

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 19, 2004

They shall name him Emmanuel, which means  
"God is with us."

--Matthew 1:23



## CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday, December 24

Vigil Masses

5:30 p.m. (English)

9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Saturday, December 25

7:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. (English)

8:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Please note that Christmas falls on a Saturday this year. There will be **no Mass at 5:30 p.m. or 7:15 p.m.**

January 1, 2005, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is **not** a Holy Day of obligation.

*You and your loved ones will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Christmas Day.*

*We wish you peace, love and joy at this season of remembering God's greatest gift of all.*

*Fr. Meisel*

*Fr. Vlatko*

*Fr. Jack*

## THOUGHTFUL CHRISTMAS GIFT

**Tired of shopping for gifts that may never be used? Consider the following suggestion.**

Feed a hungry child or house a homeless child for only \$10 a month. Mail contributions to Catholic Charities, 123 E. 14th St. Long Beach, CA 90813. *Get double credit because this donation is recognized by the federal government and your heavenly accountant.* For further information, contact Anna Totta, Regional Director of Catholic Charities, San Pedro Region, 562.591.1641.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

English speaking volunteers are needed at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall. Join the volunteer staff by sharing yourself and your time with the incarcerated youth and make a difference in their future and the future of the community by teaching the Word of the Lord. Service to the youth in detention includes: group preparation for the Sacraments, group bible study, or if you prefer, one-on-one visits will be arranged. You will be rewarded in many ways. For more information, please contact: Office of the Catholic Chaplain, Sr. Teresa Doherty at 562.940.8711.

## WHERE IS FR. MEISEL GOING???

After receiving the Christmas letter, several parishioners have called the parish office wondering "Why is this the last Christmas that Fr. Meisel will be our pastor?" Well, after 44 years of dedicated ministry within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles (24 of them at St. Matthew's) Fr. Meisel will be retiring on July 1, 2005. Although Fr. Meisel will not act as Pastor after July 1, he does plan to continue to live in the Rectory and to help the new pastor (*we do not know who that will be*).

## 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: [stmatt@stmatthewlb.org](mailto:stmatt@stmatthewlb.org)

Drop a note to us via the contribution basket.

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK...

*Bob Keast, Mona Roberts*

## CHRISTMAS IS UPON US AND POINSETTIAS ARE NEEDED!

Please bring them to the rectory by this Tuesday, December 21st. Thank you!!!

## COLLECTION FOR OUR NEEDY

You may still help some of our needy neighbors within our parish. Please look for the collection basket outside the church. Thank you so much!!



HOLY FAMILY— DEC. 26

First Reading: Sirach 3:2—6, 12-14

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23