



# HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

*My eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all the peoples.*

DECEMBER 28, 2008

—Luke 2:30-31

## WE ARE GOD'S HOLY FAMILY

The scriptures of Israel are filled with many stories of barren couples who were miraculously granted the gift of children by God. Surely the best known among these is the first reading from today, from which Luke took inspiration when he recounted the miraculous birth of John the Baptist to Zechariah and Elizabeth, and the more miraculous birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. In each instance, we are given examples or role models of those who trusted in God. More than examples of those who trust, they are models of self-surrender. They abandoned their own presuppositions and prejudices about the workings of the world and turned their lies over to belief in a God who can make life grow where none ought to; a God who can turn death around into a new and unimagined life; a God who can, today, take a tiny child of humble parents in an insignificant town and make him into a light for all the world. This is what we, as God's holy family, are called to do each day: to trust not in ourselves and the way we think things should be, but to open ourselves and surrender ourselves in faith to a God of endless promise.

## GIVE BLOOD—GIVE LIFE... TODAY — 8:30A.M.—2:30P.M

Before giving blood, you must :

- **BE IN GOOD HEALTH**
- **BRING VALID PHOTO I.D.**
- **BE AT LEAST 17 YEARS OLD (16 WITH SIGNED PARENTAL CONSENT)**
- **WEIGH AT LEAST 110 LBS.**
- **HAVE EATEN A NUTRITIOUS MEAL**
- **HAVE NO NEW TATTOOS WITHIN THE LAST 12 MONTHS.**

All blood donations will go to Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital. Thank you!!

## TAKE TIME TO REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD

The readings for next Sunday, *The Epiphany of the Lord* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout the coming week.

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

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

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

*The Wise Men were "overjoyed at seeing the star" and gave the Christ Child their gifts. Do I take time to let the marvel and wonder of God becoming a human being fill me with joy? What gifts, unique to me and my personality, can I give Him?*

## ATTENTION LITURGICAL MINISTERS

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

## COMUNIDAD MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 6—7:00P.M.

We will celebrate the 23rd anniversary of ministry to lesbian and gay Catholics in this parish. We are proud that St. Matthew Church, under the leadership of Fr. Meisel, was the first parish to respond to Cardinal Mahony's call to establish this ministry.

Fr. Chris Ponnet, Chaplain at the Los Angeles County + USC Medical Center; So. California Regional Leader for Pax Christi; and Director of HIV/AIDS for the Archdiocese of L.A., will be our celebrant. Our liturgy will include the installation of our 2009 Coordinating Committee. 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. All are welcome.

## 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.

## JANUARY 1st

Thursday, January 1, 2009, the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is **not a holy day of obligation.**

## MINISTRY TO THE SICK...CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of Eucharistic Ministers who are specially designated to take Holy Communion to the ill and elderly of the parish. These volunteers visit homes, nursing facilities, or hospitals according to parish need and personal preference. If this rewarding ministry sounds like something you can help us with, please call Jerry Reynolds at 562.496.0400.



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