

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2006

THE KING OF ISRAEL, THE LORD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
YOU HAVE NO FURTHER MISFORTUNE TO FEAR.

— Zephaniah 3:15b



CHRISTMAS MASSES

Vigil Masses

Sunday, December 24

5:30 p.m. (English)

9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

10:30 a.m. (English)

12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

THERE WILL BE NO 7:00 A.M. OR 8:30 A.M. MASSES ON CHRISTMAS DAY

On behalf of our Pastor Emeritus, Fr. Jerry, our priest in residence, Fr. Jim, and on behalf of all the priests ministering at St. Matthew church, I wish you peace, love and joy at this season of remembering God's greatest gift of all.

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

Sincerely, Fr. Guillermo

PLEASE DONATE POINSETTIAS

We again ask for your generosity in donating poinsettias to decorate our church. There is a sign-up sheet on a table in front of the Sacred Heart altar after Mass today. **Please deliver your poinsettias to the rectory by this Tuesday December 19.**

IN THE QUIET MOMENTS OF ADVENT...

Please take time this week to open your bible to read and then reflect on the gospel for next Sunday. Below are two questions to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

1) *How can Mary's openness to God's call serve as a model for me? To what insight or action might God be leading me?*

2) *How can I celebrate and express my gratitude to God and others in the coming weeks?*

DECEMBER 24 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4a

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...

Our Peace and Justice organization is outside the church today with several delicious varieties of bread for sale — good idea for last minute Christmas gifts or family meals. Proceeds will go to Catholic Charities, Lesotho Mission and the Heifer Project.

HEALTH REMINDERS

BLOOD PRESSURE

You may have your blood pressure checked TODAY after the 10:30 a.m. and the 12:30 p.m. Masses.

FREE MAMMOGRAMS

Free mammograms will be offered to those who qualify. You may make an appointment on the following dates:

December 17

After the 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses

January 6

After the 5:30 and 7:15 p.m. Masses

January 14

After the 8:30 a.m. Mass

January 21

After the 7:00 a.m. Mass

JACKET AND BLANKET DRIVE

With cold weather upon us, there is an urgent need for additional blankets and warm jackets. After all the Masses today, 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!

IT'S BEGINNING

TO SOUND A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS...

TODAY you will hear Comunidad bell ringers as you leave the church. They are asking for donations that will help make Christmas special for St. Matthew's families in need. The money collected will be distributed to St. Matthew's families through our Long Beach Catholic Charities organization. Families requesting assistance can get referral information from the "bell ringers."

We thank you for your generosity.

END OF THE YEAR

CONTRIBUTION 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 contributions basket.