

# FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2006

**I WILL RAISE UP FOR DAVID A JUST SHOOT;  
HE SHALL DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND JUST IN THE LAND** — Jeremiah 33: 15

## SIGNS AND WONDERS

“Signs in the heavens, nations in agony and powers of the skies shaken are not mere tabloid scenarios: they are the markers of our liberation by the Son of Man, who will come with all the saints to gather up his own on the last day. He calls us to holiness and blamelessness in the sight of God. Are we ready to meet the Son of Man face to face?”

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## JACKET AND BLANKET DRIVE

Thanks to your donations in our church poor box, our St. Vincent de Paul Society recently distributed blankets, socks, snacks, personal items, and restaurant vouchers to 40 homeless men and women living in Long Beach. **With cold weather upon us, there is an urgent need for additional blankets and warm jackets.** After all the Masses today and the next 2 weekends, members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will be collecting new and clean used jackets and blankets. Remember, if you haven't worn it in a year, it's time to give it away!

## POINSETTIAS ARE NEEDED

Once again we ask for poinsettias to decorate our church for the Christmas season. There is a sign-up sheet posted in the gathering area. Please deliver your poinsettias to the rectory on December 19.

## ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please call in your non-availability dates for the months of Jan. and Feb. by Dec. 12th. **Please email your dates to [csaiza@stmatthewlb.org](mailto:csaiza@stmatthewlb.org) or call 562.491.1217.** Remember, lector workbooks for the this new liturgical year are available at the rectory for \$10.00.

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

Peace and Justice Bread Sale on December 16-17. Several kinds available — good idea for Christmas gift or tasty for your own eating. Proceeds go to Catholic Charities, Lesotho Mission and Heifer Project.

## ADVENT PRAYER and DINNER

On Monday, December 4, we will have an advent prayer service in the church at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner in the parish hall. All are invited to come enjoy a variety of soups and pre-Christmas camaraderie with fellow parishioners. If you bring your own bowl and utensil it will help our environment. Please bring a dessert to share and either a free will offering or a baby necessity (diapers, baby shampoo etc.) which we will give to Catholic Charities for the needy. Comunidad heads up this annual special event.

## SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

*Holy Day of Obligation*

*Friday, December 8*

### MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 7 — 5:30 p.m. (English)

Friday, Dec. 8 — 8:00 a.m. (English)

7:15 p.m. (Spanish)

## IT'S BEGINNING

### TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

TODAY you will hear Comunidad bell ringers as you leave the church. They are asking for donations that will help our Long Beach Catholic Charities organization make Christmas special for many local families in need. Please help in making this Christmas a joyous occasion! We thank you kindly for your past generosity.

## THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!

The St. Francis Center is very grateful for the generous response to the Thanksgiving food collection. Pray the Lord of the Harvest will guide our Lay Franciscans to be good stewards of our bountiful gifts for the needy. May you share the blessings promised in the Gospels. Thank you for your compassion and fellowship.

## A GIFT TO YOURSELF...

You are invited to open your bible every week to read and to reflect on the gospel for the next Sunday. Below are two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

Copies of the Gospels for Advent are available on top of the offering box located in front of the Sacred Heart statue.

**1) *Is there somewhere in my life where reconciliation is waiting to occur? What steps can I take to bring this about?***

**2) *How do I feel about the underlying message of both John the Baptist and Luke that repentance means offering care for those who are in need?***

## DECEMBER 10 - SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**First Reading:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

*Sr. Eugenia Ward IHM, Maria Miranda,  
Barbara Mary Pharis IHM*