



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2005

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

—1 Thessalonians 5:16

REJOICE

Be filled with joy. Pray constantly. Give God thanks because the Lord expects us to give thanks and praise in Christ Jesus. Jesus comes with good news to free us and to clothe us with salvation. With the bridal cloak to shield us, the church helps us witness to the bright divine light of the Lord in our lives. Each event in our life is part of the coming of the Lord; John the Baptizer announces Jesus' arrival. Will we receive him—with his cross—joyfully?

Philip J. Sandstrom, STD OCP

PENANCE LITURGY NEXT SATURDAY

DECEMBER 17TH—3:30 P.M.

As we prepare for Christmas in so many ways, let us remember that the spiritual peace and healing that come from the Sacrament of Reconciliation are awaiting us. This opportunity to pray together and to go to confession is a great blessing we have as Catholics. There will be no confessions on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st

CHRISTMAS IS ONLY TWO WEEKS AWAY!

And that means we are accepting your donations of red, white or pink poinsettias to help decorate our church. Please bring them to the Rectory before Thursday, December 22nd. There will be also envelopes available in the pews next weekend for monetary donations. This will help with the purchase of our trees. Thank you for helping to make our church beautiful for our celebration of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

In the midst of all your preparations for Christmas, please take a moment to let Sr. Dolores know your non-availability dates for service during the months of January and February. Dates are needed by Monday, Dec. 19th. Thank you.

barling@stmatthewlb.org — 562.439.0931 x 5

END OF THE YEAR STATEMENTS

The parish office will send end-of-the-year contribution statements to parishioners who request one. You may contact us in several ways:

Phone: 562.439.0931 x 0

Email: stmatt@stmatthewlb.org

Drop a note to us via the contribution basket.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Share in the Care

Please give generously to this week's Retirement Fund for Religious appeal. More than 95 percent of donations are returned to religious institutes to assist with the cost of living for almost 12,000 frail, elderly religious. While the average cost of skilled nursing care in the U.S. averages \$145 per day, religious institutes have kept the average cost of skilled care for frail elderly to \$126 per day.

YOUR GENEROSITY IS NEEDED

As we begin making our own preparation for this joyous holiday, it is important to remember those who might not experience the joy without the assistance of our caring parish community.

Comunidad will be outside the church today and next weekend to receive your contribution toward Christmas Charity. Money collected will be given to St. Matthew's St. Vincent de Paul Society in order to assist those in need in our community.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

You are welcome to participate in the celebration of this feast in honor of Mary, pronounced "*Queen of All the Americas*" by Pope Pius XII in 1945.

Masses in Spanish will be celebrated at 5:00 a.m. (**yes, a.m.**) and 7:00 p.m. We will also have our daily 8:00a.m. Mass in English.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ST. MATTHEW'S PARISH

On behalf of all the moms and babies at the Precious Life Shelter, we thank you for your most generous donations during Respect Life Month. The beautiful blankets, baby clothing and your monetary donations all help to keep this ministry going. We especially thank you for allowing us to come and share our stories with you at the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

With gratitude,

Theresa Murphy, President /CEO

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a 16

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Carolyn Aldapa, Charlie Welty, Hernan Martinez

PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Maximina Perez Godina, Evarista Ramirez
