



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

DECEMBER 21, 2008

—Luke 1:35



My Dear Parishioners,

We celebrate Christmas with great joy because our human wishes and dreams mingle with God's dream for our redemption. "*Glory to God in the Highest and Peace to His people on Earth.*" The Word became Flesh, taking on our human nature in order to create anew a broken and divided humanity. I pray that the spirit of Advent has prepared us to be worthy dwellings for the Incarnation of the Lord.

Thank you for your presence at St. Matthew's and thank you for your constant and generous support to our parish. You and your loved ones will be remembered in our prayers and at all our Christmas Masses.

On behalf of Fr. Gerald Meisel, Pastor Emeritus, and on behalf of all the excellent priests ministering at St. Matthew's Church, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Vigil Masses

Wednesday, December 24

5:30p.m. (ENGLISH)

9:00p.m. (SPANISH)

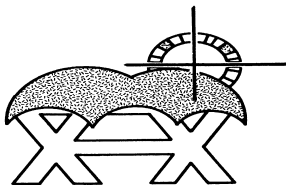
Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

10:30a.m. (ENGLISH)

12:30p.m. (SPANISH)

(There will be no 7:00a.m. or 8:30a.m. Masses on Christmas Day)



TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

The readings for next Sunday, *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

FIRST READING: Sirach 3:2-7, 12-14

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:12-21, [12-17]

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

Simeon recognized the baby Jesus as the Promised Messiah. How can I recognize and remember that each person I know is made in the image of God? On this feast of the Holy Family, how can I come closer to God and live out my faith within my family and among my friends?

IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!!

PLEASE DONATE FLOWERS

Please donate Poinsettia plants for our Christmas decorations. You may drop them off at the parish office today through Tuesday. Thank you for your help.

THIS WEEKEND

Comunidad bell ringers are outside the Church after all the Masses collecting donations for families within our parish who are in need. Your donations will help make Christmas special for someone!

Peace and Justice ministry is selling yummy loaves of bread for your Christmas morning breakfast or to give as a hostess gift. They have banana nut, lemon, the always popular pumpkin and more. Stop by and buy one today!

THIS MONDAY

The Spanish-speaking community will present an all-English Posadas at 7:00 PM. The vigil is held for 9 nights before Christmas. We will travel with Mary and Joseph in their search for a place for Mary to give birth. We will end with a joyous celebration with chocolate, pan dulce, Christmas carols and piñatas. Fun for the whole family, neighbors and kids.

ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Please provide your non-availability dates for the months of January and February by Monday, December 29th. You may email the information to csaiza@stmatthewlb.org or call 562.491.1217 and leave a message.

END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you need a contribution statement for tax purposes, we ask that you please call the office to request one.

BLOOD DRIVE NEXT SUNDAY

You may be saving a life!

Before giving blood, you must be in good health, bring valid photo I.D., be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 lbs. and have no new tattoos within the last 12 months.

