

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

I WILL RAISE UP FOR DAVID A JUST SHOOT;
HE SHALL DO WHAT IS RIGHT AND JUST IN THE LAND. —JEREMIAH 33:15

NOVEMBER 29, 2009

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~

READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

MONDAY: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9; Mt 8:5-11

ANTIPHON: *The peoples shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.*

REFLECTION... Take time today to read and reflect on the Church's teachings on war and peace. The text of the Bishop's document, "*The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*" is available at www.usccb.org/sdwp/harvestexr.htm.

TUESDAY: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72: 1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

ANTIPHON: *The spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, and ...he shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land's afflicted.*

REFLECTION... The vision of the peaceable kingdom begins with each of us. If there is someone with whom you are in conflict, today would be a good day to seek reconciliation.

WEDNESDAY: Is 25:6-10; Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 15: 29-37

ANTIPHON: *My heart is moved with pity for the crowd, ...I do not want to send them away hungry, for fear they may collapse on the way."*

REFLECTION... Make a donation of food or cash today to your local food bank.

THURSDAY: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:8-9, 19-21, 25-27; Mt 7:21-29

ANTIPHON: *Give thanks to the LORD, who is good, whose love endures forever.*

REFLECTION... Set aside time during your prayer today to make an inventory of the gifts God has given you—health, family, security. As you offer prayers of thanks for these gifts, be mindful of those who do not share them. Keep them in your prayers as well.

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

ANTIPHON: *...out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.*

REFLECTION... Collect old eyeglasses from around the house and from friends. Donate them to an organization that provides vision services for the poor or foreign countries.

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6; Mt 9:35—10:1, 5, 6-8

ANTIPHON: *Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.*

REFLECTION... The true spirit of Christmas giving is captured in gifts that come from the heart. Plan homemade presents that you can give to family members.

MARKET BASKET COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

We all know someone who is financially hurting these days. Because so many people are in need, our local **Catholic Charities Pantry is in critical condition**. They are in need of dry or canned beans, rice, canned meat, canned fruits and vegetables, (all non-perishable foods.) Your contribution of food may be placed inside the grocery basket located outside the church. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please place your donation inside an envelope marked **MARKET BASKET COLLECTION** and drop it in the Sunday collection basket. Through the concerted efforts of our Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Comunidad Outreach Group and our Peace and Justice Organization, along with all the generous parishioners of St. Matthew Church, it is a guarantee that this effort will be a success.

CHRISTMAS TOYS NEEDED

Catholic Charities and St. Mary Medical Center will hold a **Christmas party for 700 children** on December 8th. **Toy donations are greatly needed for children ages 1 month to 12 years of age**. Please **deliver** them to Catholic Charities, 123 E. 14th St. **by Dec. 4**. Call 562.591.1641 for further information.

COMUNIDAD MEETING & PROJECT

Join us on **Tuesday, December 1 at 7p.m.** for a reenactment of the Posadas. A pot-luck dinner will follow the program. Please bring your specialty dishes such as appetizers, salads, main or side dishes and desserts to add to the holiday celebration. All are welcome. Today Comunidad will be taking monetary contributions before and after all the Masses in order to assist parish families who are in need. Your donations will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards.