DECEMBER 13, 2015
Third Sunday of Advent

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WELCOME: If you are new to our parish, please introduce yourself after Mass or contact the Parish Office. We want to know you and serve you. We hope you will join us and make our parish your spiritual home.
A First in a Series — A Trip to Rome
Pilgrim or Tourist?

By: Donald Marquez

Pilgrim or Tourist?

That was the question—and the challenge—posed to me and 270 other travelers on the first night of an eight-day stay in Italy, an expedition that would take us to Rome, San Giovanni Rotondo, and Assisi.

The opportunity to embark on this trip arrived via email about 18 months before; the invitation was from Dynamic Catholic to their Ambassadors—that is, anyone who supports the organization’s efforts with a monthly donation.

— See “Rome” on next page.

The Our Lady of the Rosary Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society — Helping Those in Need

The St. Vincent de Paul Society at OLR is available to help those who are in need. It runs a food pantry out of the trailer that is located near the B Street gate where food is provided to those who are going hungry or are having a difficult time making ends meet. SVDP can also either help, or offer referrals to, those with other needs related to finances, counseling, health, furniture, clothing, and other necessary living expenses.

If you need help, or know of someone who does and might be too proud to ask for it, give us a call. A parish SVDP representative is available to lend a hand and offer support any day. Call 510.706.5852. In addition, you can stop by the trailer on the following days and times:

Wednesdays, 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Thursdays, 6:00—7:00 p.m.
Fridays, 7:00—8:00 p.m.

So if there is a need, you now know who to call. We’re here to help.

Every Friday — A Hot Meal With Warm Friends

Remember that we have dinners for the needy, elderly and lonely every Friday night at 6:00 p.m. in the Dobrec Room. All are welcome.
Rome
Continued from previous page

I had 21 days to make a deposit. Just four days later I received an email: Italy Trip sold out. With no expectations, I added my name to a waiting list. In December, more spots became available. Within minutes I had signed up.

Eleven months later, I was on a plane to Italy.

It was not easy to be a pilgrim in Rome. We were left in awe at every turn. It was surreal to think that I was at Our Lady of the Rosary on All Saints Day, and only three days later I was sitting in St. Peter’s Square in the presence of Pope Francis (see image).

The basilicas were breathtaking. We attended our first Mass on Tuesday at Santa Croce in Jerusalem, where magnificent relics, such as pieces from the True Cross and thorns from the crown, are kept.

After the Papal Audience on Wednesday, we headed to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, where Mass was held, and then to St. John the Lateran (see image), which is the oldest of the four major basilicas and home to the relics of St. Peter and Paul.

Later, we crossed the street to visit the Holy Staircase. Tradition states that this is the staircase from Pontius Pilate’s palace during the time of Jesus, and brought to Rome by St. Helen in the fourth century. Some of us climbed the steps on our knees in memory of Christ’s passion (see image).

On Thursday, we attended Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica—with Cardinal Bertone presiding—visited the Vatican Museum and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls (the burial place of Saint Paul the Apostle), and fixed our eyes on the spectacular sights of the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo’s Pieta. Just your average weekday.

There was simply not enough time to absorb all we experienced in Rome, just as there is not enough bulletin space to capture it in words.

Ambassadors and guests (we were allowed to invite one; I went alone) were assigned to one of six tour buses. Dynamic Catholic collaborated with 206 Tours, whose personnel was amazing considering the amount of travelers and the zillion things that could go wrong.

Actually something did go wrong, but to no fault of 206. I was among the last group to arrive—Tuesday afternoon, Rome time—and our DC rep asked us to wait while the very last Ambassadors made it through. So we waited. And waited.

The original plan was to go to the hotel, freshen up, and board the bus that would take us to Mass. We did go to the hotel, but only to pick up other Ambassadors who had arrived well ahead of us.

At the church, there were even more people who had enjoyed the luxury of a shower or a nap or both. They were dressed in their Sunday best, and they filled up every single pew. I had spent 14 hours on a plane and had not even seen my hotel room. I was dressed in sweats and smelled like Pepe le Pew.

It was a tiny inconvenience, but nothing like the San Jose couple who waited four days for their luggage to show.

Which brings us back to Matthew Kelly’s question: pilgrim or tourist? A tourist must be on time all the time, and everything has to go according to plan. But a pilgrim finds value in having their comfortable life disrupted.

It is often in these moments that God speaks to us.
Everything You Need to Know About...

CRAB, Donuts

THE ANNUAL CRAB FEED?
YES! IT IS STILL ON!

The Annual Crab Feed, the largest fundraiser of the year for Our Lady of the Rosary School, will be held on Saturday, February 20 in the Parish Hall.

If you have kept up with the news reports, due to the current El Niño climate phenomenon, the waters of the Pacific Ocean are very warm — this has raised the level of domoic acid in crab to unacceptable levels. Local crab cannot be sold commercially at this time.

But there is good news: crab can be obtained from other places not affected by the ocean warming, such as Washington state. As a result, crab feeds are not being cancelled.

Tickets will be $50.00 for adults and $20.00 for children (12 and under). If you loved last year’s event you will like it this year as well, as it will be much the same.

We will start selling tickets next weekend in front of the church. We hope you will join us!

DONUT SUNDAYS — FOR NOW, THEY ARE “OFF”

We have not had a donut fellowship in recent months for a couple of reasons. One is because the brother of the owner of Roberto’s Donuts, Fernando Trujillo, has been recovering from a stroke and has not been able to help Roberto in making the donuts. The other reason is due to the fact that we have had a number of groups putting in requests to have fundraisers in front of the Church after Mass. It is felt that having donuts would compete with these fundraisers. There was just “hole” in the schedule to put a Donut Sunday.

We had a couple of Sundays in December where we could of held a Donut Fellowship, but we have learned that Fernando is still recovering and has not returned to the donut shop — making our donuts is such a large operation that Roberto cannot do it without help.

So keep Fernando in your prayers so that he will have a steady and complete recovery.

A “Thank You” for Our Beautiful “Advent Tree”

We would like to thank Tom Mederos for donating the very beautiful tree that adorns our Sanctuary. He has been donating a large tree to us for a countless number of years. He does this in loving memory of his parents, Earl and Florence Mederos, and his brothers Larry Mederos and Earl Mederos Jr. Tom owns Tom’s Flower Stop and runs Tom’s Christmas Trees, which is located at the corner of Mission Blvd. and Tamarack Drive between the Abe gasoline retailer and the cemetery. He has a large selection of trees to choose from. When you visit his lot to purchase your tree, be sure to thank him for his gift to our parish.

Fundraising Gift Cards And Religious Articles Sold Every Weekend From Now Until Christmas

To make it convenient for you to make your Christmas purchases, we will be selling fundraising gift cards and religious articles every weekend from December 6 through December 20. We will be in front of the Church unless it is jolly cold or wet – if these are indeed the conditions of the day you will find us in the little room on the side of the main vestibule.

Remember that gift cards make great gifts, but they are much more than that. Consider buying gift cards for those stores that you will shop at this Christmas season, and use them as cash to make your purchases.

Please see the listing of gift cards that we have available for various stores and businesses included in this Bulletin.

New Expanded Schedule For the Parish Office

Just as a reminder to you, our Parish Office hours have been expanded to serve you better. The new schedule of the Parish Office is as follows:

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
The FESCO “Homes for the Homeless Project” Continues
Third Week of Advent Update

As we journey through Advent and await His coming, remember to make small sacrifices and put any money you set aside in your Little House to help the homeless. Perhaps you can do one or more of the following this week:

1. Cook a frozen pizza instead of having a pizza delivered and put the savings in your Little House.
2. One day take a cup of coffee from home instead of buying one at a gourmet coffee shop and donate the savings to your Little House.
3. Instead of going out to see a movie rent a Red Box DVD for your family to watch and donate the money you save to your Home for the Homeless.
4. At the end of each day in Advent put the change left in your pockets into your Little House.

The Little Houses are to be returned after Christmas starting December 26 and 27.

If you never got a Little House or want another one contact us to see if any are left. Call the Parish Office at 510.471.2609 or leave a message for our Parish FESCO representative, Ron Wenzler, at 510.400.9045. You may also call Ron should you have any question.

This week’s gallery of Little House art

Starting This Wednesday — Las Posadas

We will once again be having “Las Posadas” starting this Wednesday, December 16. They will run through Tuesday, December 23.

Las Posadas will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

Posadas (Inn) is an Advent tradition in most Latin American countries. It portrays the journey of Mary and Joseph asking for somewhere to stay. Each evening a different parish group or organization will organize a Posada. They will be held on the Parish Grounds, where the group will “travel,” say the Rosary, and ask for Posada at three different locations. The Posada will end at the Parish Hall. The first group to hold a Posada this Wednesday will be our Parish School.

We hope that you will take part — remember that everyone is welcome and that they will be bilingual.

Our Lady of the Rosary: SPONSORSHIP OF HOSTS, WINE, CANDLES AND FLOWERS

I want to sponsor the following □ on the first available weekend — or □ on this weekend ☑

☐ Hosts ($25.00/week); ☐ Wine ($35.00/week); ☐ Candles ($35.00/week); ☐ Flowers ($125.00/week)

Today's Date ____________________
Name _________________________________________
Address _______________________________________
Envelope/Acct. # ________ Phone ________

I would like my gift recognized as follows:
(Examples: “The Hosts are sponsored by the Guerrero Family.”
“The wine is sponsored by Mary Smith in memory of her mother, Gladys Jones.”)

No date guarantees can be made. If a desired week is already taken, the closest weekend will be given.

Please place this in the collection (include this form and donation in an envelope) or bring it to the Parish Office.
VERY IMPORTANT News for Users of Offertory Envelopes

We’re Going Back to the “Good Old Days”

Remember when life was simpler? You went to a place called “The Wherehouse” or “Tower” to buy your music? You carried your information around on the latest invention — when they reduced the size of your floppy disk from 5 1/4” to 3 1/2”. And at the end of each year, you queued up in the back of the church to pick up a little box that contained all of your offertory envelopes for the coming year.

Well, we are going to take you back down memory lane. We might not be passing out floppy disks, 33 1/3 lp’s or BetaMax tapes in front of the Church, but we will be passing out offertory envelopes.

Starting in January, we will no longer be mailing out our offertory envelopes every two to three months. Instead, we are going back to the “Good Old Days” when we passed out entire-year boxed sets of envelopes after Mass.

Each method, both periodic mailing and annual sets, have their advantages and disadvantages, but in analyzing these, the Finance Committee determined that the most significant factor, cost, led us to make the switch: annual envelope sets that are passed out after Mass will be at least one-half of the cost of mailing them out over the course of the year.

The original reasoning for our using the mailed envelopes was that it offered more flexibility. It also resolved the problem parishioners would have when they would misplace their envelopes — they would just wait a while, and the next set would eventually arrive in the mail. It also served as an automatic reminder for parishioners to use their envelopes.

Besides the cost savings, the use of yearly sets will solve the problem of parishioners who are enrolled to receive envelopes not receiving their envelopes in the mail — something that actually occurs quite frequently.

So look in this Bulletin, and listen carefully to the announcements at Mass, to find out when we will be passing out the envelopes. And remember, once you bring them home, be sure to remember where you put them!

A Word of Thanks To our Volunteer Gardeners

This week we would like to thank our volunteer gardening Team #3 who will be working on Saturday, December 19 at 8:00 a.m.: Gene Arciniaga, Ileana Krzyzanowski, Ron Krzyzanowski, Maria Ramirez, Octavio Ramirez, José D. Rodriguez, Manuel Romero, Sandy Sandoval and Lorenzo Torres. We thank them very much for their hard work and dedication.

Should you want to lend a hand, stop by on Saturday. We’ll be working from 8:00 a.m. to Noon. Don’t forget to bring your tools!

Next Weekend
Be Sure to Return Your Completed Christmas Food Basket

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis asks us to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. We thank our many parishioners for their acts of mercy in providing a memorable Christmas breakfast and dinner to our families in need by taking a “basket ornament” from our Advent Tree.

Since the food baskets will be presented to our families in need next Sunday afternoon, we remind you to . . .

RETURN YOUR FILLED AND COMPLETED BASKET OF FOOD WHEN YOU COME TO MASS NEXT WEEKEND.

Please tape the “basket ornament” to your basket so we know the family’s size.

Drop it off at the Parish Hall BEFORE MASS.

On both Saturday and Sunday representatives of our St. Vincent de Paul program will be in the Parish Hall after Mass to receive your completed basket.

In addition, if you know of any family that is in need, or if you are currently in a “rough spot,” please contact us and let us know — call 510.471.2609. We will take calls up through this coming Friday, December 18.

If you want to make a donation towards this program so that we can help with the expenses of providing a ham for each basket or a gift card for each family, it is not too late — contact the Parish Office or bring your donation to the office during office hours.

Thank you very much for remembering those in need this Christmas season.

Next Sunday
Youth Mass at 11:30 p.m.

Next Sunday, is the third Sunday of the Month. As a result, the 11:30 a.m. Mass will be our monthly Youth Mass. Everyone is welcome — both the young and the young-at-heart.

SPONSORSHIPS FOR THE WEEK

HOSTS: Sponsored by Francisco and Yolanda Garcia, in loving memory of Jesus and Carmen Mendez, Jose and Rosa Garcia, Chema and Olivia Sevilla, and Richard Martinez

WINE: Sponsored by Francisco and Yolanda Garcia, in loving memory of Jesus and Carmen Mendez, Jose and Rosa Garcia, Chema and Olivia Sevilla, and Richard Martinez

To set up a sponsorship, use the form below. Thank you for your support.
Our Lady of the Rosary Church

GIFT CARDS WE SELL TO RAISE FUNDS

HOW DO WE RAISE FUNDS SELLING GIFT CARDS?
Our church purchases gift cards for a variety of stores, restaurants, and other retailers at a discount. When you buy gift cards from us, you purchase them at face value, and then you spend them at face value – there is no extra cost to you when you participate in this program. The difference between the price we pay for a card and its face value is what we earn.

GIFT CARDS THAT WE HAVE IN STOCK AT ALL TIMES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUPERMARKETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>99 Ranch Market</td>
<td>$25, $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucky / Food Maxx / Save Mart</td>
<td>$25, $50, $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Food</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raley's / Nob Hill</td>
<td>$25, $50, $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safeway / Pak 'n Save / VONS</td>
<td>$25, $50, $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Smart &amp; Final / Extra</td>
<td>$25, $50, $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sprouts Farmer's Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whole Foods Market</td>
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<th>GAS AND AUTOMOTIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>ARCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chevrolet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shell Oil</td>
<td>$25, $50, $100</td>
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<td>76 Gas</td>
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<table>
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<th>OTHER STORES</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ace Hardware (Dale Hardware)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amazon.com</td>
<td>$10, $25, $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bath &amp; Body Works</td>
<td>$10, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bed Bath &amp; Beyond</td>
<td>$25, $100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Buy</td>
<td>$25, $100, $250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burlington Coat Factory</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>CVS/Pharmacy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Century Theatres (Cinemark)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Gap / Old Navy Banana Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Home Depot</td>
<td>$25</td>
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<tr>
<td>iTunes</td>
<td>$15, $25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo-Ann Fabrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lowe's Home Improvement</td>
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<td>Michael's</td>
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<td>Payless ShoeSource</td>
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<td>Regal Theatres (IMAX) / Edwards</td>
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<td>Rite Aid</td>
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<td>See's Candy</td>
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<td>Sports Authority</td>
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<td>Supercuts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys 'R Us / Babies 'R Us</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walgreen's</td>
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<td>Kohl's Department Store</td>
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<td>Macy's</td>
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<tr>
<td>JC Penney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ross Dress for Less</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sears</td>
<td>$25, $100, $250</td>
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<tr>
<td>T.J. Maxx / Marshalls / Homgoods</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>$10, $25, $50, $100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart / Sam's Club</td>
<td>$10, $25, $100, $250</td>
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STORES WITH ELECTRONIC SCRIP

The following stores have electronic scrip programs:

- LUCKY / FOOD MAXX / SAVE MART (S.H.A.R.E.S. Card)

These programs have no cost to the participant. See us after Mass or at the Parish Office for assistance in enrolling.

GIFT CARDS THAT WE CAN ORDER FOR YOU. There are so many gift cards available we cannot afford to stock them all. Read the list below carefully. If you ever want to purchase gift cards for any of these merchants, let us know and we will order it for you. It takes less than a week for us to order it, and we will call you when it arrives. For more details on the gift cards for these merchants, visit our website at www.olrchurch.org. If anyone tells us that they would purchase any of these gift cards on a regular basis, we would be willing to stock it – let us know.

- AMC Theatres, AT&T Prepaid Card, Arby's, Auto Zone, AVIS, Baja Fresh, Best Western Hotels, Big 5 Sporting Goods, Black Angus, Bloomingdale's, Boston Market, Brooks Bros, Budget Car Rental, Build-a-Bear Workshop, California Pizza Kitchen, Carl's Jr., Carnival Cruises, Carrows, Casual Male, Champs Sports, Cheesecake Factory, The Children's Place, Circle K, Claire's, Clarion Hotels, Coco's, Comfort Inn/Suites, Container Store, Cracker Barrel, Crate & Barrel, Dave & Buster's, Del Taco, Dell Computer, Dillard's, Disney, Dress Barn, Domino's Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, EB Games, Econo Lodge, Eddie Bauer, El Pollo Loco, Electronics Boutique, Express, Exxon, Fairmont Hotels, Foot Locker, GNC, GameStop, Golfsmith, Great Clips, Gymboree, Hallmark, Hard Rock Café, Harry & David, Honeybaked Ham, Hyatt Hotels, J Crew, J Jill, Jilly Lube, LL Bean, Land's End, Lane Bryant, Limited, Lion Food Center, Little Caesar's Pizza, Marriott Hotels (Courtyard/Fairfield/Renaissance/Residence Inn/SpringHill/Towne Place), Men's Wearhouse, Mobil, Motherhood Maternity, Neiman Marcus, Office Depot, Office Max, Omaha Steaks, Overstock.com, Papa John's, Pep Boys, PetSmart, Pier 1, Pottery Barn, Quality Inn, REI Sporting Goods, Radio Shack, Red Robin, Regis Haircare, Restoration Hardware, Ritz Carlton Hotels, Ruther's Chris Steak House, Sally Beauty Supply, Sephora, Six Flags, Sleep Inn, Staples, Sunglass Hut, Sweet Tomatoes/Soup Plantation, Talbots, Ulta Salon, United Artists Theatres, Williams Sonoma... AND MORE! You may purchase gift cards after Mass or at the Parish Office. Phone us to special order or email us at admin@olrchurch.org

12/02/2015
Tuesday, December 15
  Bible Study, English, home of Olive Riley-Stewart, 10:00 a.m.
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 16
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.
  7th and 8th Grade Youth Group, Upper Room, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
  Las Posadas, starting in the Church, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 17
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Rosary, English 6:00 p.m.
  Las Posadas, starting in the Church, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 18
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.
  Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.
  Las Posadas, by our youth groups, starting in the Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19
  Rosary, Spanish, 5:00 p.m.
  Las Posadas, starting in the Church, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20
  Las Posadas, starting in the Church, 7:00 p.m.