

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSEHOLD, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.

AUGUST 23, 2009

— Joshua 24:15b

HOUSEHOLDS IN GOD'S SERVICE

In the ancient world, "household" was a wide-reaching concept. When Joshua today speaks of his household serving the Lord, he meant not just those people who lived inside his walls or those related to him by blood or marriage; he meant slaves or servants and their families, and anyone indebted to him in any way. Even his livestock and other possessions would be consecrated to service of God. In our world, we value allowing individuals their freedom to choose how they live, and wouldn't think of offering our pets to the service of God. But, as we discern our vocation as disciples baptized into Christ, we can come to realize how far-ranging the "households" of our lives still are: how we act toward our spouses, children, roommates or anyone we live with; our behavior with neighbors; or in public as we encounter many "strangers" every day in stores or traffic who suddenly are "next door" to us. How can we use our time, our resources, or gifts for selfless reasons rather than personal gain? No matter what life our witness to the Good News calls us to, we all have a "household" that must be consecrated to service of the Lord our God.

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ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please send in your non-availability dates for September, October, & November by **Monday, August 24th**. Thank you!

PEACE AND JUSTICE MEETING

Please join our Peace and Justice Ministry this Monday August 24 at 7:00p.m. in classroom #2. We will discuss and begin organizing various fall and winter projects that will help advance our mission of affirming human life and human dignity throughout our local, national and international world. All are welcome!

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

TODAY we are collecting school supplies to give to the many Long Beach children who cannot afford to go to stores and purchase their own. **Some of the items especially needed are backpacks, 3-ring binders, #2 pencils, blue, black, and red pens, erasers, pencil cases and college-ruled paper.**

JOIN US...

to pray the rosary every Saturday morning at 8:30 a.m. in the Church for the special intentions of our Country.

CHILDRENS

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

REGISTER TODAY, AUG. 23 (TWO HOURS ONLY)

One of our parish responsibilities is to provide opportunity for students to experience the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to bring Catholic beliefs and values into their lives and the world. We know that through forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, children build a strong foundation for lifelong discipleship. **Therefore, we invite you to enroll your children (they must be at least 8 years of age) in our elementary Religious Education Program. Registration forms are available after all the Masses this weekend. The completed registration form along with the child's certificate of baptism and \$60.00 fee must be returned to the Parish Hall TODAY, Sunday, August 23, between the hours of 2 & 4:00p.m.**

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:21-32

GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

REFLECTION: *When was there a time or experience when I questioned my faith? How did I get through that time?*

PARISH REGISTRATION

Have you have recently moved into St. Matthew's parish but have not registered? Please fill out the form below and drop it in the collection box or return it to the rectory.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____ (middle Initial) _____

Spouse's name: _____

Address: _____

Apt.#: _____ City: _____ Zip _____

Phone No: () _____

Mr. & Mrs. Do you wish to receive contribution envelopes?

Mr. Yes: _____

Mrs. No: _____
