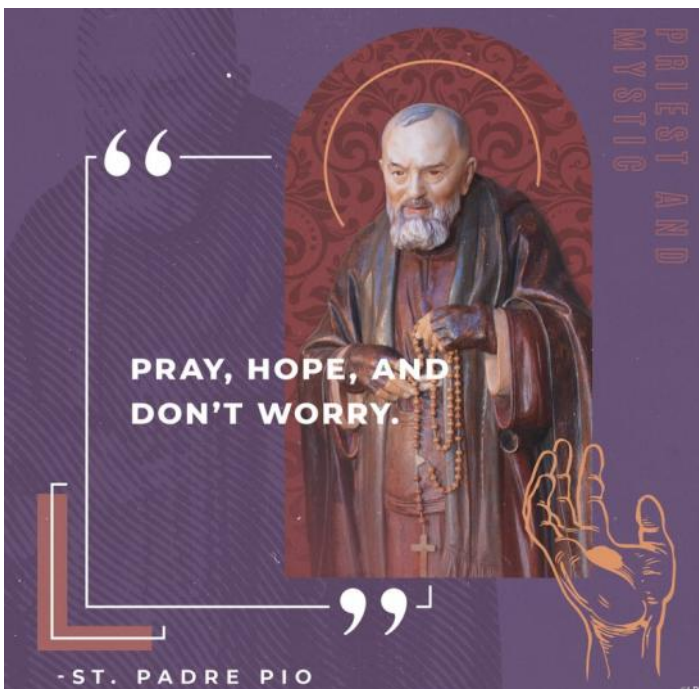
Date:	Time:	Meeting Room:
Sep 13, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Sep 27, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Oct 4, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Oct 18, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Nov 8, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Nov 22, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)
Dec 6, 2026	11:00AM - 1:30PM	SJ meeting room (Large Center)

INFORMATION: LIZ@STJOSEPHLB.ORG



Sextortion and teens

Sextortion happens when a predator threatens to share sexual images of another person to manipulate or harm that person. The American Academy of Pediatrics has classified sextortion as a form of image-based sexual abuse. Children and teens are particularly vulnerable, especially teens who have shared or been pressured into sharing explicit images. Predators will sometimes befriend or build a romantic relationship with a victim online, share and request explicit images, and then use those images to demand money or other favors. More information is available at [healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/what-do-teens-need-to-know-about-online-predators-and-sextortion-scammers.aspx](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/tips-tools/ask-the-pediatrician/Pages/what-do-teens-need-to-know-about-online-predators-and-sextortion-scammers.aspx).



St. Joseph Senior Group Meeting

The next meeting will be on
Monday, September 28
 at 10:00 AM
 in the 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 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!

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



In Memoriam



John Martin

Funeral Mass at St. Joseph Parish
 Monday, September 21st at 10:00 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~

GriefShare®
 SUPPORT • ENCOURAGEMENT • HOPE

GriefShare Support Group

A safe, welcoming place for anyone walking through the loss of a loved one.

SUPPORT **ENCOURAGEMENT** **HOPE**

You don't have to go through grief alone. GriefShare is a caring community where you can find understanding, encouragement, and hope—while walking alongside others who truly care.

CURRENT 13-WEEK SESSION
 August 4 – November 3

You are welcome to join at any point during the session.

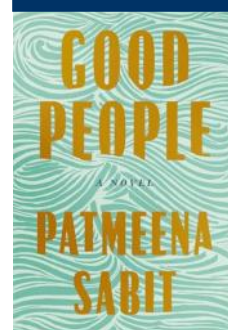
Tuesdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 St. Joseph – PLC (6180 E. Willow)
 Contact: May Pace
 (562) 833-6370
 maypace@gmail.com

All are welcome!

We look forward to walking alongside you on your grief journey.
 griefshare.org



Book Club



Our next Book Club meeting is
Wednesday, November 18th
 at 7pm on Zoom

Good People by Patmeena Sabit.

In the debut novel by Afghan American author, Good People is a literary mystery told through a kaleidoscope of perspectives, exploring family, cultural tension, and the American immigrant experience.

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



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

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

[Multimedia]

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. IV. Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes* (GS, 23-32).

3. The human community

Brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

By dedicating the second chapter to the "human community", the Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* (GS) invites us to consider "the growing interdependence of men" as "one of the salient features of the modern world" (no. 23). This reality must, however, find fulfilment "on the deeper level ... of this communion between persons", for which "a mutual respect for the full spiritual dignity of the person" is essential (*ibid.*).

These are statements which, in our times, have taken on even greater urgency. On the one hand, technological development, the spread of the mass media and social media, and the ever-increasing use of artificial intelligence are opening up new possibilities, breaking down barriers and bridging distances; on the other hand, relationships are tending to become less and less personal, more virtual, and there is a risk of becoming accustomed to delegating to algorithms decisions that are the sole preserve of the human conscience. Ensuring that social relationships have real substance and personal depth is, in this regard, the contribution that the Christian community seeks to offer.

The Council invites us to draw criteria and strength from God's creative plan, in which He willed that "all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood", which is why "love for God and neighbour is the first and greatest commandment" which found its full revelation and complete fulfilment in Christ (cf. *GS*, 24).

The perfection of the human person and the development of society must be regarded as closely interdependent: to set them against one another or separate them would be to render them meaningless. History, even recent history, clearly confirms this truth; we must therefore never tire of reiterating, in the words of the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, that "the subject and goal of all social institutions is and must be the human person which for its part and by its very nature stands completely in need of social life" ([GS](#), 25).

From this perspective, *Gaudium et Spes* affirms that the diversity of people and peoples in the world must not be considered as a danger or a threat, but rather as a resource for enrichment and growth. Conflict, which at times degenerates into violence, is the result of the power of sin and the way it conditions mindsets and actions at every level causing destruction and death. We must be ever more open to the logic of reciprocity, sharing and care, as is also the case amongst the various members of the human body (cf. *1 Cor* 12:21–25).

On this point, the Pastoral Constitution also offers a concise definition of the "common good", recalling that it consists of "the sum of those conditions of social life which allow social groups and their individual members relatively thorough and ready access to their own fulfilment" ([GS](#), 26). At the same time, acknowledging the interdependence among peoples, it states that "every social group must take account of the needs and legitimate aspirations of other groups, and even of the general welfare of the entire human family" ([GS](#), 26).

Starting from this premise, the Council Fathers then set out some "practical and particularly urgent consequences" ([GS](#) 27). First and foremost, respect for the human person. *Gaudium et Spes* states: "Whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or wilful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed" (*ibid.*).

Second consequence: respect and love for adversaries or for those who think and act in ways different from our own (cf. [GS](#), 28).

Thirdly: the fundamental equality of all human beings, which demands social justice. The Document states: "Every type of discrimination, whether social or cultural, whether based on sex, race, colour, social condition, language or religion, is to be overcome and eradicated as contrary to God's intent" ([GS](#), 29).

Finally, the Council Fathers exhort us to overcome the individualistic mindset and to adopt an attitude of responsibility and participation (cf. [GS](#), 30–31).

Dear brothers and sisters, this vision of humanity as a "community of people" is a valuable legacy that the Second Vatican Council has left us. It helps us all to engage in personal and communal discernment, so that we may responsibly evaluate today's social and political projects, based on the criteria of the dignity of the human person, social justice and free participation in constructing the common good. For the future of humanity depends on each person's commitment to collaborate with God and with their brothers and sisters in building a more humane world (cf. [GS](#), 30).

Special greetings:

I extend a warm welcome to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, especially those from England, Scotland, Norway, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda, Australia, India, Israel, the Philippines, Vietnam, Canada and the United States of America. Upon each 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 continuing catechesis on the Second Vatican Council's document, *Gaudium et Spes*, today we focus on the importance of human relationships. Our understanding of human community is based on the foundation of the dignity of the human person. Instead of seeing differences as a danger or threat, the vision of humanity as a community of persons enables us to work together to seek the common good. When we move beyond an individualistic mindset to adopt an attitude of responsibility and participation in the effort to build a more humane and just world, social relationships are enriched with real substance and personal depth. They likewise contribute to the fulfillment of each human person and the development of society. Dear brothers and sisters, let us renew our commitment to realizing, in Christ, the precious gift of our humanity.

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The HOLY SEE

Parish Directory

PASTOR: MSGR. KEVIN KOSTELNIK

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Deacon Tom Halliwell		dcntom@stjosephlb.org
Deacon Joe Lumsdaine		deaconcouple@gmail.com
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Office Assistant	Joyce Castaneda	(562) 594-4657
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Finance Council	George Zuluaga	Zuluaga@aol.com
Safeguard The Children	Parish Office	(562) 594-4657
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Website Coordinator	Mike Santy	mike@stjosephlb.org

St. Joseph School: Margaret Alvarez, Principal

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 Assistant Principal: Madison Alba

Religious Education: Marc Leon, DRE

(562) 598-0519 **marc@stjosephlb.org**
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 High School Ministry & Confirmation: Liz Moreno (562) 598-0519
 OCIA: Sr. Eva sreva@stjosephlb.org (562) 598-0519

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.

