

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 24, 2006

O LORD OF HOSTS, LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND SEE; TAKE CARE OF THIS VINE,  
AND PROTECT WHAT YOUR RIGHT HAND HAS PLANTED.

— Psalm 80:15–16

My Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is already here, and I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude — calling upon you abundant blessings from God. This is the time for gifts and gift-giving. The best of all: God's gift to us, His only Son, Jesus.

Having our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary, as our model, I hope that each one of us will allow the Word, again and again, to be Incarnated, for the salvation of this world. May the Love and Peace that the Infant Jesus brings be our inspiration to keep up our efforts to transform this humanity into a society where we can live in peace, justice and love.

I hope that our parish, as a community of faith, through its different ministries and parish groups, will contribute to make this world a better place to live.

Thank you for being part of our parish family.  
Thank you for all your support this past year.

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 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely, Fr. Guillermo

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

### *Vigil Masses*

*Sunday, December 24*

5:30 p.m. (English)

9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

### *Christmas Day*

*Monday, December 25*

10:30a.m. (English)

12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

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



## **LAMB OF GOD**

No other Baby ever had  
a choir of angels sing —  
telling shepherds,  
“Come and worship Christ, the newborn King.”  
No other Baby ever had  
a star to light the way  
for those  
who sought Him then  
and those who seek Him  
still today...  
No other Baby every came  
to save the world before —  
to be the Lamb of God  
whose death  
would open Heaven's door —  
The Lamb of God who rose again,  
Inviting you and me  
to follow Him and live with Him  
throughout eternity.

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

**Drop a note** to us via the contributions basket.

## **COMUNIDAD UPDATES**

### **CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED**

Comunidad thanks you for your kind generosity. You contributed over \$2,500! This money will be distributed to St. Matthew's families in need during this Christmas season through Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul society and personal referrals. Once again, St. Matthew's parishioners live the call of the Gospel!

### **COMUNIDAD MEETING**

Please join Comunidad on Tuesday, January 2 at 7:15p.m. in the church for Mass celebrating our 21st anniversary of ministry with lesbian and gay Catholics. We are proud that St. Matthew's, under the leadership of Fr. Meisel, was the first parish to respond to Cardinal Mahony's call to establish the ministry. Comunidad continues to be a vibrant ministry and as part of the celebration the 2007 Coordinating Committee will be installed. A social will be held after Mass in the Fr. Gerald Meisel parish hall. You are welcome to bring a dessert to add to the refreshments.