

# THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 31, 2006

BELOVED, WE ARE GOD'S CHILDREN NOW;  
WHAT WE SHALL BE HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED.

— 1 John 3:2a

## THANK YOU TO ONE AND ALL

**“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace”**

**THANK YOU!!** to all the generous people who helped make our Advent season and our Christmas Masses both special and meaningful. Our Advent season was a busy one with our prayer service and soup dinner, our posadas celebration, our communal penance service, our collection of winter clothing and money for the poor, our bread sale, and as Christmas neared, the collection of beautiful poinsettias, garlands, trees and twinkling lights. Our beautifully decorated church was filled with people from many places! People with extended family visiting, college students who were home, people who were journeying back to the church, and folks who were without a loved one for the first time. Everyone felt welcomed thanks to our happy hospitality ministers! The liturgies were meaningful to all, thanks in large part to our the lectors who proclaimed the Word of God and to our ministers of the Altar and Eucharist. And where would a Christmas Mass be without music?! Thank you to all of our talented musicians who chose carols that were familiar and beautiful which allowed everyone to worship together in music! And thank you to all who worshipped with us! We are indeed a very blessed parish.

## January 1, 2007

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

is **not a Holy Day of Obligation**. We will celebrate our daily Mass at 8:00 a.m.

## END-OF-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.

## A REMINDER...

**If you are mailing something to the parish office, please DO NOT use the P.O. box address anymore.** To insure prompt delivery please send all mail to our street address: 672 Temple Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90814.

## THE PERFECT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION...

Take time each 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) Like the stars that led the three Magi to baby Jesus, who or what in your life has helped guide you to God?
- 2) What gifts would you bring to the baby Jesus and what gifts would you give to those you love?

## JANUARY 7 — EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

**FIRST READING:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**SECOND READING:** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 2:1-12

## THANK YOU

### From the Holy Names Sisters

The Sisters in Africa are very grateful to the Peace and Justice committee and to all St. Matthew’s parishioners. Your financial support of various projects has enabled the committee to make a \$200 donation to care for HIV-AIDS ORPHANS in Lesotho where the Holy Names Sisters minister. Thank you so much!!

## COMUNIDAD UPDATES

### CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Comunidad would like to thank all the parishioners who contributed towards the Christmas collection for parishioners who are poor. A total of \$2,550 worth of food certificates were given out—twenty families received help from Catholic Charities and another 6 families and 4 individuals received help from St. Vincent de Paul. In addition, through Catholic Charities, many families also received food and toys for Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

### COMUNIDAD MEETING

Please join Comunidad this 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.

---

## PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

*Adolfo Rodriguez, Trudy Hadala, Sr. Faith Clarke*

---

---

## PRAY FOR OUR SICK

*Doris Fenton*

---