



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“YOU . . . MUST BE PREPARED, FOR AT AN HOUR
YOU DO NOT EXPECT, THE SON OF MAN WILL COME.”

DECEMBER 2, 2007

— Matthew 24:44

FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Saturday, December 8th

This is a holy day of obligation, even when it falls on a Saturday or a Monday, because Mary is honored under this title as the patroness of the United States. **Masses of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated as follows:**

**Friday evening—5:30p.m. in English &
7:15p.m. in Spanish**

Saturday morning—8:00a.m. English

Our evening Masses on Saturday, December 8th are vigil Masses for the Second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 9th.

MANNA MEALS

A group of parishioners have agreed to make and serve 100 bag lunches every other month for the Manna Meals (lunch for the homeless and hungry) program at St. Lukes. The cost for this is approximately \$100 and we hope St. Matthew's community will support this endeavor with food and/or financial donations. Next Sunday we will be collecting food (listed below and monetary gifts to get ready for our first bag lunches on Dec. 15. You may bring your donation to the patio area before or after Mass on December 8/9. Needed foods are peanut butter, jam, small bags of chips, individual boxes or bag juices, Bear Creek soup starter, saltine crackers, or monetary donations for us to use to purchase bags etc. You may pick up a list of the needed items at the front entrance of church. For more information or to help, please call Claire at 597.4030.

ADVENT

Monday, December 3, 5:30p.m. ADVENT PRAYER AND DINNER. Our one and only Advent prayer service in church followed by a soup supper in the hall. All are invited.

Monday, December 10, 7:00p.m.—PARISH PENANCE LITURGY. As we prepare for Christmas in so many ways, let us remember that the spiritual peace and healing that come from the Sacrament of Reconciliation are awaiting us. This will include scripture readings, examination of conscience and individual confessions.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU ...

The Thanksgiving collection for the needy provided a big truck load of good and a total of \$612.00 in gifts. We are most grateful for your generosity!!

The St. Francis Center of Long Beach

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? St. Matthew Church now offers Electronic Giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. It allows you to avoid having to make up the difference later. Please read the inserts included in today's bulletin. If this program sounds like something that will simplify your life, you may complete the authorization form and return it to the church office.

BREAD SALE...

There will be a bread sale on the weekend of December 15-16—just in time for pre-Christmas celebrations!

NIGHTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

All of us, especially young adults, live with one foot in the secular world and the other in the church, always with the question: How do I live out my discipleship of Jesus in this world? And with life's demands making time so precious, how and where do I find the time or place to discover that answer? Throughout the Archdiocese of L.A., two parishes or more in each region will be sponsoring a night of spiritual development for young single adults, men and women, 18 years of age or more. Beginning in October, this once-a-month evening, using prayer, presentation and discussion, hopes to lead single adults to answer that crucial question: *How am I a disciple of Jesus Christ? And where do I, as a disciple, fit into the Catholic Church?* All single adults are welcome in your respective region or at any of the hosting parishes. In our region, the two sponsoring parishes are Holy Trinity Church in San Pedro meeting on Dec. 12, Jan. 9, Feb. 13, March 19, April 9, May 14 and June 11 at 7:30-9:00p.m. Meetings at St. John of God, Norwalk will be Dec. 20, Jan 17, Feb. 21, March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19. Time 7:00-9:00p.m.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Is working to provide emergency food, hygiene and medical care to the water-ravaged areas of Mexico, Dominican Republic, Cuba and Haiti. If you can help, please send a check make out to "Catholic Relief Services—LACRO Severe Weather Response" and mail it to Catholic Relief Services, Attn: LACRO Severe Weather Response, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.