



YES
during each week of Advent

I WILL REFLECT ON
NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL .

Some parishioners have experienced the blessing of reflecting on Sunday's Gospel during the week. It's surprising how alert this makes us to the message when we hear it proclaimed at Mass. We encourage more parishioners to become involved in this practice as a way of deepening our spiritual life and preparing for our community celebration on Sunday.

Here are the scripture references and questions for each week during Advent:

DECEMBER 2, FIRST WEEK: MATTHEW 24, 37-44

What are you doing to prepare for the coming of the Son of Man?

DECEMBER 9: SECOND WEEK: MATTHEW 3, 1-12

John the Baptist urged people to change their lives.

What change in my life might God want me to make at this time?

DECEMBER 16: THIRD WEEK: MATTHEW 11,2-11

In this Gospel according to Matthew we learn that during his lifetime Jesus healed many people. Although I may not have miraculous powers, how can I be a healing presence to others in my life?

DECEMBER 23: FOURTH WEEK: MATTHEW 1, 18-24

In this Gospel passage we see Joseph receiving a message from God in a dream. Have your dreams ever been a source of inspiration about what to do in life? In what other ways have you found out what God desires?

St. Matthew's Catholic Church

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING

I REJOICED BECAUSE THEY SAID TO ME,
“WE WILL GO UP TO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.”

— Psalm 122:1

NOVEMBER 25, 2007

FLOWERING TREE

Jesus reigns as king from his cross, granting entrance into paradise. The cross ties together the heavens and the earth and all around it. The cross is the ladder by which we climb to the heavenly wedding banquet; it is the place where time and eternity meet; it is the flowering Tree of Paradise. The cross is the bridge over the gulf between this world and the next. The cross is where the flow of the Holy Spirit enters into time and space and where we are sucked up into the sweet presence of the Trinity.

Phillip J. Sandstrom,
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THANK YOU FROM PRECIOUS LIFE SHELTER

On behalf of our women and children at Precious Life Shelter I would like to express our gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Matthew parish for hosting the October Respect Life Shower. It is truly a blessing to have your support for life and we commend Joyce Watt for coordinating this wonderful outreach.

Our residents are blessed to be touched by all of you and to know that they are cared for by all of God's Church. Please come out to see the shelter and how we provide for those in need of help.

Gratefully,
Theresa E. Murphy
Executive Director

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP

Catholic Charities is seeking groups to gather donations for the holidays. We are in need of canned food, staples; baby items, Christmas toys for children and youth of all ages, and Christmas gifts for the homebound elderly. Please call Anna Totta, Regional Director at 562.591.1641 or email atotta@ccharities.org.

BLANKET AND JACKET DRIVE

Our **Society of St. Vincent de Paul** is having a **blanket and jacket drive** to benefit the homeless in Long Beach. Please bring your clean, gently used items to the church this weekend or next weekend.

LECTOR WORKBOOKS FOR 2007-08 ARE AVAILABLE

at the Rectory. The price is \$10.00.

WELCOME

Today at the 10:30 Mass we will accept into the Catechuminate, **Mr. Fumiyuki Okamoto**. Yuki is preparing for the three sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. We also welcome **Mr. Ramon Ruiz**, who is preparing for the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist. *We rejoice with you Yuki and Ramon! Please be assured of our continued prayers.*

ADVENT

Monday, December 3, 5:30p.m. Our one and only Advent prayer service in church followed by a soup supper in the hall. (Please call Linda at 562.493.9898 if you can make a pot of soup or help in some other way.)

Friday, December 7, 5:30p.m. Vigil Mass for Feast of Immaculate Conception.

Saturday, December 8, 8:00a.m. Mass for Feast of Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation, (when Dec. 8th falls on a Saturday, the obligation to attend Mass remains— however the 5:30 p.m. Saturday Mass does not meet this obligation. It is the vigil Mass for your Sunday obligation.)

Monday, December 10, 7:00p.m.—Bilingual Communal Penance Service in the Church.

REGARDING THE BREAD SALE...

Thanks to all who supported the Bread Sale. There will be another sale on the weekend of December 15-16—just in time for pre-Christmas celebrations!

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

During Advent we encourage all parishioners to spend some time during the week **REFLECTING ON NEXT SUNDAY'S GOSPEL**. To help you do this, there is an insert today in the bulletin with the Gospel references and questions for the month of December. Please **KEEP YOUR COPY AND BEGIN REFLECTING THIS WEEK** on the meaning of the Gospel in your life

You might also...

Pick up a book to enrich your spiritual life before or after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass. Ten minutes of spiritual reading per day can really *make your day!*

or...

Join other parishioners in the church on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary.