
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 12, 2004

**Those whom the Lord has ransomed will return
and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy.**

— Isaiah 35:10a

THE GIFT OF SURRENDER

*There are times to let a thing go.
There is a time to put a thing down,
however wrong, however unjust it may be.
There are some things in life that
cannot be changed,
However intent we are to change them.
There is a time to let surrender take over
So that the past does not consume the
present, so that new life can come,
So that joy has a chance
to surprise us again.*

Joan Chittister

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Next Saturday, December 18th at 3:00p.m. we will have our Parish Penance Liturgy. This will include the opportunity for individual confessions. We hope that many parishioners will take advantage of this service to prepare themselves spiritually for the feast of Christmas.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS COLLECTION TODAY

Please share in the care of our elderly religious by giving generously to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. The escalating costs of health care have driven the cost of skilled care and assisted living for frail, elderly religious in the United States beyond \$1.3 million dollars a day! Your gift helps relieve a genuine crisis in many religious institutes.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

Bob Keast, Mona Roberts

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT— DEC. 19

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

ADVENT ACTIVITIES

Advent prayers will take place in the church at 5:30 p.m. tomorrow, December 13. Prayer services will be followed by a dinner sponsored by Comunidad, beginning about 6:00 p.m. You are invited to bring salads or desserts.

We will go Christmas Caroling following dinner. Please bring a flashlight and wear a scarf if possible. Hot chocolate will be served.

A free-will offering is appreciated. Proceeds will be divided among St. Matthew Christmas Basket Project, Lesotho Mission and Heifer Project.

Help in setting up (beginning at 4:30p.m.) and cleaning up is especially appreciated. Call Claire for more info at 597.4030.

COLLECTION FOR OUR NEEDY

Comunidad will again hold their annual collection to help some of our needy neighbors within our parish. Please look for the collection basket outside the church and listen for the little bell after each Mass.

POINSETTIAS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS

We thank you for your generosity in donating flowers for the altar. Our next need is red poinsettias. Please bring them to the rectory by Tuesday, December 21st. Thank you so much.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Soon we will be making out a **new schedule for January/February**. Please e-mail (or call) your non-availability dates before this Friday, December 17th.

barling@stmatthewlb.org

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS

In order to continue saving money this year, we will send end-of-the-year contribution statements to only those parishioners who request one.

Phone: 562.439.0931

Email: st matt@stmatthewlb.org

Drop a note to us via the contribution basket.

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED...

Mary Stoeger (Fr. Jack's mother)