St. Joseph Parish

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 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time! In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus calls his disciples and us to be like Him. The Lord calls us to heroic greatness!! Jesus tells us that when someone hurts you, cheats or steals from you, ruins your reputation or undermines or betrays the community, we are mandated to try to win that person back. It's not easy! Disciples work on behalf of those who do harm and offer forgiveness as it is the Gospel and the way of Christ!

Last call to sign up for religious education formation classes for elementary and junior high students, especially those preparing for the reception of First Holy Communion and for high school students preparing for Confirmation. Scroll down for further information.

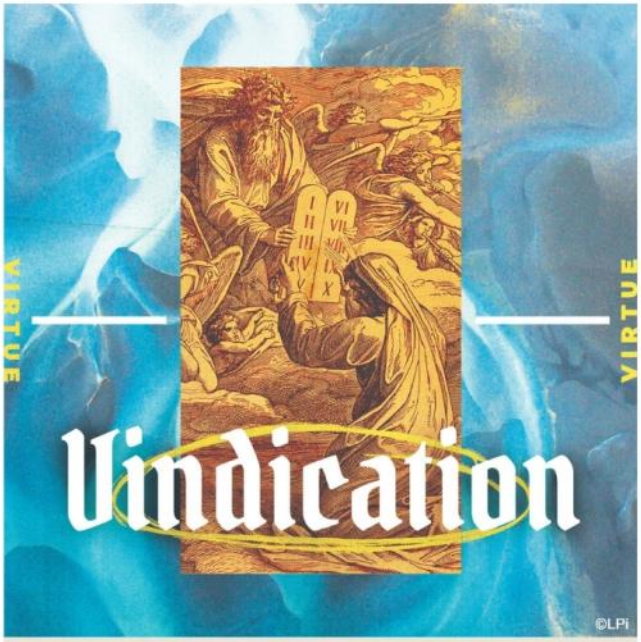
Mark your calendars for Saturday evening, September 26 as the Knights of Columbus are hosting a Spaghetti Dinner which will be served in the courtyard. Following that join us on the grass for our annual Worship Concert. Scroll down for further information and please RSVP for the dinner using the QR code. Join us for a fun night of food, fellowship and worship.

As you know, I'm blessed to serve as a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem. Our mission as a Papal Order is to support the Christians in the Holy Land, and to protect and maintain the Holy Shrines of our Lord. While much of the Holy Land is still closed, only a couple of religious good stores remain in Bethlehem in Palestine. They sell beautiful hand carved olive wood devotional items. Next weekend after all Masses, Andrew Bannoura from the Jerusalem Gift Shop will be here displaying their products and allowing you to support the mission of the Christians in the Holy Land by buying their goods. They have beautiful works and I invite you to please bring your checkbook or credit card and go shopping in front of the church after each Mass.

From Fr. John Bosco Musinguzi on the news that our parish raised almost $18,000 for his Mission:
I would like to express my sincere thanks for the extraordinary generosity of Saint Joseph Catholic Parish in Long Beach, in your support of the cause of young adults of the Nyundo Diocese in Rwanda. You have supplied training materials in the diocesan founded vocational training schools. Thanks for accepting to be part of their journey of healing, hope, prosperity, and to protect their human dignity.
Let's keep one another in prayer!
Very Respectively,
Fr. Bosco

Enjoy these days of September,
Msgr. Kevin

Weekly Scripture



Virtues, *Explained!*

Most commonly, we understand the term "vindication" in a very legal, argumentative context. We say someone is "vindicated" when they are proven innocent, or when their good name is defended from an accusation.

This isn't so far from what vindication means in the sense of virtue, either. Vindication is related to the virtue of justice, which demands we honor our duty to God and to one another. Justice seeks to ensure the fairness of human interaction. It seeks to safeguard truth against those who would co-opt it for their own purposes.

If we truly put our trust in God and seek to do His will, we may not always have popularity, but we will have truth: "Commit your way to the Lord, trust in him and he will act, and make your righteousness shine like the dawn, your justice like noonday." (Psalm 37:5-6)

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

But if you warn the wicked,
trying to turn him from his way,
and he refuses to turn from his way,
he shall die for his guilt,
but you shall save yourself. (Ez 33:9)

Psalm

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)

Gospel

Amen, I say to you,
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (Mt 18:18)

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

Christ tells us that "where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Our faith compels us to be in community with one another. No one should be a Christian alone. How can you draw closer to others who love Christ?

Worship & Observances

Back-to-School Blessing

Dear God,
We ask that You bless the students in our congregation, giving them inspirational teachers, studious habits, solid friendships, and Your grace in every moment of this school year. Bless the teachers and school staff in our congregation, too. Fill them with Your love and care so that, as they teach and minister to our young people, Your wisdom and light may be known, encountered, and shared.
Amen.

Readings for the Week of September 6, 2026

Sunday
Ez 33:7-9/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9/Rom 13:8-10/ Mt 18:15-20

Monday
1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday
Mi 5:1-4a or Rom 8:28-30/Ps 13:6ab, 6c/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

Wednesday
1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17/ Lk 6:20-26

Thursday
1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38

Friday
1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12/Lk 6:39-42

Saturday
1 Cor 10:14-22/Ps 116:12-13, 17-18/Lk 6:43-49

Next Sunday
Sir 27:30-28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Rom 14:7-9/ Mt 18:21-35

Observances for the Week of September 6, 2026

Sunday
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday
Labor Day

Tuesday
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wednesday
St. Peter Claver, Priest

Friday
Patriot Day

Saturday
The Most Holy Name of Mary

Next Sunday
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; *Grandparent's Day*

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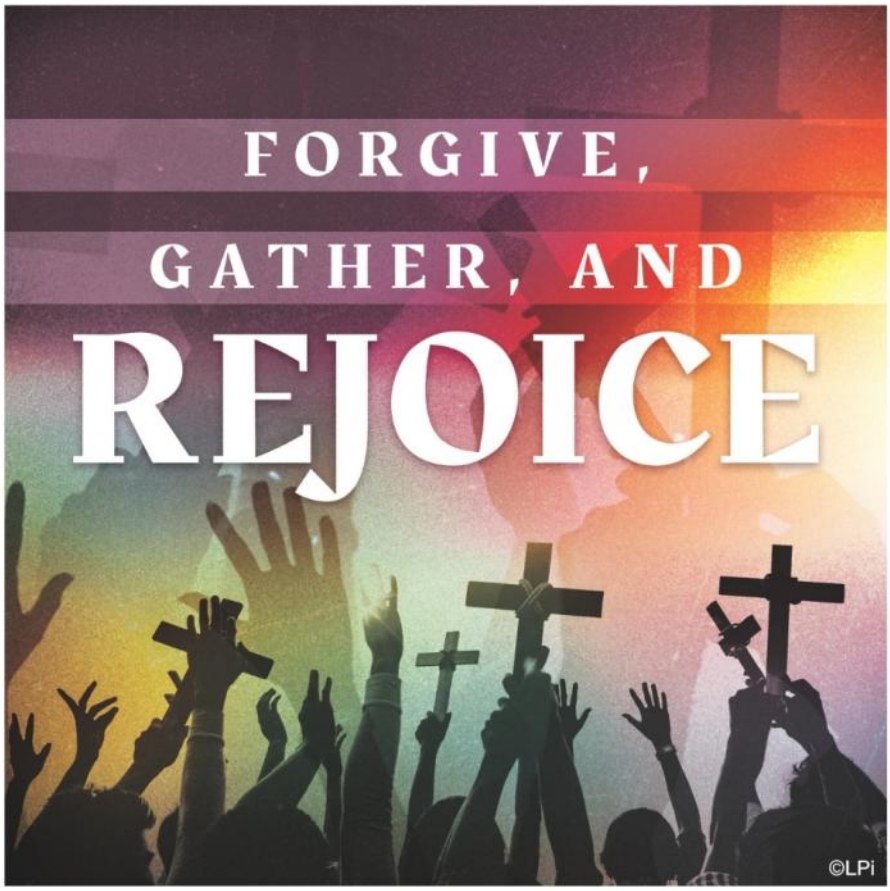
Gospel Meditation



Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Matthew 18:15-20

A few summers ago, my family had a big reunion. It included my parents, my four siblings, and all their many children. One of my favorite moments was simply watching my parents' contented faces as they took in all of us together, laughing, sharing food, singing, telling stories. They loved seeing their children happily *together* with each other.

That is something like the heart of God we see in today's Gospel message about Christian reconciliation. These verses come right after Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. He is not giving the disciples a cold formula for dealing with conflict. He is revealing the Father's longing for children who love and reconcile with each other. His heart aches when his children are divided and isolated.

So when Jesus says, **"Go and tell your brother his fault,"** He is not deputizing us as morality police. He is inviting us into his mission of reconciliation. When he adds, **"If he listens to you, you have won over your brother,"** we glimpse the real goal. Not winning arguments, but reuniting a divided family.

These days, we often think religion is just between God and me. But the Father's dream is about a lively family, one in which His children forgive, gather, and rejoice together.

Lord Jesus, give me the courage to seek reconciliation where it is needed. Make my heart resemble the Father's heart, longing and working for unity among His children. Amen.

— Father John Muir

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 | TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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

A WEEKEND THAT WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE.

Join other men from our parish for a powerful retreat filled with prayer, inspiring talks, fellowship, and a renewed encounter with Jesus.

MEN
Build a strong foundation of faith and purpose. Become the man God created you to be.

MARRIED MEN
Strengthen your marriage and lead your family with love, faith and integrity.

FATHERS
Be the spiritual leader your family needs. Leave a legacy of faith.

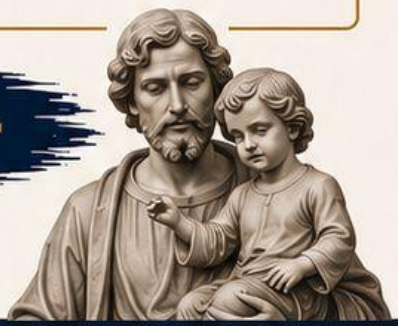
GRANDFATHERS
Share your wisdom. Inspire the next generation and pass on the faith that lasts forever.

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



DEEPEN YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

BECOME A STRONGER MAN OF FAITH

BUILD BROTHERHOOD THAT LASTS

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

ST. JOSEPH PARISH
LONG BEACH

HIGH SCHOOL CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

SESSIONS: BI-WEEKLY

MOST HOLIDAY WEEKENDS OFF

TIME: 11:00AM - 12:15PM

MASS AS A CLASS: 12:30PM - 1:30PM

SCAN TO REGISTER!

ENROLLING NOW!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER TODAY!

ST.JOSEPHYM

WWW.STJOSEPHLB.ORG

(562)598-0519 EXT 2

“The fruit of love is service and the fruit of service is peace." - St. Mother Teresa

Sept 17 7:00 PM - Committee Meeting: As we begin our 41th year of channeling the generosity of our St. Joseph parish community to the poor and marginalized of Long Beach, help us inspire our upcoming activities.

Sept 26-27 - Feed-a-Baby Food Drive: Collecting non-perishable baby food and products for Catholic Charities, New Life Beginnings and Transitions in Motherhood.

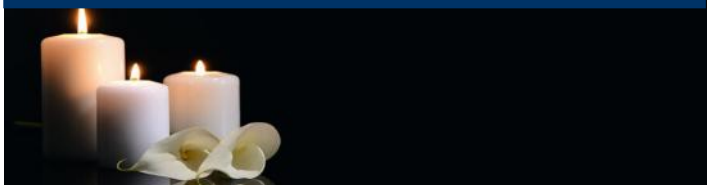
Oct. 31-Nov 1 - Blanket Drive: Collecting new blankets for our Thanksgiving Food and Blanket Distribution to over 100 families.

Did You Know?

Back to school safety tips

As your children head back to school, parents should begin laying the groundwork (if they haven’t already) for open communication about the school’s safety guidelines and policies. Talk to children about safe adults and keep lines of communication open about who they see and interact with, how they feel about their school days, and what they are learning. Remind children regularly that they should find a safe adult if they ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable in any situation. For more tips please visit **missingkids.org/education/back-to-school**.

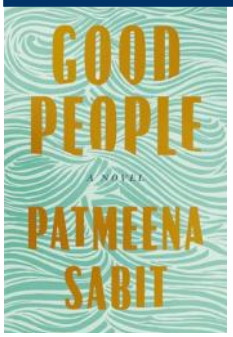
In Memoriam



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~

Book Club



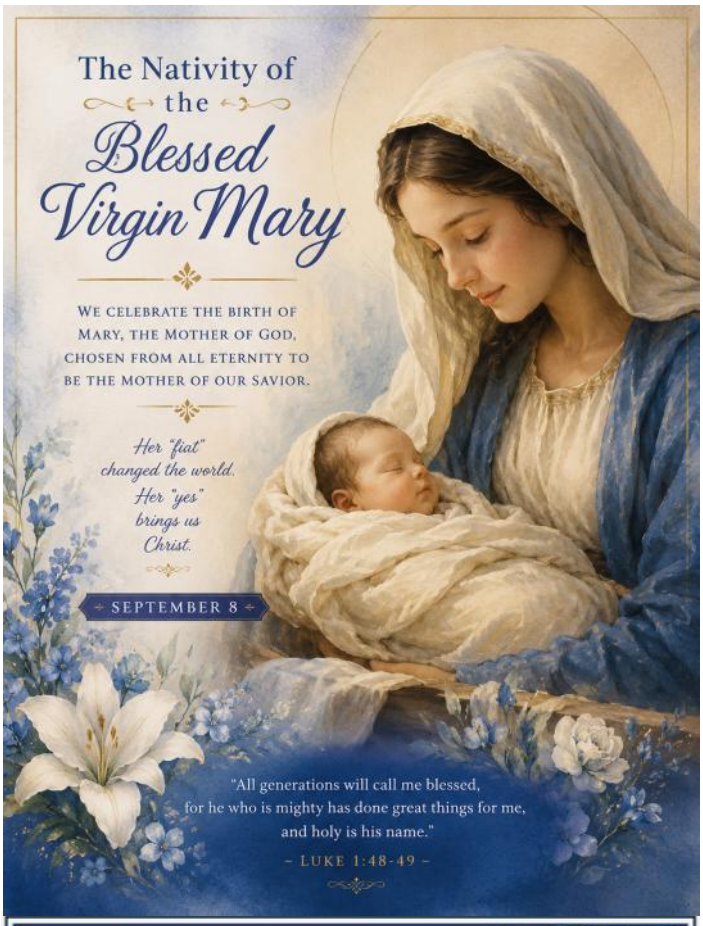
Our next Book Club meeting is Wednesday, November 18th at 7pm on Zoom

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

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary



We celebrate the birth of Mary, the Mother of God, chosen from all eternity to be the mother of our Savior.

Her "fiat" changed the world. Her "yes" brings us Christ.

SEPTEMBER 8

"All generations will call me blessed, for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

~ LUKE 1:48-49 ~

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

★ IN HONOR OF ★

Labor Day

We honor the hard work, dedication, and contributions of all workers.

THANK YOU!

Have a safe and blessed holiday!

SAN PEDRO COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

THE SAN PEDRO COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN INVITES YOU TO A

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

THEME:

SEVEN JOYS OF MARY FRANCISCAN CROWN

WHEN: Tuesday October 13, 2026 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

WHERE: Hagerty Hall @ St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church Lomita

Rev. Carlos Morales, OFM Conv.
Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe

RESERVATION FEE

$30.00

Breakfast & Lunch Included • RSVP by Sept. 29

Scan here for Registration Information you can print and mail with your payment

Questions? email: sanpedroccw@gmail.com | Shelia C. (310) 863-0812

Come and be renewed in faith, hope, and Mary's joy!

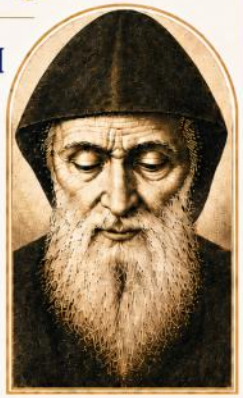
ST. CHARBEL MAKHLOUF

First-Class Relics

ST. MARIA GORETTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

FAITH. FAMILY. COMMUNITY.

3954 Palo Verde Avenue
Long Beach, CA 90808



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2026

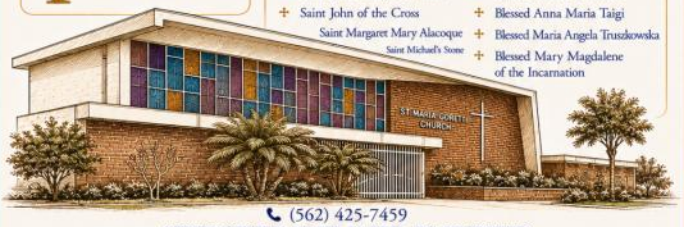
Venerate first-class relics of many beloved saints.

MASS AT 8:00 A.M. followed by veneration

OPEN VENERATION 8:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

RELICS AVAILABLE FOR VENERATION

- Jesus' Manger
- Pope Innocent II
- Saint Dominic De Guzman, OP
- Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Saint Hyacinth of Poland, OP
- Saint John Henry Newman
- Saint John of the Cross
- Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
- Saint Philip Neri
- Saint Rafqa
- Saint Philomena
- **Saint Charbel Makhlouf**
- Saint Teresa of Ávila
- Saint Thérèse of Lisieux
- Blessed Anna Maria Taigi
- Blessed Maria Angela Truszkowska
- Blessed Mary Magdalene of the Incarnation



(562) 425-7459

STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH. BE INSPIRED.

Don't miss this grace-filled event!

LEO XIV

GENERAL AUDIENCE

Wednesday, 2 September 2026
[**Multimedia**]

Catechesis. The Documents of the Second Vatican Council. IV. Pastoral Constitution Gaudium et spes (GS 1–10) 1. *The Church: Listening to and Serving the World*

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning and welcome!

With today's meeting, we will begin to reflect on the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, with which the Second Vatican Council intended to focus on a fundamental theme, namely the relationship between the Church and the contemporary world. Saint John XXIII as early as his inaugural address of 11 October 1962, had sought to take issue with the "prophets of doom" who, "though burning with zeal for religion [...] go about saying that our times, when compared with past centuries, are entirely worse; and go so far as to behave as if they had nothing to learn from history" (Address *Gaudet Mater Ecclesia*, 11 October 1962, 4.2). Hence the task entrusted to the Council Fathers: "In the present state of human events, in which humanity appears to be entering a new order of things, one must rather see the mysterious plans of Divine Providence, which are brought to fulfilment in due course through the work of men, and often beyond their expectations, and which, with wisdom, arrange everything, even adverse human affairs, for the good of the Churc h(*Gaudet Mater Ecclesia*, 4.4).

Three years later, the promulgation of *Gaudium et Spes* recognized in this discernment an essential element of the nature of the Church, describing her pastoral character as constitutive; hence the definition of "pastoral Constitution". It is not a question of naïve optimism, but rather a renewed fidelity to the Mystery of Christ who, by becoming incarnate, chooses to share our life: He made Himself "like His brethren in every respec t" (*Heb* 2:17; cf. 4:15) and took upon Himself the consequences of sin, dying "as a ransom fo all" (*1 Tim* 2:6). This sharing in our humanity is the path that Christ calls the Church to follow; hence, the Conciliar Constitution *Gaudium et Spes* begins by declaring that the Church makes her own "the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted" (*GS* 1).

It is a sharing that calls on us to leave behind all passivity and indifference in the face of current events, history and people's lives, especially in the face of the rapid and profound changes we are experiencing today. We cannot remain as unengaged spectators; rather, we must listen with our hearts, allow ourselves to be challenged, and become involved. With Christ and sustained by the power of His Spirit, believers are called to take on the burdens of their brothers and sisters, especially those who are crushed by injustice, discrimination, and violence. Indeed, only in sharing and commitment is it possible to arrive at adequate responses, always supported by the certainty that "the sufferings of thi present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (*Rm* 8:18)

In this regard, proximity towards humanity opens the way to a deeper understanding of events and of Revelation itself; and, in the same vein, *Gaudium et Spes* recalls that "the Church has always had the duty of scrutinizing the signs of the times and of interpreting them in the light of the Gospel" (*GS* 4). This Conciliar Constitution therefore recalled the Church to an ongoing commitment to conversion, to bear witness that she is not motivatec by "earthly ambition", but seeks "a solitary goal: to carry forward the work of Christ under the lead of the befriending Spirit. And Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not be served" (*GS*, 3).

This is not, in fact, merely a moral imperative. Pope Francis reminded us that for the Church, "the option for the poor is primarily a theological category rather than a cultural, sociological, political or philosophical one... We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through the m'pos" (Astolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 198).

Christian solidarity commits us to engaging with reality and also to unmasking the contradictions that characterize personal and social life in the contemporary world: for example, scientific and technological progress, which constantly offers new possibilities, but only to some, and which human beings do not always succeed in "subjecting .. to [their] own welfare"; or a clearer understanding of the "laws of society", accompanied, however, by uncertainties "about the direction to give" them; or, again, a greater abundance of "wealth, resources and economic power", which, unfortunately, today as in the days of the Council, leaves "a huge proportion of the world's citizens ... still tormented by hunger and poverty" (*GS* 4); or a shared awareness that the future of the planet is at stake, coupled with an inability to renounce selfish consumption and the illusion that war is an effective means of building peace.

In a time marked by profound changes, giving rise to worrying imbalances, the Church is called to serve the human person, listening to and welcoming the deepest questions of their heart and the longings that dwell within them, pointing to Christ as "the key, the focal point and the goal of ... all human history" (*GS* 10). Therefore, in the Church, at every level and in every age, it is necessary to achieve the merciful *kenosis* of Christ, who "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant ... and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:6–8).

Dear brothers and sisters, may joy and hope – *gaudium et spes* – be the distinctive features of a Church who proclaims and bears witness to the Gospel, drawing close to the women and men of our time.

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, Malta, Canada and the United States of America. In a particular way, I welcome the delegation of the Interreligious Platform for Dialogue and Cooperation in the Arab World. In expressing my deep appreciation for the work of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue, I offer prayers for the success of your deliberations, together with the assurance of my spiritual closeness in these days. 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 series of catecheses on the documents of the Second Vatican Council, today we begin our reflection on the Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*. This Document focuses on the Church's pastoral responsibility to engage with the contemporary world, sharing in its joys and sorrows, and calls for a commitment to conversion, bearing witness to Christ's work, and advocating for the poor and marginalized. The Church is also to be attentive to the signs of the times, interpreting them in the light of the Gospel, thereby addressing pressing issues such as the technological progress that benefits only some and the persistence of widespread poverty. In our own day, marked by profound change and much injustice, each of us, then is called to play our part in welcoming and listening to the deepest questions and longings of the human heart, making present to all the merciful love of Christ our Savior.

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Parish Directory

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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

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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.