



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

December 25, 2005

***THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS,
AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.*** —John 1:5

ADORABLE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATE WORD!

Together with you, O Virgin Mother,
 may we stop and reflect
 at the manger where the Child lies,
 to share your own amazement
 at the immense "condescension" of God.
 Grant us your own eyes, O Mary,
 that we may understand the mystery
 hidden within the frail limbs of your Son.
 Teach us to recognize his face
 in the children of every race and culture.
 Help us to be credible witnesses
 of his message of peace and love,
 so that the men and women of our own time,
 still torn by conflicts and unspeakable violence,
 may also recognize in the Child
 cradled in your arms
 the one Saviour of the world,
 the endless source of that true peace
 for which every heart profoundly yearns.

*URBI ET ORBI MESSAGE
OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II
CHRISTMAS 2002*

A GREAT START TO THE NEW YEAR

Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, 5300 Crest Road,
Rancho Palos Verdes, 90275

Saturday January 7th 9:00am - 4:00pm

ENNEAGRAM I - For Beginners

Susan D. McNary, Ph.D.

The Enneagram, a system with ancient roots, helps us to self-observe and move away from the false self by studying blind spots, automatic habits of mind, passions and compulsions which block us from the true essence of our being. COST: \$60.00 (includes lunch) A \$15 deposit is requested by Jan 1. For information call Gerry Ericsson at (310) 377-4867 x234.

CALENDARS ARE AVAILABLE TODAY

You may take one or several calendars home with you as you leave the church today. The calendars are complimentary of All Souls Mortuary.

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Carolyn Aldapa, Charlie Welty, Linda Dudek

MAY EACH OF YOU ENJOY A
BEAUTIFUL AND BLESSED
CHRISTMAS!

MANY THANKS!!

Comunidad would like to thank all the parishioners who gave so generously to the *Christmas Charity* collection for the those in need in our parish. Over \$2600 was collected. Half of the donations were used to give gift cards to food stores to over 12 families in the parish. The other half was used to support the good work of our parish St Vincent de Paul Society. Many thanks for the blessing you are to our parish.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

The Lesbian and Gay Catholics was established by Cardinal Mahony 20 years ago. St. Matthew parish was the first parish to welcome and host the ministry. The next Comunidad meeting on Tuesday, January 3rd will be a celebration of this 20th anniversary. There will be a Mass starting at 7 PM in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall which will include instillation of the 2006 Steering Committee Members. Mass will be followed by dinner, socialization and a short business meeting. All are welcome.

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: stnatt@stmatthewlb.org

Drop a note to us via the contribution basket.

REMEMBERED YOUR PARISH IN YOUR WILL

For further information, please contact H. Richard Closson, Director, Trust and Estate Programs 213.637.7472 / HRClosson@la-archdiocese.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER

There will be no confessions next Saturday.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21