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St. John's Episcopal Church E-News

760 First Ave. Chula Vista, CA 91910

Looking forward to seeing you this Sunday!

December 1, 2011



Thanksgiving Outreach for South Bay Community Services Recap

Results of the Thanksgiving collection for South Bay Community Services' Domestic Violence Shelter were truly heartwarming. With the help of Mike Vasquez, we made 3 deliveries. The final count was 54 bags of Thanksgiving food (plus some extra goodies) and \$540 to buy turkeys. SBCS was amazed, delighted, and very grateful. Thanks Karen Duignan for procuring the wonderful reusable bags from Ralphs and THANK YOU St John's for your awesome generosity!

Christmas Flowers

This Sunday's bulletin contains an envelope for Christmas flower donations and may be made in memory of a loved one. Please write in the lower left corner of your check "Flowers". This year we are hoping to fill the sanctuary with the beauty of Christmas greenery and flowers. Poinsettias and other seasonal flowers will be placed throughout the church and around the altar and manger to adorn the

birth of Jesus Christ. Please help fill the church by donating towards the purchase of flowers. After the holidays the flowers will be placed in the breezeway for members to take home and enjoy or plant in your garden.

Please join our Sunday School in creating St. John's Jesse Tree. A Jesse Tree is an image of the family tree of Jesus. As roots are an important part of a tree, we would like to include individual and/or family photos as ornaments on this tree. Please submit your 3-4" photo(s) by December 11th in the basket on the counter in the Narthex.

The Jesse Tree represents the family tree, or genealogy of Jesus Christ. It tells the story of God's salvation plan, beginning with creation and continuing through the Old Testament, to the coming of the Messiah. The name comes from Isaiah 11:1, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Each Sunday of Advent ornaments will be added to the Jesse Tree, a tree made of evergreen branches in the Narthex. These symbolic ornaments represent a prophecy foretelling of Christ. We look forward to creating a beautiful tree that will make our family here at St. John's a part of Jesus' family tree.



Events at St. John's

Wednesday, December 7- Thursday's Meal: Feeding the Homeless

Monday, December 12 @ 6:00 PM - Women of St. John's Christmas Potluck Dinner - Ham and turkey will be served, please bring a side dish and RSVP to the list on the counter in the Narthex.

Saturday, December 17 @ 6:00 PM - Men of St. John's Christmas Dinner - RSVP to Sarah or Jack Tolley.

Saturday, December 24 @ 5:00 PM - Christmas Family Service

Saturday, December 24@ 9:00 PM - Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 25 @ 9:00 AM - Christmas Day Service
Sunday, January 1- New Years Day

Thursday's Meal Program Feeding the Homeless and Needy

On Dec. 7th will be on turn to feed the homeless and needy at South Bay Community Services on Bay Blvd. Volunteers are needed to set up and serve. If you are interested, you can find the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Brownies are needed for dessert. As always I am asking the congregation to donate peanut butter and jelly to this worthy cause. Because the feeding falls close to Christmas, I am making 50 small bags with candies and cookies to give out. If interested, please contact me. Supplies are provided. If you have any questions, please contact me at (619) 395-3750. Thank you for your support!

Blessings,
Rene Malle



The Men of St. John's

As we face another New Year and go about doing the good works God has set before us, the Men of St. John's needs you more than ever. If you are 18 years or older, come check out the group at our next meeting in January. St. John's is a wonderful church and it has an incredible diversity from different cultures from our youth to our senior citizens. The first step

in reaping the benefits of this diversity is getting to know each other. The Men of St. John's is where to start, just plain fellowship through which the seeds of friendship are planted. With this accomplished, doing God's work becomes an enjoyable and incredibly rewarding endeavor. If we could bring together the full extent of our diversity where we go and what we could accomplish, it would truly be unlimited! Attend a meeting, you might like what you find! Check the bulletins and the newsletters for monthly meeting locations. The potluck dinner and short meeting are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 6 PM.

We will be having a Christmas Party on Dec. 17, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. at Fr. Jack & Sarah Tolley's home. 594 Los Altos Drive, Chula Vista 91914. All spouses or significant others are invited. Bring along your favorite side dish or dessert in support of the main dish for our potluck supper. We will have a fun gift exchange. Everyone seems to enjoy it a lot. If you want to participate, please bring a wrapped gift valued at no more than \$ 10. We also will have another fun event: a contest to judge who is wearing the best (or funniest) Christmas outfit. Please RSVP with Sarah Tolley. See you there!

Advent Baby Shower

Now through Dec 14th, we will be collecting gifts of new unwrapped baby clothing (newborn to age 5) for an Advent Baby Shower to benefit new moms. Joy Winter and Joan Bond of St. Dunstan's are organizing the event and there are lots of New Babies and First Time Moms. Episcopal Refugee Network already has 14 new mothers and ECS is supporting 30 families. Decorated laundry baskets filled with appropriate gifts will be divided between the Episcopal Refugee Network and the ECS program for new mothers. Gently used strollers, carseats, etc. are always welcome. New unwrapped baby clothes size newborn to age five to support St. Dunstan's outreach to ERN and ECS may be placed in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!



OPERATION DIAPER DROP!

The Diocesan Service Coalition is a group of individuals involved in outreach/service/ministry in congregations throughout our diocese. The group is a rich resource; every congregation is encouraged to participate. Many of the San Diego parishes are joining together to collect diapers in sizes from newborn to toddler and swimming in support of the Episcopal Head Start program. The mass delivery will take place at the end of January at a site to be announced later. It is hoped that the media will take notice and publicity for the Episcopal church and its outreach will make the news. A place to store our contributions will be decided later. If you have any questions, contact Norma Dunn, here at St. John's. We thank you for your support!



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