

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

O LORD OF HOSTS, LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN AND SEE; TAKE CARE OF THIS VINE, AND PROTECT WHAT YOUR RIGHT HAND HAS PLANTED.

PSALM 80:15-16

DECEMBER 20, 2009

~ Parish Life and Activities... ~



My Dear Parishioners,

Christmas is an occasion for rejoicing, a season of goodwill, a time to call to mind God's infinite love for us and his infinite mercy toward us.

Jesus took our human nature and became one with us in order to raise us up to the dignity of adopted sons and daughters of his heavenly Father. Because of his Incarnation, now we can call God our Father. Therefore, let us show our gratitude by resolving to live as adopted sons and daughters of God are expected to live: in perfect harmony with God's creation striving constantly to recreate a new humanity, living in peace, justice and love with each other.

Christmas Masses are as follows:

**Vigil Masses: Thursday, December 24:** 5:30 p.m. (English), 9:00 p.m. (Spanish)

**Christmas Day, Friday, December 25,** 10:30 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m. (Spanish)

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

I thank you for your faithful presence in the life of our parish, and for your constant and generous support of St. Matthew Church. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fr. Guillermo Rodriguez, Pastor

ADVENT READINGS AND ACTIONS

**MONDAY:** Song 2:8-14; Ps 33: 2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45

**ANTIPHON:** For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the dove is heard in our land.

**ACTION...** Contribute blankets and warm clothes to St. Francis Center.

**TUESDAY:** 1 SAM 1:24-28, 1 SAM 2: 1, 4-5, 6-7, 8; LK 1:46-56

**ANTIPHON:** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior: For he has...lifted up the lowly.

**ACTION...** When traveling this season, take time to rejoice with Mary in the greatness of the Lord.

**WEDNESDAY:** MAL 3:1-4, 23-24; PS 25: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14; LK 1:57-66

**ANTIPHON:** Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me.

**ACTION...** How has your Advent journey prepared the way for the Christ Child? Spend some time today reflecting on the presence of Jesus in your life.

**THURSDAY:** 2 SAM 7: 1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; PS 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; ROM 16: 25-27; LK 1: 67-79

**ANTIPHON:** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, for he has visited and brought redemption to his people.

**ACTION...** Before turning into bed tonight, take a few minutes to rethink the Christmas story of redemption.

FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

COMUNIDAD/ CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION

**Last year** at Christmas time, Catholic Charities generously helped **twenty-five** families from our parish area. **So far this year**, over **fifty** families from our parish area have requested help. Catholic Charities needs our help more than ever. Comunidad will be taking monetary contributions after all the Masses in order to assist these needy families. Your donation will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards. Thank you!

FLOWERS NEEDED

Your donation of **Poinsettia plants** will help enhance the beauty of the Christmas season that we are within days of! **Please deliver them to the parish office today, tomorrow or Tuesday.**

NEED A TAX STATEMENT?

If you need an end-of-year contribution statement for tax purposes, we ask that you please email or call the parish office to request one. Thank you.