

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

OVER ALL [OTHER VIRTUES] PUT ON LOVE, THAT IS,
THE BOND OF PERFECTION.
DECEMBER 30, 2007

— Colossians 3:14

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS
POPE BENEDICT XVI
FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE
WORLD DAY OF PEACE
1 JANUARY 2008
THE HUMAN FAMILY,
A COMMUNITY OF PEACE

At the beginning of a New Year, I wish to send my fervent good wishes for peace, together with a heartfelt message of hope to men and women throughout the world. I do so by offering for our common reflection the theme which I have placed at the beginning of this message. It is one which I consider particularly important: *the human family, a community of peace*. The first form of communion between persons is that born of the love of a man and a woman who decide to enter a stable union in order to build together *a new family*. But the peoples of the earth, too, are called to build relationships of solidarity and cooperation among themselves, as befits members of the one *human family*: “All peoples”—as the Second Vatican Council declared—“are one community and have one origin, because God caused the whole human race to dwell on the face of the earth (cf. *Acts* 17:26); they also have one final end, God”(1).

(the above is an excerpt located on the Vatican website. To read more you may log onto www.vatican.va. Click on “English” and then click on “Message for peace 2008”)

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Throughout the coming year we encourage all parishioners to spend some time during each week to **open** your bible to read and reflect on the next Sunday’s gospel reading. The readings are listed below along with a question to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

— EPIPHANY OF THE LORD —

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi brought gifts to the Child Jesus. What are my own God-given gifts and talents that I can give back to Jesus in the form of service to others? The Magi were overjoyed at seeing the star. Am I a “joyful Christian” that reflects the joy it is to follow Jesus?

PRAY FOR OUR SICK
Hilda Zaph, Ida Banes

COMUNIDAD UPDATES

...THANK YOU...

Comunidad thanks you for your generous contributions to help Catholic Charities reach out to a number of St. Matthew families during this Christmas season. The final total came to \$2,800.00 which was a 20% increase from last year’s donations. Once again, St. Matthew parishioners live the call of the Gospels! Thank you!!

CHANGE OF DATE FOR JANUARY MEETING

Please note there is a change of date for the next Comunidad meeting. It will be held on **January 8th**, (the *second* Tuesday of the month). **We will begin the evening at 7:15 with Fr. Gerald Meisel presiding Mass** in celebration of our 22nd anniversary of ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics and the installation of our 2008 Coordinating Committee.

We are proud that St. Matthew parish was the first to respond to Cardinal Mahony’s call to establish this ministry. 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.

ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

If you are in need of the Sacrament of Confirmation, you may apply to Sr. Dolores by calling 562.439.0931 x 5 for acceptance into the program of preparation which will begin on Sunday, January 13th. Please call as soon as possible.

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, January 7th at 7:00 in the Rectory

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. If this program sounds like something that will simplify your life, you may contact the parish office to receive the necessary authorization forms.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

The parish office will send end-of-year contribution statements to those parishioners who request one.

Email: stmatt@stmatthewwb.org

Drop a note to us via the collection basket

PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED
Dorothy Faria, Sally Benken